



FY25
IMPACT
REPORT

JVS

SKILLS . JOBS . CAREERS



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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CHAIR

Dear JVS Community,

JVS Boston was created 88 years ago at a moment of global upheaval when uncertainty called for bold action and collective resolve. Throughout our history, we have navigated economic shifts and policy changes that re-shaped opportunity for generations of workers, families, and communities. That legacy gives us both perspective and purpose today. In this moment of complexity and change, we are reminded that progress is never achieved alone. We are deeply moved and grateful for the steadfast support of our community that continues to believe in what is possible.

Fueled by your generosity, we exceeded our fundraising goals, raising over \$570,000 at our annual Elevate Gala. This success equipped JVS with resources to launch new initiatives, reaching job seekers we had not previously served. Work Early, Expect Success supports high school students with disabilities at a critical early point of workforce exploration. New trade pathways prepare adults for in-demand careers to create clear, equitable pathways to quality jobs and lasting careers.

Alongside these accomplishments, we remain acutely aware of how the current environment affects job seekers and employers. Thousands of entry-level roles remain open, while mid-level employees find themselves without work. Cuts to federal funding limit our ability to deliver time sensitive services, which threatens the availability of life-changing programs that impact families and communities. Changes to immigration policy restrict individuals' abilities to work, provide for their families, and build a new life, while critical roles remain unfilled.

Our staff is working tremendously hard to support job seekers through these increasingly difficult times. Career coaches in every department provide in-depth support tailored to each client's needs, goals, and circumstance. Our public policy team provides resources for staff and employer partners, while advocating on behalf of our clients. Bolstered fundraising efforts aim to fill the gap left by the decrease in federal funding.

Despite these efforts, we can't do it alone. The ongoing support of our partners and community members is more crucial than any other time in our long history. The state of Massachusetts has invested in JVS's Biotechnology

Manufacturing Program, Early Childhood Education Program, and Vocational ESOL model. Foundations and businesses have continued or increased their support of vital job training programs.

These investments remind us that the work we do is important, not just for individuals and their families, but for the Massachusetts economy. Thank you to everyone who invested in JVS this year, whether through a financial gift, volunteering your time, attending events, or participating in advocacy. None of this is possible without you.

No matter what obstacles stand in our way, we will not stop working to advance job seekers through career coaching, skills training, and support services. We hope you will continue to walk with us as we navigate the path ahead. Thank you for all your support for the last 88 years. We will forge on with resilience, strength, and determination.



Warmly,

Abby Flam
Chair of the Board of Directors
JVS Boston

Kira Khazatsky
President & CEO
JVS Boston

ADVOCACY

PUBLIC POLICY TEAM UPDATE

In light of federal funding cuts and changes to immigration policy, JVS is working hard to continue serving people seeking economic opportunities in Greater Boston. Our public policy team provides regular policy updates and action alerts to staff and community members, provides oral and written testimony, and facilitates dialogue between employers, the community, advocates, and governmental figures.

Our team is expanding our capacity to engage in governmental affairs due to the turbulent environment. We are working hard to gain access to policymakers so we can support policies, funding, and access to resources for the people we serve. As the landscape continues to change, the strategies we adopt will be focused on achieving the best possible results for our clients.

At a time when so many are searching for support and opportunities to act, JVS Boston affirms its commitment to and support of immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, and other communities that are marginalized in the workforce. We remain committed to our core values, and to providing services to job seekers of all backgrounds who come through our doors in search of economic opportunities.

NOW IS THE TIME TO STAND UP FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, ACCESS & DIGNITY!

Whether through advocacy, volunteering, or staying informed, you are taking meaningful action to support the values that matter most to you.

Our **Public Policy Action Alerts** provide community members with opportunities to act in support of policies that directly impact our clients. We amplify partner coalitions' action alerts to raise our voices to influence policymakers on what matters most to our clients/those we serve.

By joining this network, you are partnering with us and other coalitions working tirelessly in pursuit of social justice.

GET INVOLVED! SIGN UP HERE →



ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT

Individuals served by JVS and
MassHire Downtown Boston _____

14,544

Individuals enrolled in intensive
services, such as full-time programs,
job training, or wraparound services _____

4,809

Hours career coaches spent
in one-on-one coaching _____

22,591

Countries represented by
the people we served _____

110

Clients enrolled in
ESOL in FY25 _____

1,079



Everything changed when I enrolled at JVS. In the beginning, I was really scared. I was thinking about giving up. But I talked to my JVS coach, and I was able to do it after my coach encouraged me.

CLIENT SUCCESS

ANA A.

Originally from Cape Verde, Ana arrived in the United States in 1998 with her mother and five siblings. As the mother of four boys and speaker of four languages, Ana worked in food service to make ends meet. She shared, “Before JVS, I used to be a line cook, and I was training every new employee. But my dream was to work with children.”

In 2024, Ana arrived at JVS Boston after seeing an ad on social media. She met with a career coach, where she shared her long-time dream of working with children. Ana enrolled in JVS’s Early Childhood Education program: “Everything changed when I enrolled at JVS. In the beginning, I was really scared. I was thinking about giving up. But I talked to my JVS coach, and I was able to do it after my coach encouraged me.”

She worked hard to develop her skills as an educator and to strengthen her ability to speak English. Now, Ana works at Crispus Attucks Children’s Center as an assistant teacher: “I never thought I would get to be an assistant teacher and work with kids. It’s something that brings a lot of joy to my life.”

Ana brings warmth and compassion to her role connecting with the children at the center. Of her role, she shared, “It’s not easy to work with kids. But they bring joy to your life that you don’t even realize. I like how I connect with the kids: as soon as I enter the class, they run to hug me and call me Miss Ana. It’s something that I always wanted in my life.”

Her goal is to be the best educator she can be for the children, and she’s started to look to the future. Ana expressed that she hopes to one day have an education center of her own.

