



SOUTH CAROLINA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY &
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources
Subcommittee

Chairman Travis A. Moore

The Honorable Richard B. “Blake” Sanders

The Honorable Gary S. Brewer, Jr.

The Honorable W. Scott Montgomery, IV

The Honorable Wendell K. Jones

AGENDA

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Room 409 – Blatt Building

- I. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2025 Meeting
- II. Discussion of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce
 - SCDEW Employment Services
- III. Adjournment



**SOUTH CAROLINA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY &
LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

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Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
Telephone: (803) 212-6810 Fax: (803) 212-6811
Room 228 Blatt Building

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025
10:30 a.m.
Room 516 – Blatt Building

Archived Video Available

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.7, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access an archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly’s website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on Committee Postings and Reports, then under House Standing Committees click on Legislative Oversight. Then, click on Video Archives for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

- I. The Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Chair Travis A. Moore on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, in Room 516 of the Blatt Building. Representative Gary S. Brewer, Jr.; Representative W. Scott Montgomery; and Representative Richard B. “Blake” Sanders were present for all or a portion of the meeting. Representative Wendell K. Jones was not present.

Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings.

Approval of Minutes

- I. Representative Brewer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from prior meeting. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Moton to approve meeting minutes.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Moore	✓		
Rep. Brewer	✓		
Rep. Jones			✓
Rep. Montgomery	✓		
Rep. Sanders	✓		

Discussion of the South Carolina Law Conservation Bank

- I. Before beginning his testimony, Chair Moore reminds SCDEW's Director of Unemployment Insurance, Paul Famolari, that he was sworn in at the October 22, 2025 meeting and that he remains under oath. Chair Moore then asks whether any other agency representatives who may address the subcommittee today or in the future have not yet been sworn.
- II. Director Famolari then continues his presentation to the subcommittee and discusses the following topics:
 1. Unemployment Insurance Benefits;
 2. Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA);
 3. Unemployment Insurance Integrity;
 4. Unemployment Insurance Appeals;
 5. Quality Assurance and Measurements;
 6. Technical Services;
 7. Successes;
 8. Legislative Recommendations.

Throughout his presentation, Members ask Director Famolari questions and he responds.

Adjournment

- I. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.



EMPLOYEES

832 FTEs

FUNDING

The majority of DEW's budget is funded through federal sources. The U.S. Department of Labor allocates funds from the Federal Unemployment Tax (FUTA) to the states to pay for administrative and operational costs. Employer-paid state unemployment taxes pay for state unemployment benefits.

General Funds FY 2025-26

\$12,984,847

Total Funds FY 2025-26

\$145,356,655

LEADERSHIP

SCDEW's director is appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The director serves at the pleasure of the governor. (S.C. Code Ann. § 41-29-35).

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT & WORKFORCE

MISSION

To promote and support an effective, customer-driven workforce system that facilitates financial stability and economic prosperity for employers, individuals and communities.

VISION

To be viewed as an efficient, transparent, customer-friendly partner in providing quality workforce solutions.

MAIN GOAL

To match jobseekers with employers quickly, efficiently, and effectively, and we offer a variety of services to assist both groups. DEW, one of 21 cabinet agencies, is a partner in the state's workforce system. DEW and its partners provide a variety of workforce services for job seekers and employers at [SC Works Centers](#), [Connection Points](#) and satellite offices in 12 local workforce investment areas across all 46 SC counties.

SERVICES

SCDEW's director is appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The director serves at the pleasure of the governor. (S.C. Code Ann. § 41-29-35).

Jobseekers

- Career counseling
- Job referrals
- Computer access
- Testing and training
- Résumé assistance
- Partner services
- Business consulting
- Second Chance Program (with SCDC)
- GED Incentive Program

Employees

- Training
- Job market trends
- Tax credit info
- Recruiting and screening
- Posting job openings
- Transitional assistance

Employment Services

Diana Goldwire
Assistant Executive Director for
Employment Services



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
Employment and Workforce



Employment Services Goals



Assist individuals with finding employment by providing job search assistance, career guidance, workshops, and assessments



Help businesses find qualified applicants for open positions by screening for skills and qualifications, interviewing, and testing



Operate the database that matches job applicants with employer postings

Origin of Employment Services

- Two major federal enactments precipitated the establishment of the agency that is now the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce in 1936:
 - (1) **the Social Security Act in 1935**, providing for unemployment compensation, and
 - (2) **the Wagner-Peyser Act in 1933**, creating a Federal-State cooperative system of free public employment services to connect the jobless with jobs, especially in many of the public service programs created by the New Deal.
- The agency initially had two divisions: the Unemployment Compensation Division and the South Carolina State Employment Service Division.
- The duty of the Employment Service division was to operate a statewide system of free public employment offices (Wagner-Peyser). Claims for benefits were also received at these offices and forwarded to the commission's administrative offices for processing.

[also see S.C. Code Section 41-42-10 et seq.]

Wagner-Peyser: General Information

- The Wagner-Peyser Employment Service is now a core program under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and an integral component of the one-stop delivery system, known in South Carolina as SC Works. [29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.; 20 C.F.R. § 652.1]
- Employment Services seeks to improve the functioning of the nation's labor markets by connecting jobseekers with employers seeking workers. [29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.; 20 C.F.R. § 652.2]
- The Employment Service state grant provides for: [20 C.F.R. Part 652]
 - universal access to labor exchange services (counseling, job search and placement assistance, labor market information, etc.) for all employers and jobseekers
 - recruitment and technical services for employers
 - registration of unemployment insurance (UI) claimants for work search verification, employment services, and referrals to resources and other assistance
- Services may be provided as self-service, facilitated self-help, or staff-assisted services. [20 C.F.R. § 652.208]
- Like other U.S. DOL employment and training programs, veterans receive priority of service. [38 U.S.C. § 4215, 20 C.F.R. part 1010, 20 C.F.R. § 652.100]

