

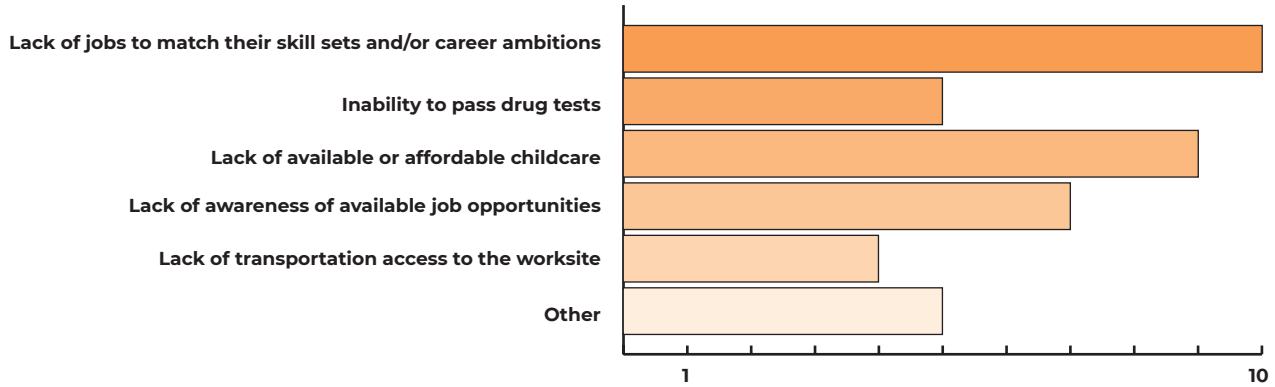
Workforce Development Focus Group Results

Hosted in partnership with the
North Central Pennsylvania
Launchbox on October 14, 2021.



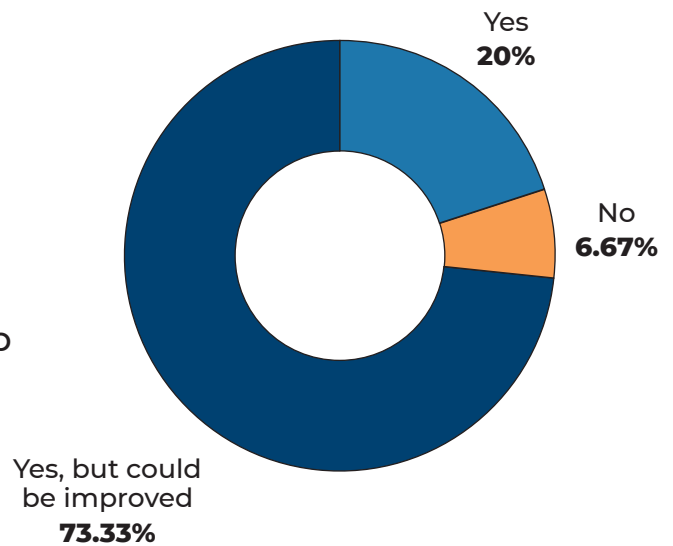
1.

If your community is experiencing challenges with workers not participating in the labor force, what are some of the **most common issues keeping people on the sidelines**? Select the top THREE.



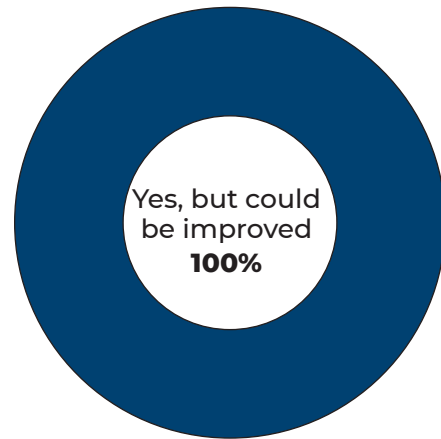
2.

Do your community's employers **partner with education and training organizations to communicate their hiring needs and challenges**, and/or help develop programming to address required worker skills?



3.

Do local employers offer **internships, apprenticeships, or job shadowing opportunities** to high school, post-secondary students, and/or other job seekers?



4.

How do you think local students and/or job seekers can **become more familiar with the career opportunities available** in the local economy?

- A region-wide summit to bring all partners together could be an idea to help connect the dots!
- Teacher in the workplace program was a great way to educate teacher / guidance counselors on career opportunities available.
- We need to hire more people to Carol's point!
- Increase awareness of BEP and work being done by the project leaders in the realm.
- Increase awareness of of Business Education Partnership
- Keep talking about it!
- Increase in active Business Education Partnership to provide more staff time to implement activities
- Career days
- Career Link is very engaged in our communities. I also think that WFS has school programs that allow students of all ages to see what job opportunities are available. The CTE schools are also great at getting students knowledge on career paths in their shop areas. Our colleges are obvious choices for those students wishing to enter higher education. There is no lack of information out there for those who seek it.
- A central website that consolidates all available local jobs in one format.
- For students earlier education on regional career opportunities that includes number of job openings, pay/salaries etc. For not just students but their parents
- Field trips in person or virtual, exposure to already available local content such as manufacturing videos, job shadows
- ask professors, teachers, career counselors, guidance offer career fairs where the students and job seekers are

5.

Are there efforts to **help adults who have completed some college but didn't graduate to come back and earn their degree**? If so, what are they?

- The PACareerLink locations have great programs and are familiar with multiple training providers and resources to help adults re-enter the workforce. the Northern Regional College is making some headway as well.
- BC3 promoted this years ago when they came to the region but I haven't heard much lately.
- Direct phone and email outreach. Asking what there current goals are and looking to paste past credits into new plan
- This would be very beneficial, but I'm not aware of anything like this.
- NPRC is trying to bridge that gap, I think

6.

If funding was not an issue, what would be some of the **workforce training programs you'd like to see developed** in the community?

- Funding for HS meaningful career based work study program
- *better promotion of resources that exist/cross organization communication
- Robotics and Science, Technology, engineering, and mathematics training for workforce
- Taking the McDowell HS (Erie) model for career education training
- A robust transportation system that works for our area- one that is customized!!!!
- Tech support
- Childcare training
- Buying the equipment/ machinery necessary for business needed for hands on training
- More staff hired for agencies that do economic development and workforce development work. Specifically for marketing our area and helping bridge connections.
- emergency management/firefighter/etc
- Supported employment/coaching.
- "Got Milk" campaign to provide broad marketing of educational pathways and skill development for everyone
- A robust 2-year CNC machining program, similar to the one previously offered in Elk County.
- Starting and succeeding with your own business