Through support from her career coach, hands-on job training, and wraparound support, Ana accomplished her dream. Now, she has new hopes and dreams to propel her forward into greater opportunities for herself and her four sons.

VOCATIONAL ESOL PATHWAYS

REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT SERVICES

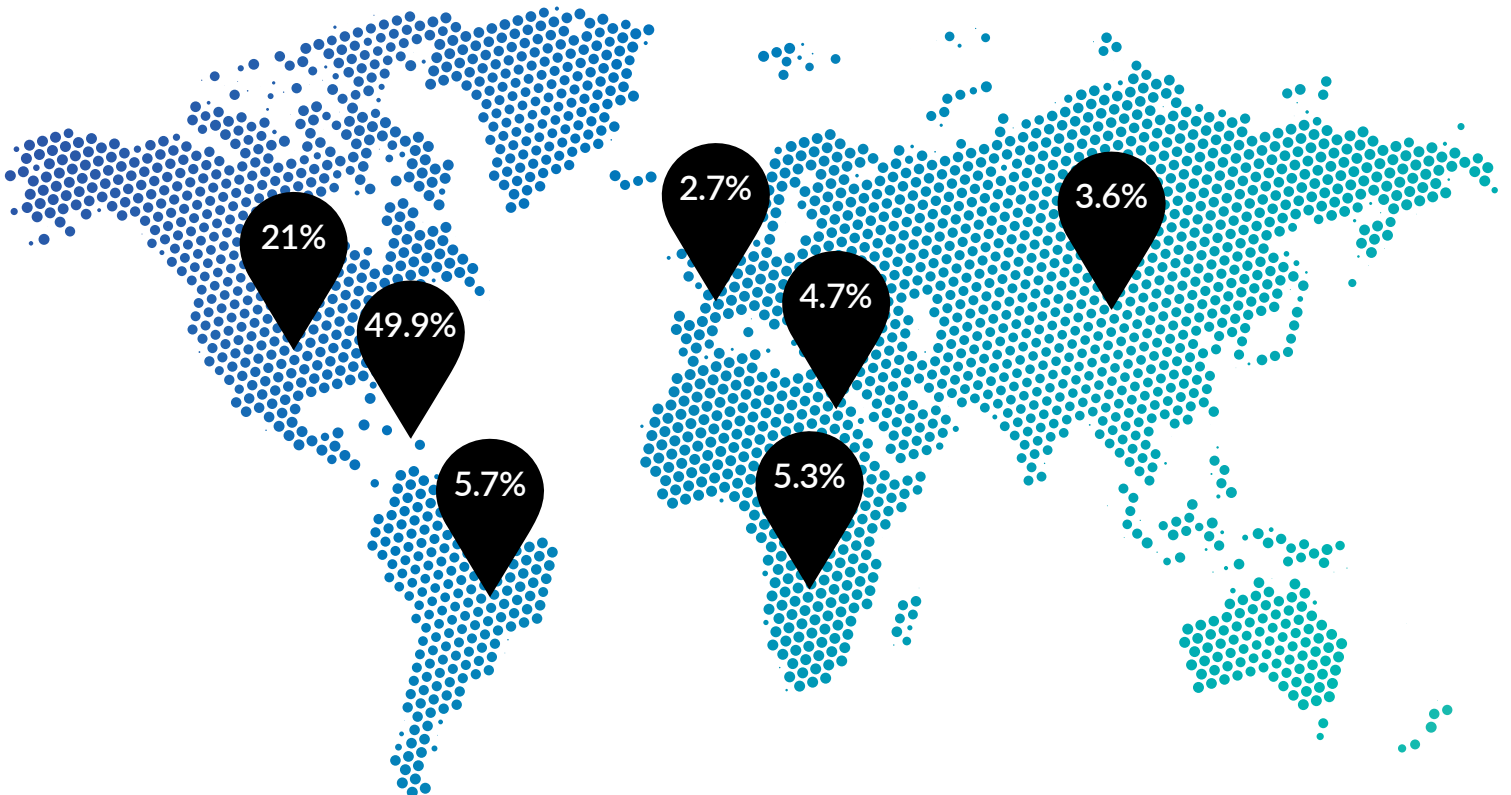
JVS Boston's legacy is tied directly to teaching English classes to incoming Boston residents, laying the path for everyone to develop the skills they need to enter the workforce. For decades, ensuring access to workplace-specific English language training (also known as Vocational ESOL or VESOL) has been a foundational aspect of JVS's services. It is essential that VESOL training scales to meet the incoming workforce and the ever-expanding needs of Greater Boston's employers.

We are grateful to the Healey-Driscoll administration for their ongoing support of VESOL programs across Massachusetts. In July, they announced a \$10 million investment for workforce training programs, ESOL services, and adult education in Massachusetts. This is a huge win for the state's economy, especially during a time when critical federal funding is being cut.

Of this investment, Kira Khazatsky, JVS Boston CEO, said, "Students get exactly what they want—English language skills that allow them to get hired and succeed in the workplace—and employers get access to talent they need for their businesses to grow and thrive. With thousands of people on waitlists for ESOL, eager to build their skills and launch their careers, Vocational ESOL funding is a strategic investment that helps both students and employers."

At JVS, we are re-imagining our current career pathways for English language learners, aiming to match client learning and career stages. We are creating clear routes for job seekers to move from entry-level jobs into better jobs and meaningful careers. This new design will fill critical gaps in VESOL access for thousands of people seeking career advancement and long-term stability.