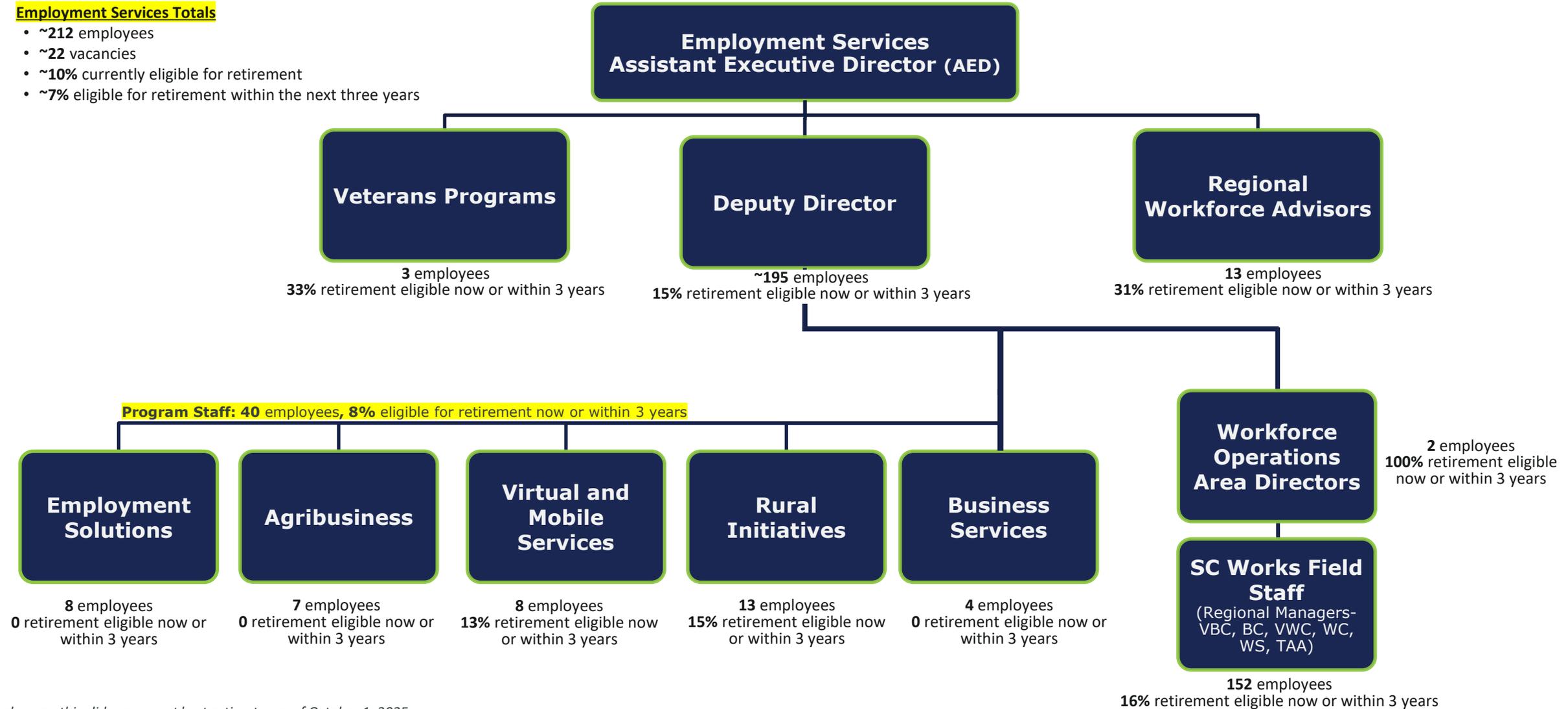
Wagner-Peyser: Funding

- The vast majority (97%) of the total funding for Employment Service (ES) state activities are allotted among the states as follows: [Section 6 of Wagner-Peyser]
 - 2/3 of funds allotted based on each state's relative share of the civilian labor force
 - 1/3 of funds allotted based on each state's relative share of unemployed individuals
- States are authorized to use 90% of funds allotted for: [Section 7(a) of Wagner-Peyser]
 - job search/placement assistance for jobseekers
 - program evaluation
 - management information systems (+reports/analysis)
 - UI claimant work search verification, reemployment assistance, and resource referrals
 - recruitment / technical services for employers
 - labor market / occupational information
 - services for workers impacted by a layoff or in occupations with limited demand due to technological change, impact of imports, or plant closures
- States must reserve the other 10% for: [Section 7(b) of Wagner-Peyser]
 - performance incentives for ES offices/programs
 - mitigation of extra costs of exemplary models for delivering services or enhancing professional development for agency staff
 - services for groups with special needs

Employment Services Staffing

Employment Services Totals

- ~212 employees
- ~22 vacancies
- ~10% currently eligible for retirement
- ~7% eligible for retirement within the next three years



Business Services DEW Staff

- **Senior Business Consultants:** work with key account employers in the state
- **Business Consultants:** assist employers with screening applications, job matching, hiring events, employer plans, and more
- **Veteran Business Consultants (LVERS):** aid in finding qualified veterans and ensure employers meet Federal Compliance Standards
- **Rapid Response Coordinators:** assist with layoff aversion and layoff assistance





