Volume 5, Issue 9-2 | October 2026

JUMPSTART SAVINGS PROGRAM

Building a Skilled Workforce

Newsletter

A program of the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office

Financial Literacy for Skilled Workers

Financial literacy is an essential skill for everyone, but it holds special significance for trade workers. These workers, especially those who are self-employed or run their own businesses, require smart money management. With a solid understanding of how to budget, manage debt, handle taxes, and invest wisely, skilled workers can take control of their finances and set themselves up for long-term success.

Why Financial Literacy is Important

Skilled workers often operate outside traditional employment structures, relying on non-traditional income streams or managing finances without the safety net of employer-provided benefits like retirement plans. In these cases, understanding taxes, savings strategies and expense management is crucial for maintaining financial stability and achieving long-term goals.

Without an employer guiding workers through benefits and retirement planning, financial literacy becomes the strongest asset for making sound financial decisions. Whether it's understanding the tax implications of work or planning for retirement, a solid grasp of financial principles allows workers to navigate these challenges independently.

Benefits Of Financial Literacy

Financial literacy provides numerous advantages. By learning how to budget effectively, skilled workers can better allocate their earnings toward future goals while maintaining a stable financial path. A good understanding of investments enables trade workers to make decisions that grow their wealth, while a focus on retirement planning ensures they save effectively for the future. Together, these skills form the foundation for long-term financial security.

Becoming Financially Literate

Achieving financial literacy doesn't have to be overwhelming. A good first step is creating a budget that tracks income and expenses, helping to identify areas where spending can be reduced and savings increased. Expanding financial knowledge through credible books, articles and blogs on personal finance can further enhance understanding. Professional advice from financial experts can offer personalized strategies to meet individual financial goals. Additionally, taking advantage of online resources. Many banks and other platforms offer free resources to assist you in improving financial management skills.

How the Jumpstart Savings Program Helps
For skilled workers and entrepreneurs in West Virginia, the **Jumpstart Savings Program** is an excellent tool to help build a secure financial future. Designed to support both trade professionals and business innovators, this state-administered program allows participants to save for essential work-related expenses such as tools, equipment, and certifications, while benefiting from state tax advantages. Funds saved through the program are invested through the West Virginia Board of Treasury Investments' Money Market Pool, which offers competitive **rates** and provides a secure, professionally managed savings vehicle.

Participants can contribute up to $25,000 annually, with those contributions being deducted from their West Virginia state income taxes, resulting in direct savings. In the long run, the Jumpstart Savings Program not only reduces taxable income but also supports ongoing investment in career development by covering essential expenses.

Jumpstart Your Financial Future Today
By focusing on financial literacy and taking advantage of the Jumpstart Savings Program, skilled workers can make a meaningful investment in their financial well-being. Take the Jumpstart Savings Program **eligibility quiz** today. If you're ready to Jumpstart your future, click on the link below!

Get Started

Trade Spotlight: Carpentry

Carpenters build, install, and repair wooden frameworks and structures. They work on a wide range of projects both indoors and outdoors, from installing cabinetry to constructing bridges and highways. Most carpenters learn through on-the-job training and apprenticeships. As of May 2025, the median annual wage for carpenters was $60,580. Employment is expected to grow 4-percent from 2025 to 2035 with about 62,800 job openings each year largely due to workers retiring or transferring to other occupations.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Connect with a Jumpstart Savings Program representative at one of these upcoming events:

10/14/2026 - Jobs & Hope Second Chance Job Fair (Vienna)
10/15/2026 - Marion County Schools at Fairmont State (Fairmont)
10/16/2026 - Liberty High School (Glen Daniel)
10/19/2026 - Berkeley, Jefferson, & Morgan County College Fair at Shepherd University (Shepherdstown)
10/20/2026 - Hampshire & Mineral Co School College Fair (Keyser)
10/23/2026 - Shady Spring High School (Shady Spring)
11/5/2026 - Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College's Fall 2026 Community (Moorefield)
12/15/2026 - Sissonville High School (Sissonville)
3/24/2027 - WV Construction & Design Expo (Charleston)
3/25/2027 - WV Construction & Design Expo (Charleston)
4/12/2027 to 4/17/2027 *(date updated)* - Bridging Innovation Week 2027 (Charleston)

Connect with Us!

Does your organization or group need more information about the Jumpstart Savings Program?

Staff members are available for events, speaking engagements, and conferences. If you or your organization would like to schedule an in-person or webinar speaker, please email wvjumpstart@wvsto.gov or call 304-340-5055.

Jumpstart Savings Program | 1900 Kanawha Boulevard E-145 | Charleston, WV 25305 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!