WHERE CLIENTS COME FROM



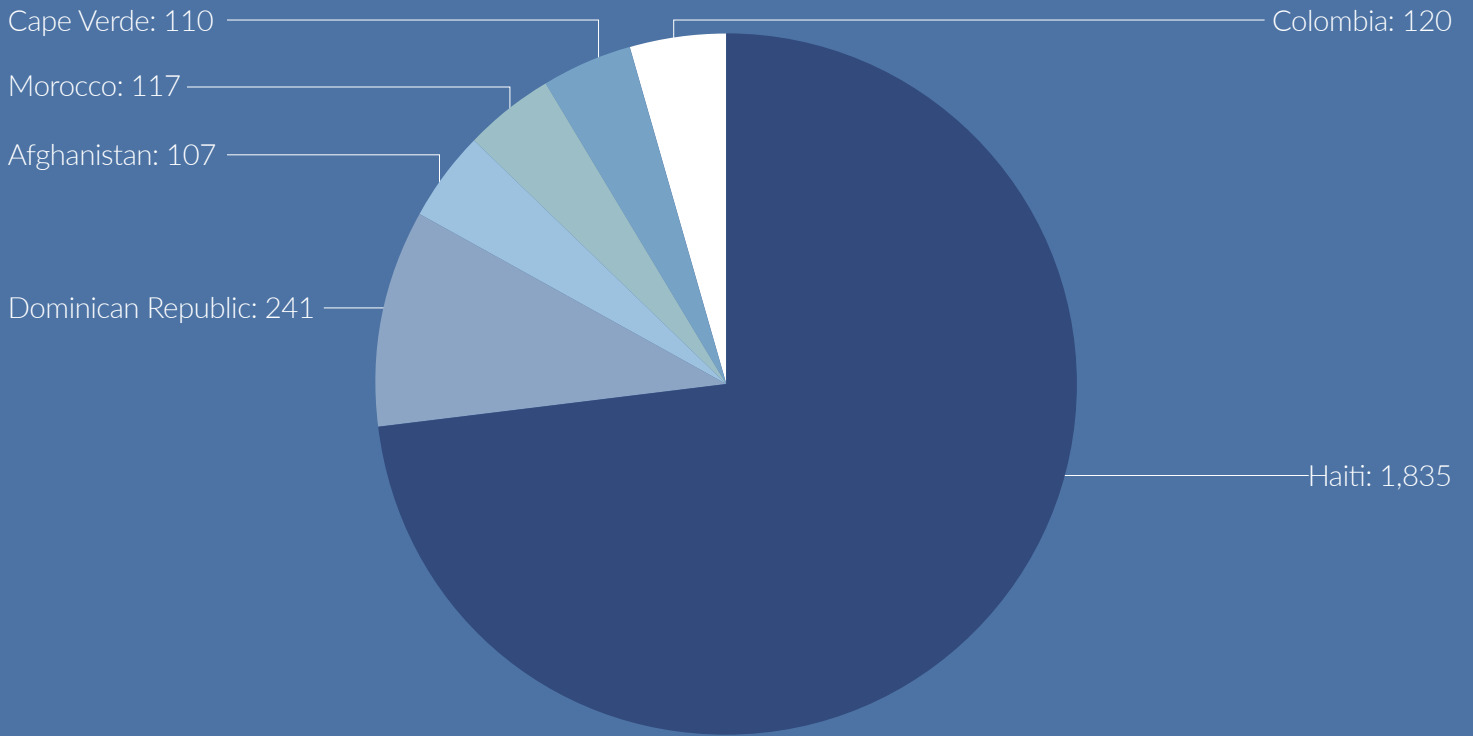
At JVS Boston, we partner with people from all over the world. In total, we served people from 110 countries, with 39% originally from Haiti.

