

What is the NH Working Initiative?

New Hampshire Employment Security Video Script

Hello, I'm Commissioner George Copadis of New Hampshire Employment Security.

We collaboratively sponsors a three-part NH Working Initiative that helps people stay at work, return to work and get ready for work.

In May 2010, the first of the three NH Working Initiatives, "Return to Work", was launched. This is a voluntary program that provides a structured, supervised training opportunity within a NH business that has a full-time job opening, to an unemployed individual. It is a chance for the job seeker to get a foot in the door with a potential employer and receive training, while providing an opportunity for the employer to see how the job seeker learns and fits into their business.

The training program is open to all unemployed NH residents, and may be up to six weeks, and a maximum of 24 hours per week. You do not have to be collecting unemployment to participate in this program. But if you are, you can continue to collect your benefits, so long as you meet all the eligibility requirements of the unemployment compensation program. Participants of this program are covered under the Employment Security's Worker's Compensation program.

To get more information about this program, please contact one of the NH Works offices and sign up for an orientation.

The next NH Working Initiative is "WorkShare". This program offers employers an alternative to layoffs during a temporary slowdown in business. Workshare allows employers to keep eligible employees on the payroll by having all of the workers in a department or unit share reduced work hours of between 10-50%, and collect a percentage of Unemployment benefits, if otherwise eligible. The plan can last up to 26 weeks.

Some WorkShare benefits are:

- Workers keep their jobs and some economic security
- Employers retain skilled and trained employees
- Workers continue to receive health insurance
- Employers avoid the time and expense of training new employees
- Employers avoid the disruption in business operations and can respond quickly as business improves

For more information, contact the NHES WorkShare by email at WorkShare@nhes.nh.gov or by phone at (603) 528-9360.

The third NH Working Initiative is “WorkReady NH”. This is a partnership with the Community College System of NH. This initiative helps job seekers improve their skills and add a nationally recognized credential to their résumé, while meeting the needs of the NH business community for better trained workers.

Unemployed workers are given the opportunity to take an assessment test of their current skill levels in Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information. After completing the assessment and participating in a soft skills class, workers are either certified as bronze, silver, gold or platinum level. Workers are offered the opportunity to participate in remedial training in the area where they need to upgrade their skills in order to obtain a National Career Readiness certificate.

This National Career Readiness certificate shows employers that the work-related skills are mastered at a particular level, thus fostering a skilled workforce for employers.

Please visit our web site: www.nhes.nh.gov for additional information. Or, please visit a NHWorks office.