



Maine Quality Centers Program FY19 Annual Report

Submitted to the 129th Maine Legislature's
Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and
Business

Summary

The Maine Quality Centers (MQC), a program of the Maine Community College System, was created in 1994 by the Maine Legislature to meet the workforce education and training needs of new and expanding businesses in the state and provide new employment and career advancement opportunities for Maine people. The program provides grants to Maine employers to fund customized new-hire or incumbent-worker training delivered by the Maine Community College System.

Since its inception, the program has served 275 new or expanding Maine businesses, 18,923 Maine people have been trained for new positions, and incumbent workers across the state have upgraded their skills.

The program provided support to Maine employers, incumbent workers, and new hires through the following projects which were active between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

FY19 Project Activity

• Total active projects in FY19:	53
• MQC FY19 project expenditures:	\$2,112,216
• Industry match investment:	\$638,216
• Total MQC investment in projects to date:	\$2,750,432
• Total trained as of 06/30/19:	1,602
• Total new jobs created as of 6/30/2019:	219
• This represents an increase of:	79%

An additional 218 individuals began training in FY19 that will be completed in FY20. Their numbers will be included in the FY20 report.

Overview and Activities

MQC's statutory mission is "...to meet the workforce education and training needs of new and expanding businesses in the State and provide new employment and career advancement opportunities for Maine people." The statute defines three primary purposes for the program; *job creation*, *workforce preparation* and *creating partnerships*. The program's public benefit is to serve the employer's need for additional skilled workers, give trainees portable work skills to compete in today's workforce, and establish and maintain relationships that support regional economic growth.

The program is coordinated by an executive director of workforce training, with individual project services delivered by the system's seven colleges. Project funding supports customized training activities, as well as applicant recruitment and screening when appropriate. Most services are provided directly by a community college, although the statute provides for coordination with other education and training providers if necessary. The program's budget for FY19 was \$1,592,900, a figure that included \$535,000 for the Put ME to Work initiative.

The program utilizes four approaches to meeting the training needs of Maine's workforce:

- **New-hire training:** MQC provides grants to Maine employers to support customized training for new and prospective hires. Projects are selected for funding based on the number of net new jobs, the skill level of the positions, wage and benefit levels, training required, possible return on public investment and other pertinent labor market considerations.

During FY19, MQC, in partnership with the state's community colleges, provided customized workforce training to some of Maine's largest employers, some of its fastest growing companies, and several new and promising start-ups. A list of businesses served is attached.

Training was delivered across a wide array of industries and in a variety of "hard" and "soft" skills, among them: supervisory skills, leadership skills, MS Office, project management, time management, communication, business writing, lean manufacturing, welding, healthcare, food science, resume building and interview skills, ServSafe, safety, financial management, electricity, commercial sewing, marine design, high-pressure boiler, and first aid/CPR.

- **Incumbent-worker training:** Based on the need for greater incumbent-worker training options, as identified by the 126th Maine Legislature's Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future, MQC began in FY14 to pilot training to employers' incumbent workers. Employers with over 100 employees pay 50% of the project costs, while employers with employment levels between 51 and 100 pay 25% of costs. No match is required of employers with 50 or fewer employees. Over the past six years, this offering has served 73 Maine businesses, updating the skills of their employees. The demand for incumbent-worker training has increased and this option will continue to be part of the MQC grant portfolio.

- **College initiated projects:** Community colleges that have identified areas of in-demand training for unemployed or underemployed Maine residents in their localities may also submit applications directly to MQC. A current example of this type of project is Southern Maine Community College's medical assisting, construction and professional stitcher projects. MQC grants funded the costs of instruction for these three groups that trained a total of 80 people.
- **Put ME to Work:** Created in the first session of the 127th Maine Legislature, the Put ME to Work Program is designed to address demonstrated training needs for occupations that offer competitive wages and benefits. Projects need to include strong partnerships between business, industry, and the community colleges and require a 50% cash and/or in-kind match by the employer or industry applicant. The first Put ME to Work project, in FY17, was a mechanized logging program with the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine. In FY19, two more groups of trainees went through the mechanized logging program.

The attached table provides an overview of all MQC projects that received funding in FY19.