WHO WE SERVE

IMPACT NUMBERS

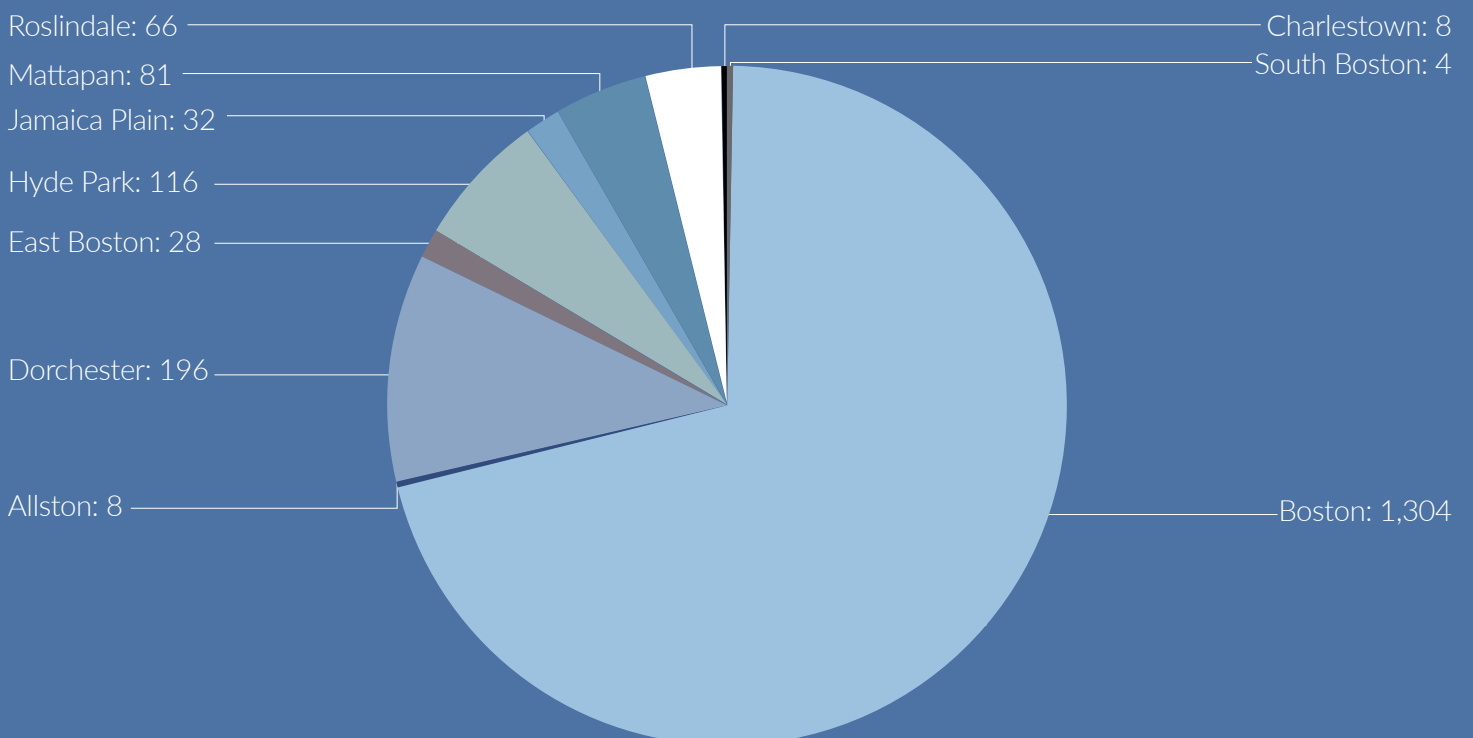
AROUND THE WORLD

In 2025, the majority of immigrants and refugees served at JVS came from six countries.



NEIGHBORHOODS IN BOSTON

~40% of clients live in Greater Boston with 60% coming from other parts of Massachusetts.



DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Many people with disabilities thrive in employment. At JVS, we believe that inclusive hiring creates greater economic opportunities for everyone. JVS's Disability Services department celebrated astonishing milestones and witnessed tremendous growth in 2025.

TRANSITIONS TO WORK 100TH GRADUATION

In 2011, JVS Boston, CJP, and the Ruderman Family Foundation launched Transitions to Work, an employer-based internship training and individualized career coaching program for young adults with disabilities.

In September, we celebrated the 100th session of Transitions to Work at NewBridge on the Charles, a Hebrew Senior Life community where we also held our first session in November 2011. We honored employer partners who have been instrumental in the success of this program: CVS Health, Hebrew SeniorLife, and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. With their partnership, Transitions to Work students have gained meaningful, hands-on experience in the workplace, which is crucial to their ongoing career success.

Michael Fitzgerald, who graduated from the 13th session of TTW and has worked at NewBridge on the Charles ever since, said, "Despite challenges and changes, I have maintained a job and my commitment to it. I have received raises and increased my hours. When I think about work, I am so grateful for the support of my coworkers and management team. We all need to make a living, but more than that, we all need to be part of a welcoming community."

Michael's story and the story of so many other Transitions to Work graduates clearly demonstrate why JVS's Disability Services team is fully committed to connecting young adults with diverse disabilities to paid employment during their high school years, so they can go on to develop meaningful and productive careers.



*We all need to make a living, but more than that,
we all need to be part of a welcoming community.*

– Michael F.

BROCKTON CAREER & COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Brockton is one of the most diverse cities in the Commonwealth and it has a tremendous need for additional career and life development training services for young adults with diverse disabilities. JVS Boston (JVS), House of Possibilities (HOPE), and Old Colony YMCA (OCY) are collaborating with Brockton Public Schools and numerous community partners to provide the training, resources, and supports Brockton's young people need to establish careers and successful lives.

Thanks to generous funding from the Liberty Mutual Foundation, JVS partnered with HOPE and OCY to launch the Brockton Career & Community Initiative (BCCI). BCCI provides an array of career development, community integration, and personal development opportunities for youth with disabilities to succeed.



Between 2019 and 2023

40.7%

of people with a disability in Brockton were part of the labor force*

40.7% shows progress but there is more work to do. Through the Brockton Career & Community Initiative, JVS and its partners are helping more young adults with disabilities build pathways to employment.



When I first started here at JVS, I felt like there was a team that could help me and give me support to accomplish any goal. My career coach always kept me upbeat and helps me with my schedule and to be independent so I can do what I need to do on my own.

CLIENT SUCCESS

LIAM G.

When Liam first arrived at JVS, he was working part-time at Boston Public Schools (BPS). Liam joined the Career and Community Access program, which supports individuals with disabilities to build the skills, confidence, and independence they need to thrive in the workforce. Of his experience, Liam shared, “When I first started here at JVS, I felt like there was a team that could help me and give me support to accomplish any goal. My career coach always kept me upbeat and helps me with my schedule and to be independent so I can do what I need to do on my own.” Liam brings joy and connection everywhere he goes. He strives to make each new participant feel comfortable, saying, “When we have a new person in the program, I make sure they feel comfortable, and that they have a new friend. If there are struggles, people can call on me to help them. That’s what I do at Boston Public Schools, too.”

Through this program, and with support from his career coach, Kadin, Liam increased his hours at BPS. Liam described his work at BPS, saying, “I do recess and lunch monitoring. I keep kids safe and make sure there’s no violence.” In addition to his job at BPS, Liam also found a second job: “At Legal Sea Foods, I do utilities and bussing. My favorite part is bussing because I’m moving a lot. Mentally and physically it’s better for my health.”

When asked about Liam’s journey at JVS, Kadin shared how Liam has improved significantly in building independence, “He’s come a long way from needing hands-on support to now, being completely independent at work. He went from a part-time job to working two jobs simultaneously.” For Liam, the support from Kadin made all the difference. Liam’s success is proof that pairing career coaching with job readiness training helps people move toward independence and greater opportunity.

DISABILITY SERVICES

IMPACT NUMBERS

TRANSITIONS TO WORK

Students served since 2011 _____ **800**

Graduates have entered the workforce successfully since 2011 _____ **500**

Participants at Old Colony YMCA & South Shore Hospital completed the program in FY25 _____ **100%**

FY25 participants have already been connected to entry-level employment* _____ **64%**

WORK EARLY, EXPECT SUCCESS (WEES)

100% of WEES participants from Brockton and Randolph High School completed the program.



33% of students planned to get a job after high school **before** participating in WEES.



83% planned to get a job **after** high school after completing the program.





I didn't think that I would ever work again because nothing would satisfy my soul. I wanted to find another career, feel good, and be supported. This has been a really rewarding experience.

