



## **Regional Step Up Conferences for Employers To Kick-off June 23 in Waterbury**

### **Tax incentives, credits and wage subsidies among services discussed**

WETHERSFIELD, June 1, 2015 – State Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer invites employers interested in learning more about hiring incentives, tax credits, job creation programs, and low interest financing opportunities to attend a free “Step Up” conference being presented by the Connecticut Department of Labor.

Hosted by area legislators, sponsors include Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, the state’s Workforce Investment Boards, and the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services.

Conferences will be held throughout the state, with the first offered June 23 in Waterbury. All conferences will be held 8 to 10:30 a.m., with registration beginning at 7 a.m. The registration period also features a continental breakfast, booth exhibits and opportunities to ask questions. While there is no admission to the conferences, attendees are asked to pre-register by visiting the Labor Department’s Step Up website at [www.StepCT.com](http://www.StepCT.com).

Presentations, which begin at 8 a.m., will inform attendees about Subsidized Training and Employment Program wage incentives, the Small Business Express Program, finding and recruiting qualified employees, guidelines for becoming a State of Connecticut vendor, help when filing taxes, training grants for an employer’s existing workforce, apprenticeship programs, available tax credits and more.

The first three Step Up conferences, set for June, will be held on the following dates in these regional locations:

- **June 23, 2015 - Waterbury:** Naugatuck Valley Community College, Fine Arts Center – Leever Atrium and Main Stage Theater – 750 Chase Parkway.
- **June 24, 2015 - Stamford:** UConn Stamford, One University Place – Auditorium and Multipurpose Room, first floor.
- **June 30, 2015 - Shelton:** Shelton Community Center, 41 Church Street.

In September, five additional regional conferences will be held in Middletown, New Milford, Hampton, Bridgeport and New Haven.

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“The Labor Department is pleased to work in partnership with so many outstanding individuals, organizations and agencies to offer employers these information-packed events geared toward increasing their bottom line while creating jobs and offering opportunities to keep our companies competitive,” Palmer said. “These conferences are designed for local businesspeople who are working and supporting our communities and may want to expand or hire, but could use the help of state resources to make their plans a reality.”

The Step Up conferences originally were held to inform employers about the state’s Subsidized Training and Employment Program and the incentives the program offers to companies hiring unemployed jobseekers. However, employers voiced interest in obtaining information about additional state and federal programs to benefit their businesses, causing the popular conferences to broaden in focus.

The Step Up program, which has provided jobs to more than 3,000 individuals, pays a portion of a new employee’s salary – up to \$12,500 during the first six months of employment – if an employer with 100 employees or less meets certain criteria and hires an unemployed jobseeker. A Step Up program geared specifically for veterans offers the same hiring incentives but is open to companies of any size.

Employers can register online for any of the employer conferences by visiting the Labor Department’s conference website at [www.StepCT.com](http://www.StepCT.com). Individuals seeking additional conference details can also contact Veasna Roeun at [veasna.roeun@ct.gov](mailto:veasna.roeun@ct.gov) or 203-455-2713.

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