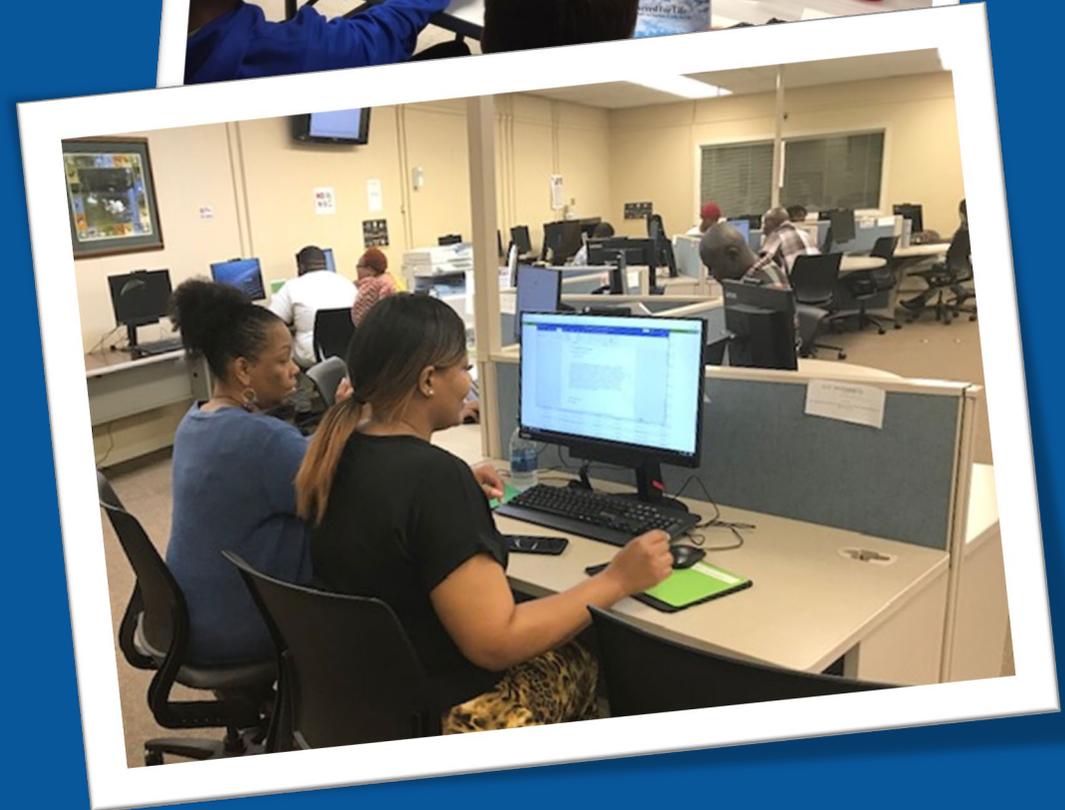
Business Services

- Staff that work directly with businesses
- Free job postings
- Personalized Employer Plans (PEP)
- Hiring event assistance
- Résumé vetting and job matching
- Customized hiring opportunities
- Rapid Response
- UI Target marketing
- SC Works marketing



Job Seeker Services

- Résumé and job-search assistance
- Job matching
- Skills assessment
- Education and training
- Help with barriers
- Job fairs and hiring events
- Application assistance
- Federal bonding
- Workshops
- Back-to-Work Classes



Veteran Services

- Case Management for Veterans and Spouses that qualify
- Working with employers to hire Veterans
- Matching employers with qualified Veterans and their spouses
- S.T.A.Y.S program



Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG)

- The Jobs for Veterans State Grants program provides federal funding to state agencies to hire dedicated staff to provide individualized career and training services to eligible veterans and help employers fill their workforce needs with veterans. [38 U.S.C. § 4100 et seq.; 20 C.F.R. Part 1001]

- These JVSG-funded staff can be found at SC Works Centers throughout the state:

- **Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP)** specialists provide individualized career services to eligible veterans and eligible persons experiencing employment barriers with an emphasis on assisting veterans who are economically or educationally disadvantaged, including veterans experiencing homelessness and unemployment.

[38 U.S.C. § 4103]

- **Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER)** staff conduct outreach to employers to advocate for the hiring of veterans. They also work with businesses, contractors, and employer organizations to develop career opportunities for veterans.

[38 U.S.C. § 4104]

Note: Some JVSG-funded staff may be half-time, spending 50% of their time on JVSG and 50% on Wagner-Peyser.

Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG)

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- States are authorized to use 90% of funds allotted for: [Section 7(a) of Wagner-Peyser]

- job search/placement assistance for jobseekers
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- services for workers impacted by a layoff or in occupations with limited demand due to technological change, impact of imports, or plant closures

- States must reserve the other 10% for: [Section 7(b) of Wagner-Peyser]

- performance incentives for ES offices/programs
- mitigation of extra costs of exemplary models for delivering services or enhancing professional development for agency staff
- services for groups with special needs

Veteran Outcomes

- The Uniform National Threshold Entered Employment Rate (UNTEER) is a national threshold Veterans' Entered Employment Rate (VEER) for veterans and other eligible persons served by the JVSG program and the Wagner-Peyser funded Employment Service.
 - **VEER is calculated as:** of those veterans and other eligible persons not employed at program entry, the number employed in the first quarter after the exit quarter divided by the number exiting during the quarter (i.e., % of exiters unemployed at program entry but employed in the first quarter after exit).
- South Carolina's PY2023* VEER was the **sixth highest in the nation** and second highest in the region at 60.89%. The PY2023 UNTEER (90% of the PY National VEER) threshold was 50.5%.

Nationwide Top 10 VEER – PY2023				
Rank	State	VEER	Exiters	Entered Employment
1	New Hampshire	72.30%	343	248
2	Mississippi	70.29%	690	485
3	Iowa	68.72%	1,493	1,026
4	Wisconsin	67.78%	1,021	692
5	Indiana	65.15%	1,845	1,202
6	South Carolina	60.89%	2,094	1,275
7	Kansas	60.78%	849	516
8	Michigan	60.68%	4,969	3,015
9	Nebraska	60.12%	336	202
10	Virginia	60.11%	1,717	1,032
	NATIONAL	56.10%	98,829	55,489

Region 3 VEER – PY2023				
Rank	State	VEER	Exiters	Entered Employment
1	Mississippi	70.29%	690	485
2	South Carolina	60.89%	2,094	1,275
3	Florida	59.23%	5,453	3,230
4	Tennessee	58.71%	1,763	1,035
5	North Carolina	57.40%	4,693	2,695
6	Kentucky	55.60%	639	355
7	Alabama	39.70%	1,613	640

*As of December 2025, PY2023 was the most recent data available from the Department of Labor.