CLIENT SUCCESS

JANESSA D.

After 11 years as a chef, Janessa was let go from her position while having to care for her son. After being denied from another training program, Janessa finally landed at JVS, where she enrolled in the HVAC/Heat Pump Technician program. With support from her career coach, Janessa earned her driver's license and completed career readiness training at ArLab, JVS's state-of-the-art career institute. Janessa thrived during the hands-on training portion of the program at Franklin Cummings Tech and earned all her relevant certifications.

Now, Janessa works at MassTech Communications as a HVAC Technician, conducting maintenance at cell towers across the state.

What was your life like before you arrived at JVS?

Before I got to JVS, I was let go because I had a child going through a lot of doctor's visits. I was down in the dumps, late to work all the time, and it was hard for me. My rent wouldn't go down because I already lowered my rent twice and they couldn't do anything else for me. When I lost that job, I thought "What am I going to do?" It was very, very heartbreaking. I wanted to give up, but I couldn't because I have a son.

What did you enjoy about the JVS program?

I am deeply grateful for the JVS program, which has truly been a life changer. The support I received through career readiness and mock interviews at ArLab, to the hands-on training at Franklin Cummings Tech has been invaluable. As a woman in the trades, I felt genuinely seen, supported, and empowered every step of the way.

JVS helped me pay bills, which took a lot of stress off the back of my mind. JVS is a great place to come across, and a great place to find what can make you whole. The mission is amazing, and I think that it can reach a lot of different people. I couldn't be where I'm at without them.

What do you enjoy about your job?

I get to see a lot of Massachusetts. I didn't grow up with a car, so for me to drive around and see the different cities around my home state is really cool. It's such a different environment to being in a kitchen, so it's like an adventure. And I like using tools. I didn't even realize I like using tools. I love it.

How has your life changed since you completed the program?

I didn't think that I would ever work again because nothing would satisfy my soul. I wanted to find another career, feel good, and be supported. This has been a really rewarding experience. I hope other people get to see what it's about.

CAREER COACHING

At JVS, career coaching is at the heart of all our services and programs. We provide one-on-one tailored coaching to every program participant to ensure they have the support they need to meet their goals. Our coaches work with clients to identify and set goals, enroll in JVS services, identify potential barriers to employment and determine methods for overcoming those barriers, and so much more. We have seen how career coaching transforms the experience for clients, so coaching is now infused into everything we do.

ArLab: A HEALTHCARE & BIOTECHNOLOGY CAREER CENTER

ArLab is a cutting-edge training hub where job seekers can access higher education, career coaching, and hands-on skill development in industry-grade labs. ArLab features a hospital simulation lab, a phlebotomy lab, biotechnology facilities, and a central sterile processing unit, each designed to mirror real workplace environments and prepare participants for high-demand careers.

As our biotechnology and clean energy training programs continue to expand, healthcare remains our largest and most established sector. With thousands of open jobs driving demand for skilled professionals, JVS is helping meet this need by preparing job seekers for critical roles in the healthcare workforce. Through targeted, specialized job training, JVS bridges the gap between healthcare employers and job seekers, ensuring hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities have the staff they need to provide quality care.



The CNA program was the total package. It's very scary to start over. JVS is a good place to start, and their support makes it easier. I am very grateful for that.

– Edwidge

Building on the 2025 launch of our first clean energy training program, we are now developing two new programs to prepare individuals for careers as phlebotomists and EV/fleet technicians, who will maintain and repair electric vehicles and charging stations. We have also expanded our services in the trades, providing programs for maintenance technicians, carpenters, automotive technicians, and heat pump/HVAC technicians. The heat pump/HVAC training was supported by a grant of \$1.2 million from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. This reflects our ability to adapt quickly to evolving labor market needs. Program participants train at ArLab's state-of-the-art facilities, gaining practical and simulated experience that prepares graduates to step confidently and quickly into quality jobs as phlebotomists, HVAC technicians, and more upon graduation.

ArLab's growth this year highlights the vital role of philanthropy in driving innovation, bridging funding gaps, and expanding access to training that equips Boston's workforce for the region's fastest-growing industries. The key to ArLab's success is strong partnerships across education, workforce development, and local employers. Through ArLab, JVS and Quincy College's partnership continues to advance outcomes and impact on job seekers.

ArLab

IMPACT NUMBERS

ArLab participants served across
the healthcare, biotechnology,
and clean energy sectors

531

ArLab participants enrolled
in Biotechnology training

93

Clean energy and trades
program trainees including
the new Heat Pump
Specialty/HVAC track

108

EMPLOYER & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We are so thankful to the organizations and employers that partner with us to provide high-quality job training, job readiness services, barrier removal services, and so much more. Here's a list of our FY25 community and employer partners:

