



VCBB BEAD Workforce Workshop

Focus: Developing an Available Skilled, Diverse BEAD Workforce in Vermont

July 19, 2024 ~ Hybrid Meeting Agenda

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM: Registration

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM:

Christine Hallquist, Executive Director- VCBB

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Overview of Workshop Objectives and Schedule

Michael Harrington, Commissioner- Vermont Department of Labor

- Key Address

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM:

Wendy Lader, NE Regional Director BEAD- NTIA

- Overview of the BEAD Program and Workforce Development Requirements

Christine Hallquist, Executive Director- VCBB

BEAD in Vermont and the Importance of Workforce Development in Broadband Expansion projects

9:30 AM – 11:00 PM:

Amelia De Jesus, VP Workforce Solutions- WIA

- Federal Regulations, BEAD Workforce Development, and Vermont State Labor Law Brief

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM: Break

11:15 AM – 11:45 AM:

Miriam Owens, Compliance Assistance Specialist- Vermont Occupational Safety & Health Administration (VOSHA)

- Vermont State Workforce Safety Requirements

Shawn Barth, Industrial Hygiene Engineer, Vermont Department of Labor

- Project WorkSAFE

11:45 PM - 12:45 PM: Lunch Break

12:45 PM - 1:15 PM:

Workforce Strategies & Resources

Cindy Robillard, Asst. Director for Programming and Strategic Partnerships - VDOL

Christian Damato, M.Ed., Assistant Director for Adult Technical Education - North Country Career Center

Brian Kravitz, Director of Outreach and Workforce Development- Central VT Adult (CVAE) Education:

- Identifying and securing funding for training programs (WIOA incentives)
- Leveraging local, state, and federal resources
- Presentation by VDOL Employers Services; Recruitment, Training & Retention

**Deb Bennett, VP of Apprenticeship - WIA: Career Pathways Tool Presentation

1:15 PM - 2:30 PM:

Workforce Strategies – Diversity in Workforce

Alison Lamagna, Director of Impact- Vermont Works for Women (10 min)

Vijay Desai, Executive Director- Tech4Tomorrow (10 min)

Jennifer Hill, Account Manager - Working Fields (10 min)

- Strategies for recruiting a diverse (list covered pop) and skilled workforce
- Building partnerships with community organizations* and local job centers
- Techniques for retaining skilled workers and creating career advancement pathways

2:30 PM - 2:45 PM: Break

2:45 PM - 3:30 PM:

Deb Bennett, VP of Apprenticeship - WIA & Lisa Tellstone, Principal Subject Matter Expert and Project Leader- IAA: Workforce Development for Broadband Deployment

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM:

Deb Bennett, VP of Apprenticeship – WIA, Dave Hall, Vice President Safety & Mike Orellan, Director Training - SORENSEN COMPANIES INC. - Congruex Broadband Solutions, Shane Matthews, Director of Training & Development, ElectriCom (virtual)

- Lessons learned and best practices in Workforce Development
- Sponsor Employers' Perspective on Registered Apprenticeship

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM:

Christine Hallquist, Executive Director; Herryyn Herzog, Communications and Outreach Manager; Alexei Monsarrat, Director of Rural Broadband Projects

- Summary of workshop highlights and Key learnings
- Next Steps and Closing Remarks