

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund Receives \$4.7 M In Foundation and State Funding

*The Training Fund has been awarded \$4.67 million in grants from the William Penn Foundation, Heinz Endowments, JPMorganChase Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation and Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry to help kick-start our work in 2021*

Philadelphia | March 26, 2021: The District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund has been awarded several new grants worth a combined \$4,670,000 from public and private investors to support our work in 2021 and beyond. These funds will enable the Training Fund and our partners to continue building on our transformational work serving workers and employers in the healthcare, human services and early childhood education fields:

- **Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry “PAsmart Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Ambassador Network”:** Cumulatively, over \$550,000 to support Philadelphia-area Pre-Apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship programs in health and human services; and to sustain and fuel the growth of the Training Fund-led Early Childhood Education (ECE) Apprenticeship Ambassador Network. The Training Fund sponsors an innovative statewide network of Registered Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship partners, supporting ECE teachers through the entire educational pipeline from CDAs to Bachelor’s Degrees and Teaching Certification. For employers and parents, this initiative is helping drive quality in the early learning options available across Pennsylvania, including childcare “deserts” in both low-income urban and rural areas. Thanks to the Training Fund’s leadership and the key support of our partners across the state, Pennsylvania’s Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship system is rivaled only by our peers in California as a national Best Practice model for ECE workforce development. Representatives from both states’ systems are working hand-in-hand with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to drive further growth for ECE Apprenticeship programs across the United States.
- **Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry “PAsmart ‘Next Gen’ Industry Partnership” and the Health Careers Advancement Project (H-CAP):** \$65,000 to support a strategic planning process resulting in the relaunch of the Training Fund’s healthcare industry partnership. Established in 2005 as part of the first generation of Pennsylvania’s Industry Partnership Program, the Greater Philadelphia Healthcare Network is ready to embrace new principles and best practices in convening and leading a more collaborative, more employer-driven partnership positioned for success in the 2020s.
- **Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry “Direct Care Worker Training Grant”:** \$2 Million to support a partnership between the District 1199C Training Fund, the SEIU HealthCare PA

Training Fund, both Funds' union affiliates, and the Pennsylvania Health Care Association – the voice of long-term, personal, and home-based care employers in our Commonwealth. For Pennsylvania's long-term care and skilled nursing facilities, COVID-19 was an unprecedented crisis; but even before the pandemic, this sector was facing projected shortages of key skilled workers, including Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). This project brings the state's two largest long-term care unions and Training Fund together with our employer partners to train 500 new CNAs, and help 500 incumbent CNAs advance further up their career ladder by earning "micro-credentials" on their way to completing the next step in nursing education. With the implementation of a mentoring program for new hires and rewards for "high-road" employers who support their workers' career mobility, this project has the potential to reshape Pennsylvania's long-term care sector and drive better outcomes for all stakeholders.

- **William Penn Foundation:** \$250,000 to support implementation and evaluation of a virtual mentoring platform for ECE Registered Apprentices developing their on-the-job learning competencies. The William Penn Foundation also continues to generously support – along with the Kellogg Foundation – the Training Fund's Philadelphia ECE Apprenticeship pipeline, the very first Apprenticeship in Pennsylvania to offer programming at every level of the ECE career pathway.
- **Heinz Endowments:** \$100,000 to support the Training Fund's continued engagement with ECE Apprenticeship programs in Pittsburgh and Southwestern Pennsylvania. While our sports teams and gas station delis remain fierce rivals, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are partners and allies when it comes to ensuring that Pennsylvania's workforce has the talent to compete and win in an increasingly globalized economy. ECE Apprenticeship programs help to improve instruction and drive quality early learning outcomes, positioning the youngest residents of Pennsylvania's two biggest cities for lifelong educational success. This grant helps us bring resources to support and seed programs for our ECE Apprenticeship partners across Southwestern Pennsylvania, including deindustrialized Appalachian communities where quality childcare is key to attracting and retaining talented individuals who can reinvent the local economy for the 2020s and beyond.
- **JPMorganChase Foundation:** \$1 million to support a partnership including the Training Fund, JEVS Human Services, the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, and lead grantee Philadelphia Youth Network. This project aims to reduce the "opportunity youth" rate by 8% by 2024, as well as increase the number of opportunity youth entering the workforce ("opportunity youth" are young people aged between 16-24, who are neither in school nor working). The partners will create year-round programming that focuses on providing opportunity youth with programming that can reconnect them to the workforce, as well as supporting and rewarding employers who work creatively and proactively to welcome talented, previously-disconnected young people into their workforce.
- **Annie E. Casey Foundation "Generation Work" Initiative:** \$120,000 to support a partnership including the Training Fund, YouthBuild Philadelphia, and lead grantee Philadelphia Youth Network. Now entering its second phase, the Generation Work Initiative has driven deep examination and exploration of how Philadelphia's youth workforce development non-profit community can help increase racial, ethnic and socio-economic diversity, equity and inclusion at all levels of the workforce. Philadelphia will only truly thrive in the global, 21<sup>st</sup> century economy when we begin to celebrate, encourage, grow and *invest in* the innate talents of all Philadelphians, no matter who their parents are or what zip code they live in. The Generation Work partners are

committed to embedding anti-racist, anti-discriminatory best practices in our own programming and operations, and to working with employer partners to do the same.

“Like all non-profits, and organizations of all shapes and sizes, the Training Fund has spent the last year adapting and changing in order to survive and come out even stronger on the other side of this destructive pandemic,” explains Training Fund Executive Director Teresa Collins. “Communities across our city, region and state have been devastated by COVID-19, especially individuals and families who were already on the receiving end of discrimination and inequality.”

“We are so grateful to these funders for recognizing the quality of our work and the depth of our investment in eliminating poverty and the forces that trap so many black, brown and other families in a cycle of intergenerational poverty,” she continues. “Education alone will not end poverty and inequality in America, and we look forward to supporting the Biden administration’s efforts to create a new and better policy environment for working people across the country. But education – along with membership in a labor union – is one of the most valuable and effective tools for changing *individual* outcomes, and we are excited to work with all of our students, as individuals, to help them explore, plan and achieve their career pathway goals.”

## **ABOUT US**

Established in 1974, the District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund is a non-profit labor-management partnership, created and sustained by the Philadelphia Hospital & Health Care Workers District 1199C Union and 50 contributing employer partners. We offer education and job training programs in six career pathways – Allied Health, Behavioral Health, Community Health, Health Information, Nursing/Direct Care and Early Childhood Education – as well as adult education and secondary (high school) credential classes to youth, adults, English language learners, and others.