Asian American Civic Association
A Faith that Does Justice
A Home 4 Everyone
Action for Boston Community
Development
Agencia Alpha
Arlington Infant Toddler Center
Baldor Specialty Foods
Bank of America
Bank of Canton
BAY-CASH
Baycove Human Services
Benchmark Senior Living
Best Hospitality
Beth Israel Lahey Health
Blue Hills Adult Education Center
Bon Me
Boston Adult Technical Academy
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood
Center
Boston Community Pediatrics
Boston Green Academy
Boston Housing Authority
Boston International High School
Boston Medical Center
Boston Prep High School
Boston Private Industry Council
Boston Public Health Commission
Boston Public Library
Boston Public Schools
Boys & Girls Club of Boston
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Bright Horizons
Brockton Public Schools
Cambridge Center for Adult
Education
Cambridge Community Learning
Center
Cambridge Health Alliance
Cambridge Housing Authority
Camp Hale
Campus Childcare
Cardinal Cushing Centers
Caritas Communities
Casa Esperanza
Catholic Charities of Boston
Center for Community Health
Education Research & Service
Charlesgate
Charlestown Adult Education
Charlestown High School
Chelsea Housing Authority
Chestnut Hill Realty
ChildCare Choices
Children's Services of Roxbury
Citizens Bank
City of Cambridge
City of Lynn
Combined Jewish Philanthropies
Commonwealth Corporation
Community Servings
Community Work Services
Cottage Montessori
Courtyard Copley Plaza
Criminal Resources For Justice
Crispus Attucks Children's Center
CVS Health
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Davis Family Childcare
De Novo
Department of Housing &
Community Development
Dimock Center
Discover Me Schoolhouse
Dove, Inc.
Dress for Success
Duet
East Boston Harborside Community
School
Eastern Bank
Eco Sober Homes Boston
Edgerly Family South Boston Boys
& Girls Club
Educational Development Group
EKJ Global
Ellis Early Learning
Encore Boston Harbor
English at Large
English for New Bostonians
Enroot
Epiphany School
Epoch Senior Living
Everbrook Academy
Everett Public Schools
FamilyAid
Father Bill's & Main Spring
Faulkner Hospital
Five Guys via Hyde Park Ventures
Found in Translation
Franklin Cummings Tech
Furnishing Hope
Genunity
Gibbs Software Solutions
Gilbert Albert Community Center
Greater Boston Legal Services
Greater Boston Nazarene
Compassionate Center
Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
Harvard St. Neighborhood Health
Center
Health Law Advocates
Hebrew Senior Life
Hill House Boston
Holden Fruit & Produce
Holyoke Community College
Homeworks
Horizons Greater Boston
Horizons for Homeless Children
House of Possibilities
Housing Corporation of Arlington
Housing Families
Amal Women's Center
Immigrant Family Services Institute
Immigrant Learning Center
Ivy Street School
Jamacia Plain Community Center
JCC Greater Boston
John Corcoran Co.
John F Kennedy Family Service Center
John Nagle Co.
Julie's Family Learning Program
Just a Start
Justice 4 Housing
KIPP Academy

LabCentral
 Lawyer's Clearing House
 Leader Bank
 The LEAP School
 Legal Seafoods
 Lesley University
 Life Time Chestnut Hill
 Little Sprouts
 Little Voices Early Care & Ed
 Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
 Lovin' Spoonfuls
 Madison Park Technical Vocational High School
 MA Good Neighbor Energy Fund
 MassAbility
 Mass. Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
 Margaret Fuller House
 Marjeli Day Care, Inc.
 Mass. Affordable Housing Alliance
 Mass. AFL-CIO
 Mass. Clean Energy Center
 Mass. Eye & Ear Institute
 Mass. General Hospital
 Mass. Life Sciences Center
 Mass. Office for Refugees & Immigrants
 Mass. Dept. of Developmental Services
 Mass. Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education
 Mass. Dept. of Higher Education
 Mass. Dept. of Transitional Assistance
 Mayor Michelle Wu's Cabinet of Community Engagement
 Mayor's Office of Workforce Development
 McLean Hospital
 Metropolitan Mediation Services
 MIRA Coalition
 Miss Rina's Little Rascals Daycare
 Mission of Deeds
 Mujeres Unidas Avanzando
 My Brother's Keeper
 My Little Rainbow Playhouse
 Mystic Valley Elder Services
 National Development
 Needham Bank
 Neighborhood Jobs Trust
 Neighborhood Villages
 New England United 4 Justice
 New Life Furniture Bank
 Newton Youth Services
 Newton-Wellesley Hospital
 North Shore Community College
 Adult Learning Center
 North Suffolk Mental Health Associations
 Northbridge Companies
 Northeast Arc
 Northeastern University
 Nurtury
 Office of Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia
 Old Colony YMCA
 On the Rise
 On the Road to Success Day Care
 Opportunities for Inclusion
 PACE Child Care Works
 Panera Bread
 Parent/Professional Advocacy League
 Pathways, Inc.
 Pine Street Inn
 Polkadog
 Potencia
 Primrose School of Canton at Blue Hills
 Project Bread
 Project Hope Boston
 Project Just Because
 Project Place
 Quincy Asian Resources, Inc.
 Quincy College
 Quincy Community Action Program
 Randolph Pubic Schools
 Revere Community School
 Rian Immigration Center
 Road to Responsibility
 Rockland Trust
 Rosie's Place
 Roxbury Community College
 Roxbury YMCA of Greater Boston
 Saheli
 Salem Hospital
 Salem YMCA
 Scrub a Dub
 Self Help Inc.
 Send Relief
 Shake Shack
 Shattuck Childcare
 Shining Star Daycare Center
 Sitters for Scholars
 Sitters without Borders
 SkillWorks
 Smoke Shop BBQ
 Sojourner House
 Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experience
 South Shore Health
 South Shore Stars
 Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center
 Southshore Community Action Council
 Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital
 St. Mark Community Education Program
 Stone House
 Tailored for Success
 TD Bank
 The Boston Home
 The Energists
 The Fairmont Copley Plaza
 The Haitian-Americans United, Inc.
 The Hamilton Company
 The Immigrant Learning Center
 The Longwood Medical Area Child Care Center
 The Network/LaRed
 The STEM Van
 ThermoFisher
 Tiny Hands Enrichment Center
 Training Resources of America, Inc.
 Triangle Inc.
 True Alliance Center, Inc.
 Tufts Medical Center
 UMass Memorial Health
 United Way of Massachusetts Bay
 Urban College of Boston
 Urban Edge
 Visciarello Hospitality Group
 Voice of Tabernacle Multiservice Center
 Walgreens
 Wegmans
 Wellington Preschool
 West End House
 Westin Copley Plaza
 William James College
 Williams Energy
 Winter Hill Bank
 Women Encouraging Empowerment Work Inc.
 Wulf's Fish
 Yawkey Center for Early Childhood & Care

CLIENT SUCCESS

MAN N.

