

## Public Libraries: Your Partner in Workforce Development

Public libraries are eager to work with other agencies to more closely align with local workforce development activities. Here are some of the assets that public libraries bring to the table:

1. Library **services are available at no charge** for library card holders. To get a card, community residents need up-to-date identification (such as a driver's license).
2. Libraries offer **extended evening and weekend hours**.
3. Libraries have **computers with high-speed Internet connections** for public use.
4. Libraries have **books and specialized online reference resources** about occupations, schools, financial aid, resume-writing, interview techniques, employers and skill improvement.
5. Libraries also have **test preparation practice guides (print and online)** for academic, military, occupational, licensing, high school equivalency, English as a foreign language, and workplace assessment such as WorkKeys.
6. Libraries have **staff who are trained to help people** with information and technology questions.
7. Many libraries offer **meeting rooms and free classes** on careers, resume-writing, and technology. Some provide annual job fairs and networking events for employers and job seekers. Some also have **MakerSpaces** to learn about high-tech equipment and skills.

### **POWER Library Job Resources Portal** - <http://www.powerlibrary.org/job-resources>

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries funds POWER Library an online suite of e-books and digital reference resources. In addition to these state-supported resources, the POWER Library site features a portal that helps the public find Pennsylvania job resources. It identifies a number of state-and federally-sponsored online workforce development resources such as **Job Gateway<sup>SM</sup>**, **PA Workforce Statistics**, **PHEAA's Education Planner**, and the **Occupational Outlook Handbook**.

### **Pennsylvania Libraries**

The majority of public libraries in Pennsylvania are non-profit organizations; others are agencies of municipal or county government. Public libraries in Pennsylvania are assigned to one of 29 District Library Center areas. (See map on reverse side.) Each District Library Center has a designated headquarters library that provides reference services. These District Library Centers can help you identify libraries that might best suit your specific needs. An online directory of all libraries (including District Library Centers) is available at: <http://www.libdir.ed.state.pa.us/Screens/wfLibrarySearch.aspx>

### **Greater Pittsburgh Libraries**

- Allegheny County Library Association – <https://aclalibraries.org>
- Beaver County Library System – <http://www.beaverlibraries.org>
- Butler County Federated Library System – <http://www.bcfls.org>
- Cambria County Library System (Johnstown Library District) – <http://www.cclsys.org>
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (Job and Career Education Center – Main (Oakland); 412.622.3133) – <http://www.carnegielibrary.org>
- New Castle Library District – <http://www.ncdlc.org>
- Somerset County Federated Library System – <http://scfls.org>
- Westmoreland County Federated Library System – <https://www.wlnonline.org>
- Washington County Library System – <http://www.washlibs.org>

*For more information on workforce development library services contact:*

*Stacey Mulligan (Office of Commonwealth Libraries/BLD), [smulligan@pa.gov](mailto:smulligan@pa.gov), 717-783-5744.*