

# **Update on HB21-1264: Reskilling, Upskilling, and Next-skilling (RUN) and Workforce Innovation in 2024**

## **Overview**

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Colorado received \$60 million through the passage of HB21-1264 to fund programs that give residents the opportunity to pursue vocational and career readiness training to pave the way for Coloradans to access better, higher-paying jobs and a brighter economy across the state.

## **Reskilling, Upskilling, and Next-skilling (RUN)**

As part of this effort, nine non-profit organizations and all 10 local workforce areas received dollars to pay for training programs in industries such as technology, healthcare, early childhood education, and more — at no cost to the individuals seeking training.

The purpose of the Reskilling, Upskilling, and Next-skilling (RUN) program is to help COVID-impacted individuals access training to earn an industry-recognized credential; for some, this means returning to school to earn an additional credential or license to advance them in their current career — such as a Licensed Practical Nurse enrolling in training to become an RN, which increases both earning potential and career opportunities.

For others, the RUN program assists them in pursuing a new career path that allows them to earn more working in a field they love, which includes persons seeking training to receive a Commercial Driver's License, forest conservation work, or

protective services. The only requirement to enroll? The individual must have experienced negative economic effects as a result of the pandemic, and have a desire to re-enter the workforce.

## **Workforce Innovation**

HB21-1264 allocated \$35M for workforce innovation funding. Of these funds:

- \$17.5 million were allocated to Local Workforce Boards, who competed these funds out to eligible entities;
- \$13.3 million was used on statewide initiatives through the CWDC; and
- \$4.2 million was used for evaluation, implementation, and administration.

The primary investments that use funding from the \$13.3 million the CWDC distributed include:

1. Career Navigation and Coaching Collaborative Grants
2. Trade Association Training Programs Grants
3. Regional Sector Partnership Staffing Support Grants
4. Small Business Apprenticeship Support Grant
5. Vital Careers Grant

To view the list of organizations and vendors that received funding, visit the [Grants Recipients page](#) on the CWDC website.

## **RUN and WIG Enrollment**

Since the beginning of the Stimulus Programs in July 2021 through Nov. 30, 2024, there have been **12,191 individuals enrolled in training programs** through Reskilling, Upskilling, and Nextskilling grants with Colorado's local workforce centers, the CWDC's grant sub-recipients, and the Workforce Innovation Grants (WIG) with the local workforce centers and non-profit organizations. The original goal was to enroll 7000 individuals in stimulus programs. **We have exceeded the goal, reaching 174% of the target.**

As of Nov. 30, 2024, the top five training programs, in order of highest attendance, from the workforce centers and community-based organizations are:

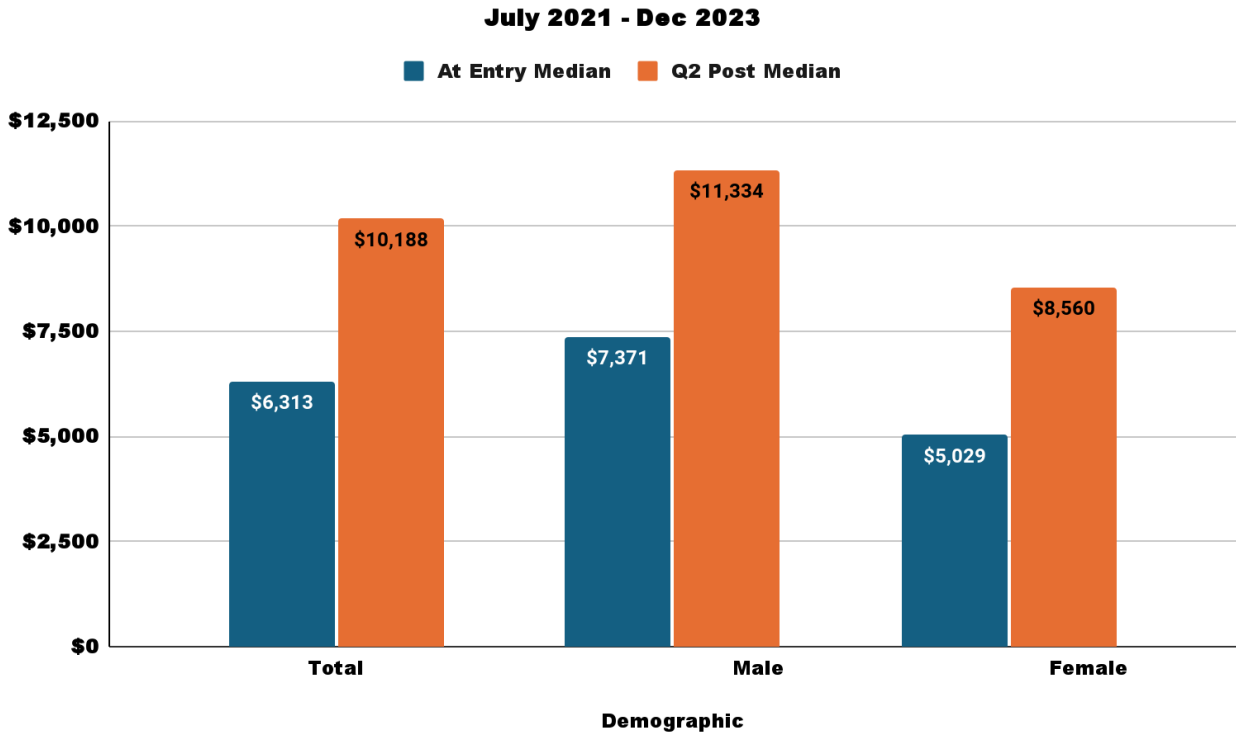
- 53303200 - Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
- 47206100 - Construction Laborers
- 31113100 - Nursing Assistants
- 29114100 - Registered Nurses
- 45401100 - Forest and Conservation Workers

## **The Positive Impact Stimulus Funds Have on Wages in Colorado**

The most recently updated Unemployment Insurance (UI) data through December 2023 shows continued positive impact on wages. The charts below show the median wage at time of enrollment into the respective programs (RUN/WIG) versus the median wage two-quarters post-exit from the program. Overall the data show an increase of 37 percent in the wage amount relative to the RUN programs.

**Figure 1: UI RUN Wages At Program Entry Median vs. Post Median, July 2021 - December 2023.**

Source: Connecting Colorado. [Table alternative for Figure 1: UI RUN Wages At Program Entry Median vs. Post Median](#)



**Figure 2:** UI WIG Wages At Program Entry Median vs. Post Median, July 2021 - December 2023.

Source: Connecting Colorado. [Table alternative for Figure 2: UI Wage Data WIG - Entry Program Median vs. Post Median](#)