JVSG Challenges: “Veteran” vs “Eligible Veteran” vs “Eligible Person”

All eligible veterans are veterans, but not all veterans are eligible veterans.

- **“Veteran”**: a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged/released under conditions other than dishonorable. [38 U.S.C. § 101(2)]
- **“Eligible Veteran”**: a person who meets one of the following criteria: [38 U.S.C. § 4211(4)]
 - (A) served on active duty for more than 180 consecutive days and was discharged with other than a dishonorable discharge;
 - (B) was discharged/released from active duty because of a service-connected disability;
 - (C) as a member of a reserve component under an order to active duty pursuant to section 12301(a), (d), or (g), 12302, or 12304 of title 10, served on active duty during a period of war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge is authorized and was discharged with other than dishonorable discharge; or
 - (D) was discharged/released from active duty by reason of a sole survivorship discharge

LVERs work with employers on behalf of veterans, but DVOPs may only serve eligible veterans and eligible persons with a qualifying employment barrier.

JVSG Challenges: “Veteran” vs “Eligible Veteran” vs “Eligible Person”

An “eligible person” is a spouse of a veteran, but the spouse of an “eligible veteran” is often not an “eligible person.”

[38 U.S.C. § 4101(5); 38 U.S.C. § 4215[a]]

- An “Eligible Person” is the *spouse* of:

- (1) any person who died of a service-connected disability;
- (2) any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who is listed, at the time of application for assistance, for a total of more than 90 days as (a) missing in action, (b) captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or (c) forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power; or
- (3) any person who has a total disability permanent in nature resulting from a service-connected disability, or the spouse of a veteran who died while a disability so evaluated was in existence.

[38 U.S.C. § 4101(5)]

DVOPs can serve eligible persons with a qualifying employment barrier. Eligible persons are also “covered persons” entitled to priority of service within SC Works.

JVSG Challenges: Lack of Flexibility

JVSG staff must perform only statutorily defined roles and responsibilities.

- DVOPs can only work with eligible veterans or eligible persons with a significant barrier to employment (e.g., disability, experiencing homelessness, justice-involved, economically disadvantaged) that have already been registered and screened for eligibility.
- LVERs may speak with the customers to better understand and meet their employment needs, but LVERs cannot provide direct services to participants.
- **These limitations mean prohibit therefore, activities like:**
 - Staffing the SC Works center front desk greeting customers or doing intake/screening
 - Assisting with checking in customers at job fairs
 - Administering a workshop if any of the participants are not DVOP-eligible

While DVOPs and LVERs should be utilized to the maximum extent possible for those programs, these strict rules create challenges with customer service, relationships with partners, and efficient workflow.

JVSG Challenges: Hiring JVSG Staff

Federal law requires state agencies to adhere to a specific preference order when filling JVSG staff positions.

- **DVOPs:** Must make every effort to hire qualified disabled veterans as defined by 38 U.S.C. § 4211(3) and qualified veterans as defined by 38 U.S.C. § 101, with preference given to qualified disabled veterans. [38 U.S.C. § 4103A(b)]
- **LVERs:** Must make every effort to hire, in order of preference:
 - (1) qualified service-connected disabled veterans as defined by 38 U.S.C. § 4211(3),
 - (2) qualified eligible veterans as defined by 38 U.S.C. § 4211(4),
 - (3) qualified eligible persons as defined by 38 U.S.C. § 4101(5). [38 U.S.C. § 4104(c)]
- States must provide a supporting rationale for each JVSG staff position that is filled by a nonveteran for more than six months. [38 U.S.C. § 4102A(c)(5)(b)]

In some areas of the state, there may not be many qualifying applicants, and hiring can take longer than desired.



S.T.A.Y.S

Veterans and their spouses can participate in the program, which provides **five** interview opportunities through the SC Works system.

DEW and SC Works partners also provide well-rounded, intensive support to program participants for training, employment, and other life-sustaining assistance to build a life right here in South Carolina.

JULY 1, 2024
–
JUNE 30, 2025

Participants	527
Spouses	33
Employers	329
Training	11
Hired	194



Regional Workforce Advisors

- Matching employers with local schools
- Coordinating and facilitating industry tours for students, educators, and community partners
- Providing professional development for educators to include workforce trends, labor market information, and available resources
- Coordinating and facilitating presentations for students related to opportunities after high school



Regional Workforce Advisors

creating connections among educators, students, and employers

JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025	Middle School Students	High School Students	Educators
Events Hosted/Co-Hosted/Organized	229	334	264
Presentations	18	44	23
Participants Engagements	33,253	32,481	8,867
Business Partners Engagements	1,293	2,249	751

In addition to middle and high school events, there were **493** other RWA events and **78** presentations held with groups such as elementary schools, technical colleges, 4-year colleges, nontraditional settings, and workforce partners.