MAINE QUALITY CENTERS

SUPPORT FOR WORKFORCE TRAINING
A PROGRAM OF MAINE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES

FY 19 (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

Campus	Business Location	Business Served	Being Trained	Number of Trainees	Expenses		Total Expenses
					MQC Only	Match Amount	
CMCC	South Paris	Community Concepts, LLC		24	3,288	3,288	6,576
CMCC	Auburn	Panolam Surface Systems		77	4,617	4,617	9,234
EMCC	Hermon	Allen Farm Fence**	16	0	11,727	-	11,727
EMCC	Bangor	Certified Nursing Assistant**		21	96,855	-	96,855
EMCC	Millinocket	KFI		33	3,599	3,599	7,198
EMCC	Brewer	Nyle Systems, LLC		14	11,015	-	11,015
EMCC	Old Town	Old Town Water District		7	2,758	-	2,758
EMCC	Belfast	OnProcess Technology		24	14,258	-	14,258
EMCC	Bangor	Penobscot Community Health Center		23	6,215	6,215	12,429
EMCC	Bangor	Pineland Farms**	32	0	2,108	-	2,108
EMCC	Guilford	Puritan Medical Products		51	15,646	15,646	31,292
EMCC	Ellsworth	RH Foster, LLC		8	9,422	3,141	12,563
EMCC	Brewer	Troy Industrial Solutions		25	16,306	-	16,306
EMCC	Brewer	W. S. Emerson		38	13,010	-	13,010
KVCC	Madison	Backyard Farms**	54	0	4,845	4,845	9,691
KVCC	Rockport	Cedarworks		5	2,371	-	2,371
KVCC	Pittsfield	Cianbro**		23	213,857	-	213,857
KVCC	Fairfield	KVCC-Building Construction		17	39,900	-	39,900
KVCC	Fairfield	KVCC-CDL Class B Training	40	0	71,163	-	71,163
KVCC	Fairfield	KVCC-Heavy Equipment**	0	0	36,116	-	36,116
KVCC	Fairfield	KVCC-Medical Assisting**		14	129,286	-	129,286
NMCC	Presque Isle	CDL Class A Training		12	103,088	-	103,088
NMCC	Houlton	LPN**	15	0	85,532	-	85,532
NMCC	Stratton	Professional Loggers**	15	0	119,667	-	119,667
NMCC	Presque Isle	Professional Loggers**		11	54,723	515,985	570,708
SMCC	Portland	B&M**	8	0	2,294	765	3,059
SMCC	Bath	Bath Iron Works		526	300,056	71,573	371,628
SMCC	Cumberland	Casco Systems		34	6,090	-	6,090
SMCC	Scarborough	Davis-Jancas (Welch Signs)		77	3,348	-	3,348
SMCC	Brunswick	Guardian**	17	0	2,389	796	3,186
SMCC	Gorham	Helical		33	8,682	2,894	11,575
SMCC	Brunswick	Here Engineering**	15	6	45,547	-	45,547
SMCC	Portland	Holiday Inn by the Bay		47	1,656	-	1,656
SMCC	Gorham	Jotul North America		22	3,049	1,016	4,065
SMCC	Windham	Lighthouse Imaging		7	18,745	-	18,745
SMCC	Portland	MaineHealth/NorDX**		12	12,675	-	12,675
SMCC	Westbrook	Messer Trucking**	6	0	1,631	-	1,631
SMCC	Gorham	Moody Collision		122	3,091	-	3,091
SMCC	Portland	Paradigm (new hire) **		53	2,762	2,762	5,524
SMCC	Portland	Paradigm **	0	0	563	-	563
SMCC	Portland	SMCC-CNA training		5	9,185	-	9,185
SMCC	Portland	SMCC-Construction Institute		10	50,280	-	50,280
SMCC	Portland	SMCC-Firefighter/EMT		12	60,762	-	60,762
SMCC	Portland	SMCC-Medical Assisting		15	47,285	-	47,285
SMCC	Portland	SMCC-Medical Assisting **		12	23,402	-	23,402
SMCC	Portland	SMCC-Professional Stitcher		38	67,995	-	67,995
SMCC	Portland	SMCC-Professional Stitcher		12	52,139	-	52,139
SMCC	Portland	Yamaha University**		15	18,091	-	18,091
WCCC	Calais	Certified Production Technicians**		21	39,923	-	39,923
YCCC	Wells	Caron Engineering		5	1,385	-	1,385
YCCC	Saco	General Dynamics-OTC		18	1,075	1,075	2,150
YCCC	North Berwick	Pratt & Whitney**		73	256,190	-	256,190
YCCC	Sanford	T&D Wood**		0	554	-	554
		Totals	218	1602	\$ 2,112,216	\$ 638,216	\$ 2,750,432
		Number of Active Projects		53			

If additional information is needed please contact Dan Belyea via email at dbelyea@mccs.me.edu

*Reported numbers include some start-up costs for additional training to be completed in FY20

** Number of Trainees reported in FY19 - project expenses carried over from FY19 to FY20