



Massachusetts
Taxpayers Foundation

Training Opportunities for State-Serving Populations

Most Important Things to Know

- **State investments in training opportunities for state-serving populations significantly increased between FY 2019 and FY 2023.** In FY 2023, policymakers increased annual budget spending for training opportunities for state-serving populations by \$90.2 million (37 percent) over FY 2019. These programs offer a range of services, including soft skill development for individuals living with disabilities and employment training programs for low-income families involved with the emergency housing system.
- **Most workforce spending is invested in training opportunities for state-serving populations.** While the share of workforce spending has decreased in recent years, training opportunities for state-serving populations accounted for 60 percent of workforce spending in FY 2023. Historically, this is due to factors such as federally mandated match requirements and the significance of wrap-around support services in job training programs.
- **The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) funds most workforce programs for state-serving populations.** Unlike individual training and sector-based programs, 99 percent of workforce funding for state-serving populations is under the EOHHS budget and administered across four agencies. These populations range from individuals living with disabilities to individuals who are eligible for the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) program.
- **Wrap-around services play a pronounced role in workforce programs for state-serving populations.** Given these programs primarily serve individuals who already receive various services through the state, an individual's needs and capabilities are used to tailor workforce and supportive services. Additionally, these wrap-around services will often continue after an individual completes training and after they are employed to support long-term, stable employment.