Foot Traffic Report

FY 2023

189,822
Total Foot Traffic

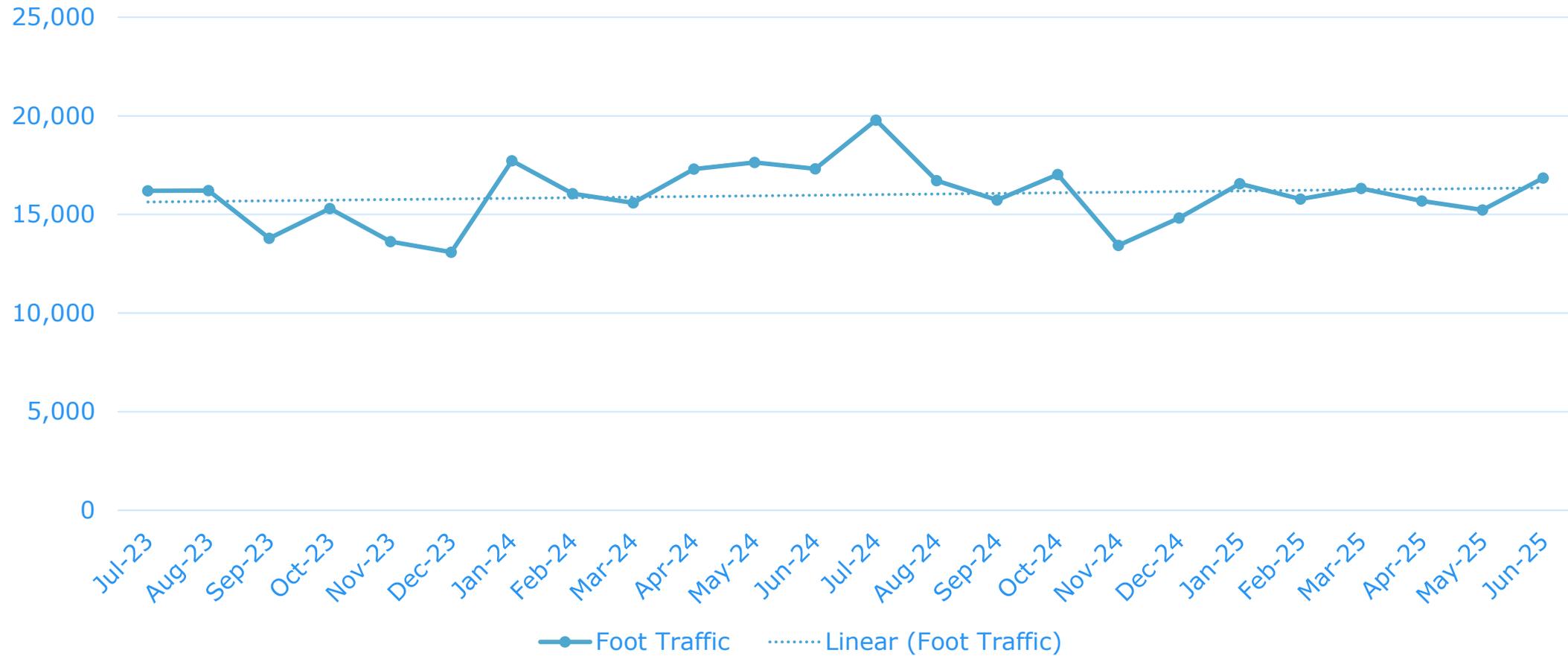
15,819
Monthly Average

FY 2024

193,943
Total Foot Traffic

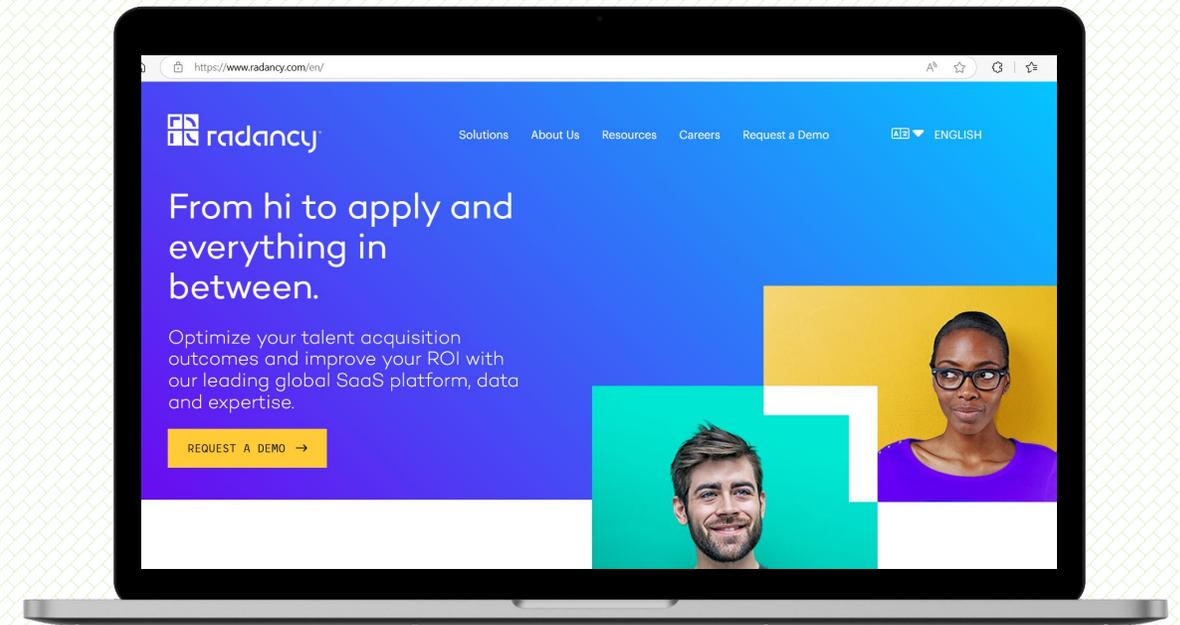
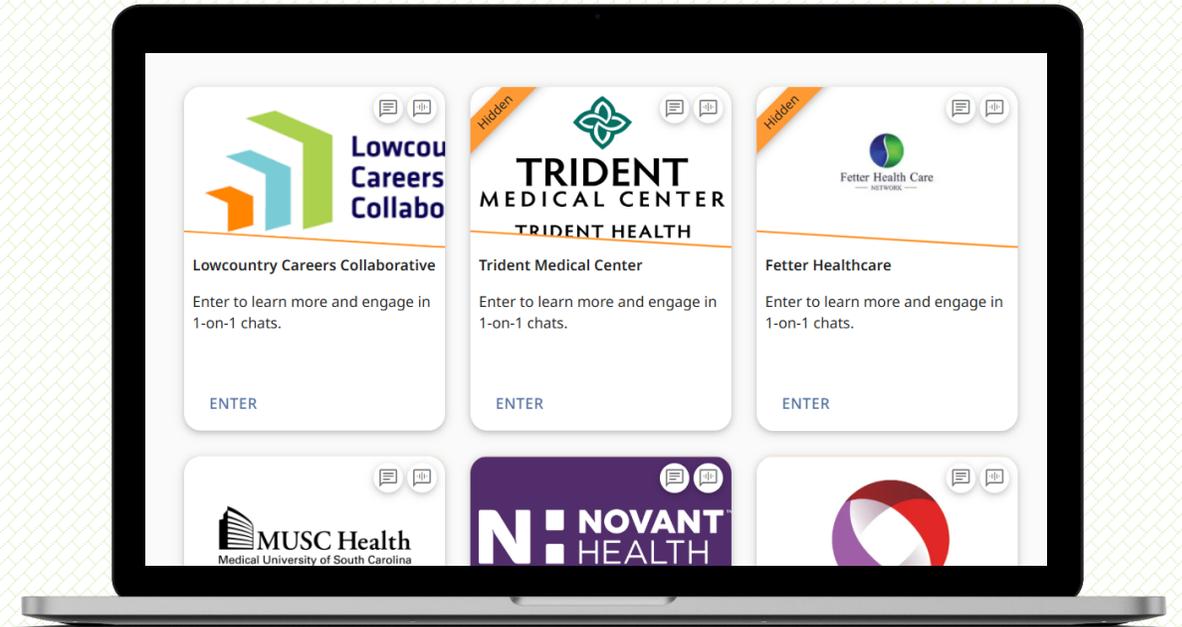
16,162
Monthly Average

