GREENFIELD — The MassHire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board has secured a grant for online training to help people exploring manufacturing careers.

The organization is launching a Virtual Manufacturing Program as part of an initiative using federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to help people get back to work. Participants will attend 11 self-paced online classes that will take about one to two hours to complete. According to a press release from the MassHire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board, the training is free to any unemployed residents of Franklin or Hampshire counties or the North Quabbin region who are over the age of 18.
Special Project Coordinator Andrew Baker said the program provides an opportunity for people to see if the industry will be a place for them to start a career. He emphasized the program is free to all unemployed residents, regardless of whether they receive unemployment benefits.

“Virtual Manufacturing is a kind of precursor way for people to explore whether manufacturing will be a good fit for them,” Baker said. “A lot of people who come into our training pipeline are career-shifters. ... In many cases, it’s hitting a feeling in retail or food services that motivates people to look at manufacturing.”

He said this is a unique opportunity because the federal government is funding the virtual program.

“This is the first time we’ve had a special pot of funding ... specifically dedicated to putting together this package. This is a part of a statewide effort,” Baker explained. “That particular pot of money will end Dec. 31.”

Baker added many companies in the industry are struggling to hire new people, which creates a great opportunity for people to find a high-paying job.

“Manufacturing in Franklin County has the highest-average household income,” Baker said. “There’s more wage-growth opportunities and more learning opportunities to build a new trade and advance in a number of different directions.”
Baker said the Virtual Manufacturing Program is also a chance for people to gauge their interest in attending Greenfield Community College’s manufacturing program and to “get a running start” before they put their time and money into the curriculum.

“(This program is) helping people figure out if this is a good fit before they invest in a whole semester,” Baker said.

Those interested in enrolling only need to call Baker at 413-376-5459 or email him at andrewbaker@masshirefhwb.org.

“Virtual manufacturing training is literally a phone call away,” Baker said.

Chris Larabee can be reached at clarabee@recorder.com or 413-930-4081.
The Recorder - Job seekers can test out manufacturing careers through new MassHire program

**Comments**

Commenting is only open to Greenfield Recorder subscribers. Please login or subscribe below.

| Login | Subscribe now (https://accountaccess.nne.media/ss?u2/v2.nne/common/template.jsp) |

**Sponsored Content**

Doctor Discovers Natural Solution for Macular Degeneration (Watch)

Looking For A Top Financial Advisor in South Deerfield? See This.

One Simple Hack Keeps Your Blood Sugar Below 100

Historians Ranked These U.S. Presidents (#1 Will Surprise You)

U.S. Presidents Ranked By Historians (Guess Who's No. 1)

Discontinued: Costco Stopped Selling These Items

**More News (/News)**

RiverCulture holding inaugural Summer Bazaar and Sidewalk Sale in Turners Falls

Politicians, others press state to act on housing equity bill to close gaps in eviction moratorium

**TURNERS FALLS — RiverCulture, an organization with a focus on supporting Montague's creative economy, hopes to uplift local businesses with its**

A large number of Western Massachusetts elected officials and institutions are backing a bill in the State House that would shore up some of the...
Dollar General drops plans to open store in South Deerfield

By CHRIS LARABEE - Today

SOUTH DEERFIELD — After years of contentious public hearings and a court complaint organized by residents, Lisciotti Development Corp. will no...