



# Western Mass Employment Collaborative

## PUTTING ABILITIES TO WORK

### Find Talented Job Applicants!

Hiring qualified, reliable employees is essential to the success of any company. To achieve your business goals, it's crucial that you have a diverse, skilled workforce with you every step of the way. Riverside's **Western Mass Employment Collaborative (WMEC)** can connect you with these talented and committed candidates.

Our pool of potential employees includes people in cities and towns across western Massachusetts who are living with a mental illness, developmental disability, or physical disability. Candidates have a range of skill sets, education levels, and interests, but they share one common trait - the commitment and desire to enter the workforce and contribute positively to a local employer.

### How We Work Together

The Western Mass Employment Collaborative – an initiative of Riverside Community Care, funded by the Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Mental Health – is a vibrant partnership between service providers, government agencies, workforce development organizations, and employers.

We are all focused on one common goal – increasing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, by connecting this largely untapped market of qualified job candidates with employers across western Massachusetts.

*“Aligning ourselves with Riverside Employment Collaboratives has allowed us to reach qualified job seekers and match them to career opportunities at CVS Health. The collaborative approach offers an organized pipeline of talent that is unmatched.”*

– Jonathan DaSilva, Regional Learning Center Manager, CVS Health

*A trusted and experienced community-based non-profit organization serving more than 40,000 people a year in Massachusetts, Riverside Community Care offers a wide range of mental healthcare, developmental and brain injury services, early childhood and youth programs, addiction treatment, trauma response, and more.*

## EMPLOYMENT COLLABORATIVES OFFER

- ✓ Committed, qualified employees
- ✓ Enriched and diverse workforce
- ✓ Reduced employee turnover
- ✓ Employee support from Riverside staff
- ✓ Wide reach with a single job posting
- ✓ No employer cost, saving advertising and recruiting fees

## CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE

Western Mass  
Employment Collaborative  
781-801-8464  
wmec@riversidecc.org  
www.wmecworks.net

## WATCH A VIDEO

See how we work together



**Riverside Community Care**

Leading the Way in Behavioral Healthcare & Human Services

[www.riversidecc.org](http://www.riversidecc.org)

## OUR SUCCESS STORIES

### A Fresh Start



Brian had worked as a high school cafeteria helper for several years, earning praise for his dedication as a dishwasher and food prepper. But he struggled to pass the ServSafe® exam, a certification that would prepare him for more challenging food-service roles. Then, thanks to the one-on-one attention of staff at the Culinary Career Academy – during the pandemic, a time he used to learn and grow – he finally attained his long-sought goal. This training was a game-changer for Brian, providing him with career exploration and team-building experience, in addition to his ServSafe® certificate. With the Riverside Employment Collaborative's assistance, Brian is back at work and couldn't be happier!

### A True Partnership



The Worcester Red Sox (WooSox) expresses an unwavering commitment to the local community, and their outreach efforts and employment opportunities for people with disabilities puts that into action. In their first two seasons, over a dozen individuals with unique learning styles and talents have found work at Polar Park, filling diverse jobs including sous chef and in guest services and ticket operations. Says Alex Richardson, Manager of Ballpark & Community Relations, "We are beyond grateful for the advocacy and determination that Riverside Employment Collaboratives provide for all of their clients – some of whom are the heart and foundation of our success at Polar Park!"

*By working with the Employment Collaborative we have benefited from direct job leads and increased access to employers. The Collaborative staff is motivated, accountable, and organized, with a firm understanding of how businesses work."*  
– Amy Bell, Executive Director, Vocational Advancement Center (VAC)

*"I always know that when I get a referral from The Employment Collaborative that I'm going to get a hard-working and motivated candidate who is ready to take on a new challenge. We have had great success with this partnership."*  
– Heidi Havlerston, Enterprise Holdings

*"The Riverside Employment Collaborative understands that a manufacturer can't wait for additional help...I especially like the idea of reaching a wide range of partners to fill my open positions with a single job posting."*  
– Peter Kasparson, David Clark Company Inc.

Western Mass Employment Collaborative

A SERVICE OF RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CARE

781-801-8464 • [www.wmecworks.net](http://www.wmecworks.net) • [wmec@riversideecc.org](mailto:wmec@riversideecc.org)