Two-Year Foot Traffic Trend



Virtual Events Platform

- Virtual Engagement Center (VEC)
- Virtual hiring events
- Virtual SC Department of Corrections events:
 - hiring events
 - mock interviews
- Virtual workshops
- Other virtual events



SC WORKS
GREATER UPSTATE

VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

THURSDAY,
JUNE 26, 2025
10AM-1PM

<https://shorturl.at/ADEv8>



JOIN US FROM YOUR PHONE OR COMPUTER!



An Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TTY: 711 For program funding information in compliance with the Stevens Amendment please visit
www.dew.sc.gov/funding & www.upstaterworkforceboard.org/stevens

Virtual Hiring Events

Dates

Events

Attendees

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

166

-

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

105

-

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

91

3,281

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

135

4,196

Virtual hiring events are available to all employers that use the SC Works system.

Employers may opt for a virtual-only hiring event or a hybrid event accessible in-person and virtually.

SC WORKS VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER

SC WORKS
A proud partner of the American Job Center network

Auxiliary aids and services

For program funding details in compl

SC WORKS

A proud partner of the American Job Center network

Employment Services

Need assistance in searching for a job? You have come to the right place! We are available for Live Chat

ENTER

Enter a booth to participate. X



Veteran Services

Did you serve in the military? Enter to learn more about veteran services.

ENTER



Virtual Workshops

Find out about upcoming virtual workshops!

ENTER

Virtual Engagement Center

The Virtual Engagement Center (VEC) offers SC Works services to the public virtually.

The VEC matches job seekers to local resources and offers one-on-one assistance through chats.

September 2022 – June 2025

Total Visitors	42,284
Total Chats	1,893
Month Average	1,244

YES Program

Lt. Governor Pamela Evette and DEW have partnered on the Youth Employment Site (YES), a job board with work opportunities for teenage job seekers.

The job board features local businesses statewide that hire youth and shows which jobs are available and how to apply.

	Employers	Positions
April 2025	118	227
May 2025	185	578
June 2025	248	1181
Total	551	1,986



UI Target Marketing

Recent unemployment insurance claimants are sent jobs and hiring events in the areas matching the skills entered they entered with their claim.

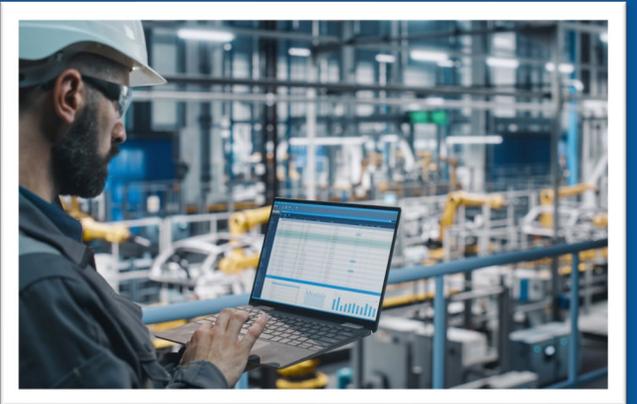
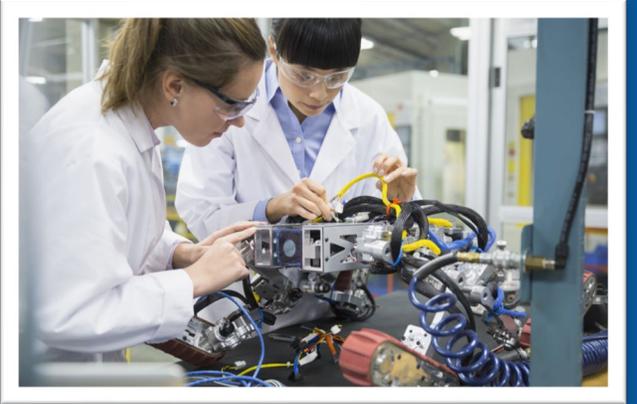
This service is also provided for jobseekers registered within the SC Works system.

