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Newton Hires (\$220,000)

As Newton-based employers begin to recover and rebound from the pandemic, many are facing a challenge finding employees to fill a variety of job openings. The numbers are daunting—over the 90 days between April 15 and July 15, 3,400 jobs were posted for positions with employers located in the City of Newton.

Simultaneously, people who faced layoffs and shorter hours during the pandemic are looking to re-enter the workforce or get more hours of work.

How can the City of Newton help?

The City of Newton created a partnership with MassHire Metro South/West, and the Newton-Needham Regional Chamber to start Newton Hires an exciting program that will provide a cash bonus incentive to attract employees to Newton-based employers. (MassHire is the state sponsored agency focused on employment training and placement.)

Currently unemployed or underemployed individuals who register for employment assistance with MassHire and secure employment with a Newton based employer will be eligible for up to a \$1,000 cash bonus.

We are investing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to attract talented people to work here in Newton while supporting our short-staffed businesses and non-profits that are bouncing back after such a difficult year and a half.

Newton Hires Program

The Newton Hires program will offer cash incentives of up to \$1,000 to currently unemployed and underemployed individuals who register with MassHire, secure employment of up to 20 hours per week or more with a qualifying Newton employer, and remain employed with the business/non-profit for at least four weeks for an initial \$500 cash award and an additional \$500 cash award for individuals who stay as employees with the same employers through the week of December 20, 2021.

The Newton Hires program will be administered by the state's MassHire Metro South/West office. It begins this Monday, August 9. The program is limited to the first 200 individuals who get hired in Newton, remain employed, and become eligible for the cash awards. The Newton Hires program will be funded with approximately \$220,000 from the City of Newton's share of the federal American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Newton Hires Employee Eligibility

To be eligible for the Newton Hires program, applicants must:

- Be currently unemployed or underemployed and at least 18 years of age
- Register with MassHire Metro South/West here
- Secure employment of 20 hours a week or more with a Newton based business with a physical “brick and mortar” location in Newton
- Provide appropriate documentation to MassHire showing that they both have remained with the Newton employer for a period of four weeks (to receive the initial \$500 cash incentive) and potentially receive an additional \$500 cash incentive upon remaining with the employer through the week of December 20, 2021.
- The employee does not need to be a Newton resident

Newton Based Employer Requirements:

In order for employees to become eligible for the Newton Hires hiring incentive bonus, the employer must:

- Be a Newton based employer with a physical brick and mortar location in the City of Newton
- Register their business and available job openings with MassHire Metro South/West here

Questions? Reach out to Newton Director of Economic Development Devra Bailin. Email her at dbailin@newtonma.gov, call her at 617-831-0103 or leave her a message at 617-796-1122.