Man was born in Vietnam, and his family relocated to the United States in 2007. Before JVS, Man earned his bachelor's degree in computer science and worked as a programmer and a gardener. However, Man felt uninspired in these two jobs. He enrolled in the JVS Pharmacy Technician training program, graduated, and earned his certifications. Now, he works as a Pharmacy Technician at Mass General Hospital in the outpatient pharmacy.

What was your life like before you arrived at JVS?

My life was hectic. I finished school and had a job in computer science, but it wasn't where my heart was. So, I started looking for other things. I landed on a job watering flowers. Even though it was fun, I didn't see myself having a future in that.

I think one of the biggest reasons I wasn't very successful was my work ethic and how I approached school, work, and my studies. But when I signed up for the JVS Pharmacy Technician course, I wanted to turn my life around.

How has your life changed since you completed the program?

The program helped me a lot. The instructors were there to help us with anything that we needed. In college, there were 300 students in one lecture hall. But, at JVS, it felt personal.

Everyone's life changes when stability comes around, because once you get your foot in the door, or once you find something that works, it sets you up to start exploring other aspects of your life that you haven't been able to explore before. So, for me personally, that's my physical and mental health because before, I didn't know what I was doing in life. Since going to JVS and landing this job, I've been able to have that as my standing ground while I focus on taking care of myself.

What do you enjoy about your job?

What I like most about my job is the people. I've worked many different jobs, and I never enjoyed any of those work environments. But in a pharmacy setting, you meet pharmacists that are retirement age, but they still work because they want to work. You meet students joining as an intern. And you meet everyone in between. It's a good way to experience every type of person in life.

What are your career goals?

I definitely want to progress my career as a pharmacy tech. I think it's awesome. I can keep training as a pharmacy tech, and maybe go into chemotherapy tech.

Everyone's life changes when stability comes around, because once you get your foot in the door, or once you find something that works, it sets you up to start exploring other aspects of your life that you haven't been able to explore before.



ELEVATE JVS GALA

In April, we hosted Elevate: The JVS Gala at The Renaissance Hotel. Our amazing community gathered for an evening of celebration and transformation as we shared how JVS partners with job seekers and employers to break down barriers to employment and build bridges to opportunity.

Thank you for the generosity you showed in support of our work. Together, we raised over \$570,000 in support of life-changing, barrier removal services for job seekers. When we all come together, lives change, businesses thrive, and the economy of the Commonwealth flourishes.

We honored Karen Kames and Chris Gaffney for their support of our disability services programs. Their daughter,

Liv, is a JVS Transitions to Work graduate. Liv spoke about her journey to full-time employment, sharing how JVS supported her to gain skills, build confidence, and explore new jobs.

“By supporting JVS you are helping the next generation of workers with disabilities succeed.”

Liv shared, “I first connected with JVS during the pandemic. I started working with my awesome job coach, who was always willing to go the extra mile to help me. By supporting JVS you are helping the next generation of workers with disabilities succeed.”

Thank you to our Host Committee and Co-Chairs, Jake & Liz Grossman, Jane R. Matlaw, and Jed Weiss & Ilana Braun, for their support in making the Gala such a success.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

JESSIE O.

Jessie is a class assistant volunteer in the Beginner-Level Vocational English class in the Refugee Department. Jessie supports students both one-on-one and in small groups, working with individuals to practice and grow their English language skills as they pursue new beginnings in Massachusetts. Jessie's passion for supporting others stems from her own experience as an international student from Malaysia navigating life in the U.S.

How did you get involved with JVS Boston?

When I first moved here, I wanted to spend my time more meaningfully, so I started volunteering. I've always been very interested in working with people from diverse backgrounds, like the international community. As someone coming from a different country, I wanted to meet people from other countries. When I came across JVS ESOL, it was aligned with what I was interested in.

What do you enjoy about volunteering at JVS?

Working with the students, coming to class every week, and getting hands-on experience. Seeing the progress each week and getting to know the students is very rewarding. Some people left their business and have had to start a whole life again, and now they're looking for any job that they can. I think that it's really courageous.

What have you learned during your experience as a volunteer at JVS?

Moving to a new country, learning a new language, and adjusting to different cultures is so challenging. I lived in different countries myself. Having to start all over again is difficult. I find the students very inspiring. I see how determined they are in learning and improving their English. It motivates me to try and improve something in my life.

What would you say to someone interested in volunteering?

When I was an international student in college, I received a lot of support. It made me realize how important a support system is for someone from a different country. I wanted to be that support for other people, which I am able to do as a volunteer.