Emails and text messages are sent weekly.

Date Range

Total Messages

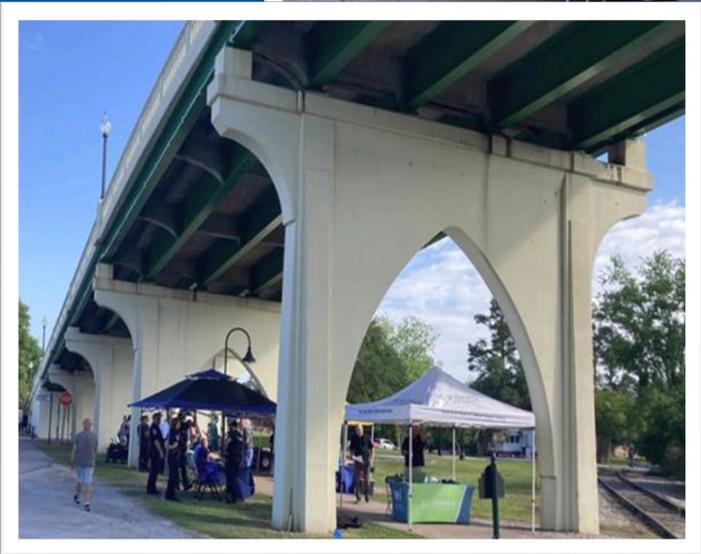
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	6,669,818
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	4,193,459
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	3,587,370
July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	4,064,351



Recruitment Events

Recruitment Events are offered in all 46 counties to employers that use the SC Works System.

Events range from individual employer events to multiple employer job fairs. Resources (i.e., community services) are also available at these events.



	Events	Attendees	Employers
FY 2021	1,083	17,203	3,350
FY 2022	973	19,114	3,288
FY 2023	860	32,345	4,365
FY 2024	1,095	41,602	5,288

Job Postings: SC Works

Jobs can be posted by a staff or by an employer directly into the SC Works System.

Date Range	Jobs Posted	# Positions	Employers Served
October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022	95,401	179,289	3,888
October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023	80,310	211,244	3,359
October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024	57,985	139,953	2,820

HOT Jobs!
A proud partner of the americanjobcenter network
Scan the QR code to visit jobs.scworks.org

Visit jobs.scworks.org to log in or create an account to learn more about a job you're interested in. Enter the Job Order # to search for jobs. For additional assistance, please visit your local SC Works center.

Job Order Number	Position	Location	Education	Pay Range	Close Date
1562800	Medical Scribe	Florence	High School Diploma or Equivalent	DOE	9/14/2025
1562804	Billing Account	Florence	High School Diploma or Equivalent	DOE	7/31/2025
1562807	Forestry Worker	Patrick	High School Diploma or Equivalent	\$14.20	9/11/2025
1562812	Automotive/Equipment Mechanic	Darlington	High School Diploma or Equivalent	DOE	7/31/2025
1562827	Pharmacy Technician - Certified	Florence	Pharmacy Certification	DOE	7/31/2025
1562831	Medical Assistant - Primary Care Partners	Florence	High School Diploma or Equivalent	DOE	7/31/2025
1562833	Bar Team Lead - Business Services	Florence	No Minimum Education Requirement	DOE	7/31/2025
1562878	Pine Straw Worker	Patrick	No Minimum Education Requirement	\$15.28	9/11/2025
1562919	Pest Management Professional	Hartsville	No Minimum Education Requirement	\$21.63	9/15/2025
1562950	Administrative Specialist II / Titling & Licensing Specialist I	Mullins	High School Diploma or Equivalent	\$16.86	6/23/2025
1562988	Produce Manager - Part Time	Marion	High School Diploma or Equivalent	DOE	6/30/2025

DOE = Depends on Experience

SC WORKS
PEE DEE
An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For program funding details in compliance with the Stevens Amendment, please visit www.dew.sc.gov/funding.

Employer Services: SC Works

Date Range	Other Employer Services	Unique Employers Served	Counties Reached
October 1, 2021- September 30, 2022	32,050	6,904	46
October 1, 2022- September 30, 2023	60,251	7,891	46
October 1, 2023- September 30, 2024	59,203	9,716	46

Employer services are more than just job postings, hiring events, and candidate referrals. The table above captures other employer services like employer visits, assistance with the SCWOS system, Personalized Employer Plans, and more.



Employer Services: SC Works

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October 1, 2021- September 30, 2022	32,050	6,904
October 1, 2022- September 30, 2023	60,251	7,891
October 1, 2023- September 30, 2024	59,203	9,716



Career Coach

The SC Career Coach is a mobile extension of our statewide SC Works centers geared toward job placement, serving rural communities with limited internet access, disaster response, and training activities.

The mobile units are wheelchair accessible and equipped with workstations for job seeking activities, Wi-Fi, printers, and on-site assistance.

Year	Events	Attendees	Counties
CY 2022	120	1,125	46
CY 2023	140	1,375	46
CY 2024	162	2,673	46



Be Pro Be Proud

The Be Pro Mobile Workshop features interactive simulators and Virtual Reality experiences to captivate audiences while providing hands-on exposure to skilled professions.

- heavy equipment simulator
- commercial driving simulator
- construction technology
- welding simulators
- forklift simulator
- diesel technology
- utility bucket station
- CNC operations



Year	Events	Attendees	Counties
FY21	114	12,897	32
FY22	117	12,533	36
FY23	130	12,251	36
FY24	139	13,691	45

Rural Connections

SC@Work: Rural Connections is part of an ongoing rural initiative to make DEW and SC Works services accessible to jobseekers in rural areas.

Events can include festivals and community events. A jobseeker can attend the event and network directly with employers, submit applications and work on a resume in the Career Coach, meet community providers, and more.

Outcomes	Historic (February 1 st , 2024 – Jun 30 th , 2025)	FY'24 (July 1 st , 2024 – June 30 th , 2025)
Events	340	287
Employers	1,019	748
Attendees	14,224	13,029
Follow Ups	1,666	1,171
Potential Hires	1,142	768



Connection Points

209 libraries, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations serve as Connection Points that provide public access to computers, help filing an unemployment claim or searching for work, and SC Works information.

DEW provides training to the location staff on the basics of SC Works and the Unemployment Insurance portal and makes regular visits to restock materials and signage.

Year	Connection Points
FY21	178
FY22	187
FY23	193
FY24	209





Second Chance

in partnership with SC Department of Corrections

In the 30 days prior to their release, participants work directly with a DEW Workforce Consultant to become registered in the SC Works system and craft a résumé. Participants attend a mock interview event with SHRM and DEW staff to prepare for a virtual hiring event to assist with finding a job before release.

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Program Completion	104	99	126	129
Virtual Mock Interviews	3	10	10	11
Virtual Mock Participants	0	60	91	98
Virtual Hiring Events	3	10	10	11
Employers	17	50	54	64
Virtual Participants	15	60	85	78
Total Hires	9	27	30	35

2,250+ participants since 2014

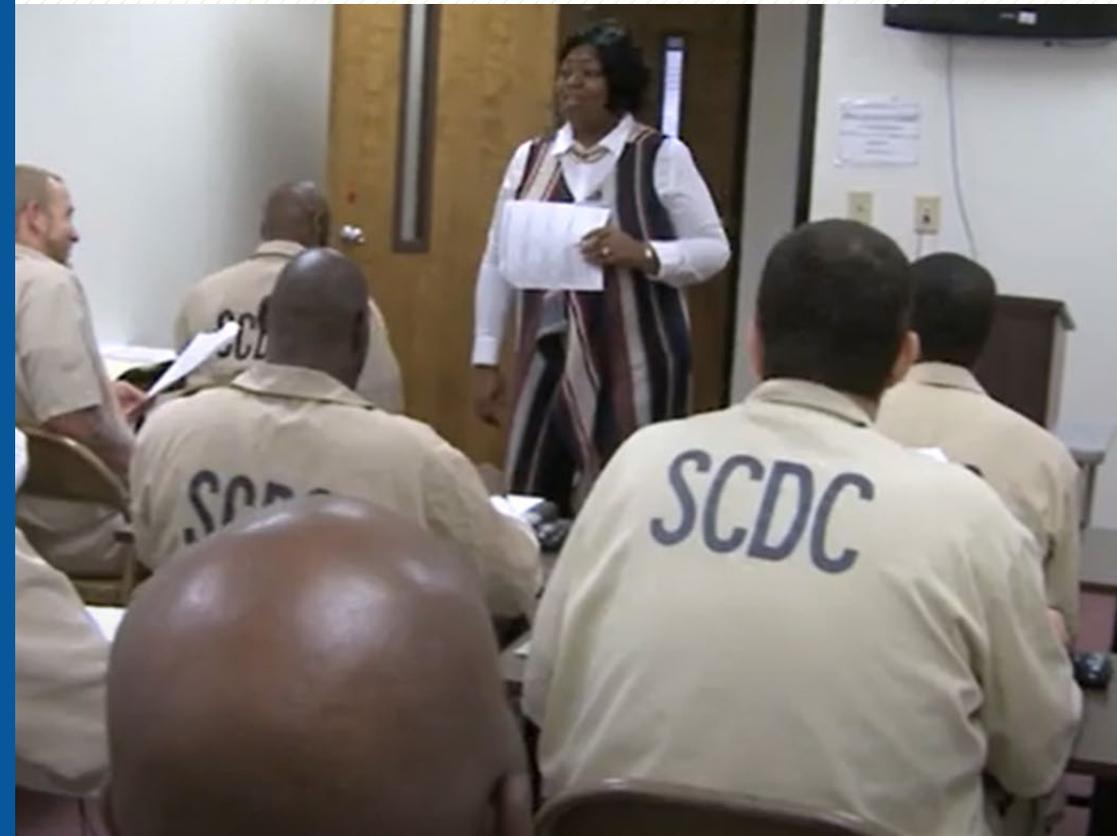


Second Chance Orientations

DEW staff provide an SC Works Orientation for participants near release at all SC Department of Corrections locations.

Participants are provided information about their local SC Works Center and the Workforce Consultants at the centers assisting participants once released.

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Orientations	261	2,733	3,285	3,590



Back to Work

The Back to Work Program is a job readiness / soft skills boot camp to assist transitioning individuals back into the workforce. Participants receive a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

DEW has worked with over 40 organizations with this program, including homeless shelters, detention centers, local organizations, etc.

December 15, 2015 – June 30, 2025

Graduations	137
Graduates	654
Employed/Training	357
Resource Referrals	297



Challenges: Evolving Federal Guidance, Strategies, and Funding

As the new administration works to transform the federal government's approach to workforce development, DEW must adapt to challenges presented by evolving federal guidance, rules, and funding.

- New eligibility verification for Wagner-Peyser and WIOA services has been challenging to implement, particularly with limited public awareness. Before receiving any services, all participants must verify work authorization by submission of I-9 documents (e.g., social security card, passport, U.S. birth certificate).
 - While it can be helpful to make sure jobseekers have documents needed to secure new employment, not all visitors to an SC Works center know to bring these documents and refusal of services can frustrate what would otherwise be a positive experience.
- **Funding cuts and changes are expected and consolidation of programs may significantly impact employment services.**
 - Wagner-Peyser is one of 11 programs rolled into the proposed Make America Skilled Again Block Grant; details of how that funding would be allocated among those programs are not yet known.



Questions?