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VOLUNTEER
IMPACT NUMBERS

5

EQUIVALENT
FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

253

VOLUNTEERS

9,671

VOLUNTEER
HOURS

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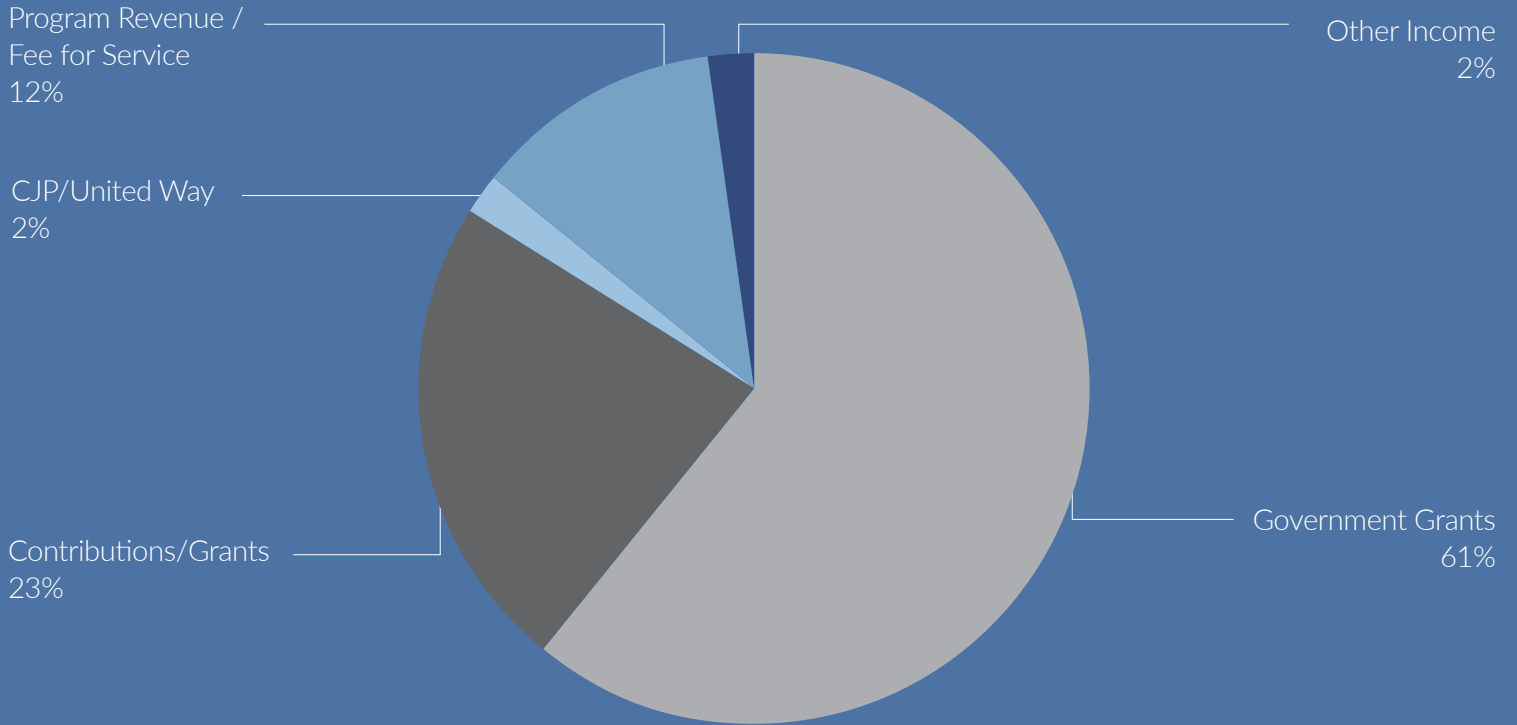
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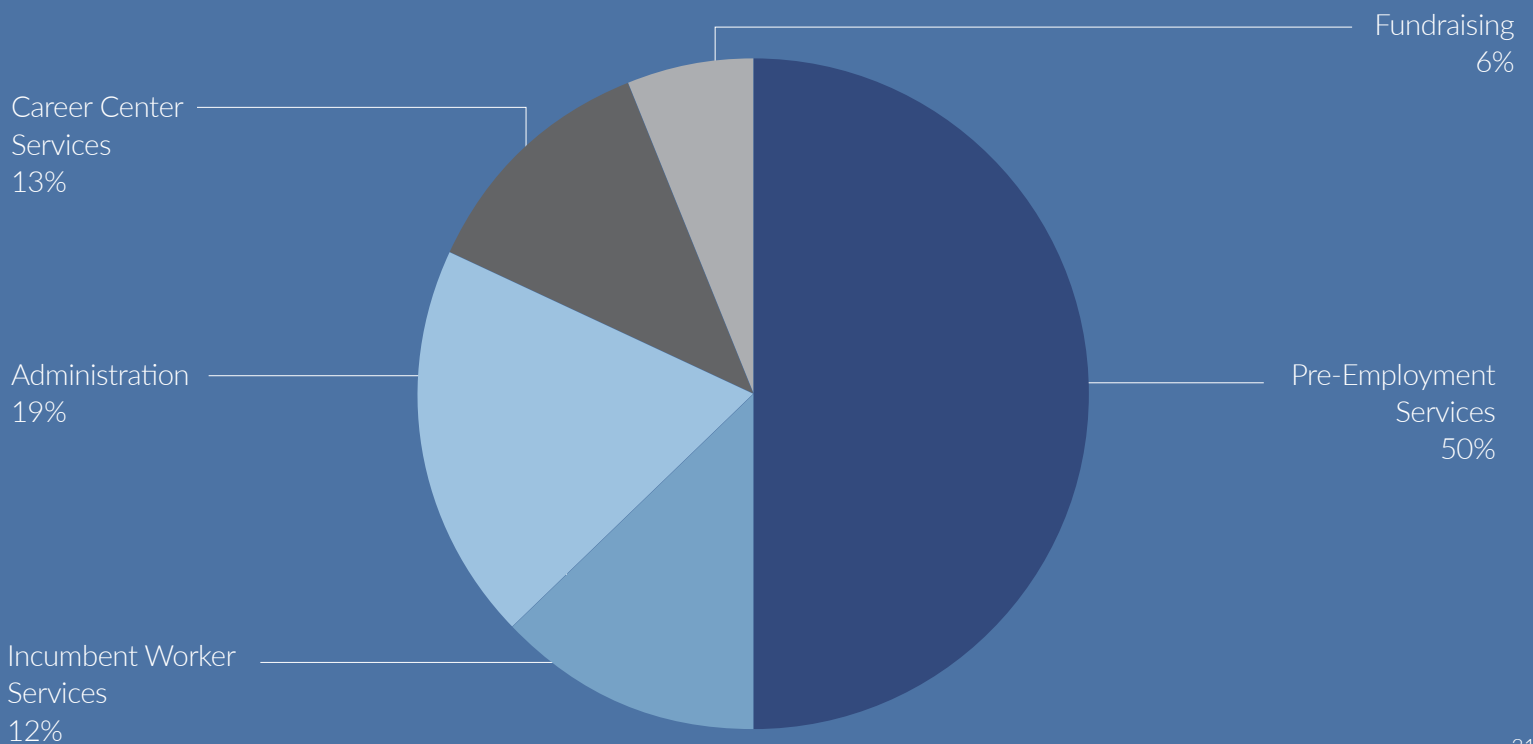
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