



New Choices/New Options

Show your support in the Labor & Industry Budget

ABOUT

Who is PA Women Work?

Pennsylvania Women Work is a nonprofit workforce development organization based in Pittsburgh that transforms lives through empowerment, employment and economic independence.

What is New Choices?

With more than 28 years of impact, the statewide New Choices program provides FREE classes to individuals faced with challenging career transitions.

COVID-19 has impacted the jobs of 3 million Pennsylvanians. PA Women Work quickly responded to the pandemic by offering New Choices virtually and is now receiving more inquiries than ever.

What do participants learn?

New Choices builds confidence, communication, and professional etiquette while arming participants with critical tools, such as resume writing, interview strategies, time management, computer trainings, and more.

Small classes enable instructors to focus on individual needs. New Choices has proven to be highly effective at helping the "hard-to-employ" population attain jobs with family-sustaining wages.

STATEWIDE IMPACT



Over the last 28 years, over **68,000** Pennsylvanians have participated in New Choices/New Options.



The program has provided a **3-to-1** return on investment for more than two decades by transforming job-seekers and benefits recipients into working citizens.



Graduates' starting wage in 2019-2020 was **\$16/hour** with a significant number of positions including benefits.



New Choices/New Options has averaged an **82%** placement rate into jobs or training for nearly three decades.



Demand for the program has increased by more than **32%** over the same period last year. New Choices/New Options has been offered virtually since the start of **COVID-19**.

TESTIMONIAL



Carla's position as a medical receptionist was downsized due to COVID-19 in spring 2020. "When I got the news, I felt a whole range of emotions – shock, disappointment and anger," Carla reflected.

Carla dove into a challenging and unsuccessful job search. She was struggling. "I was down. I had no idea what to do next," she explained.

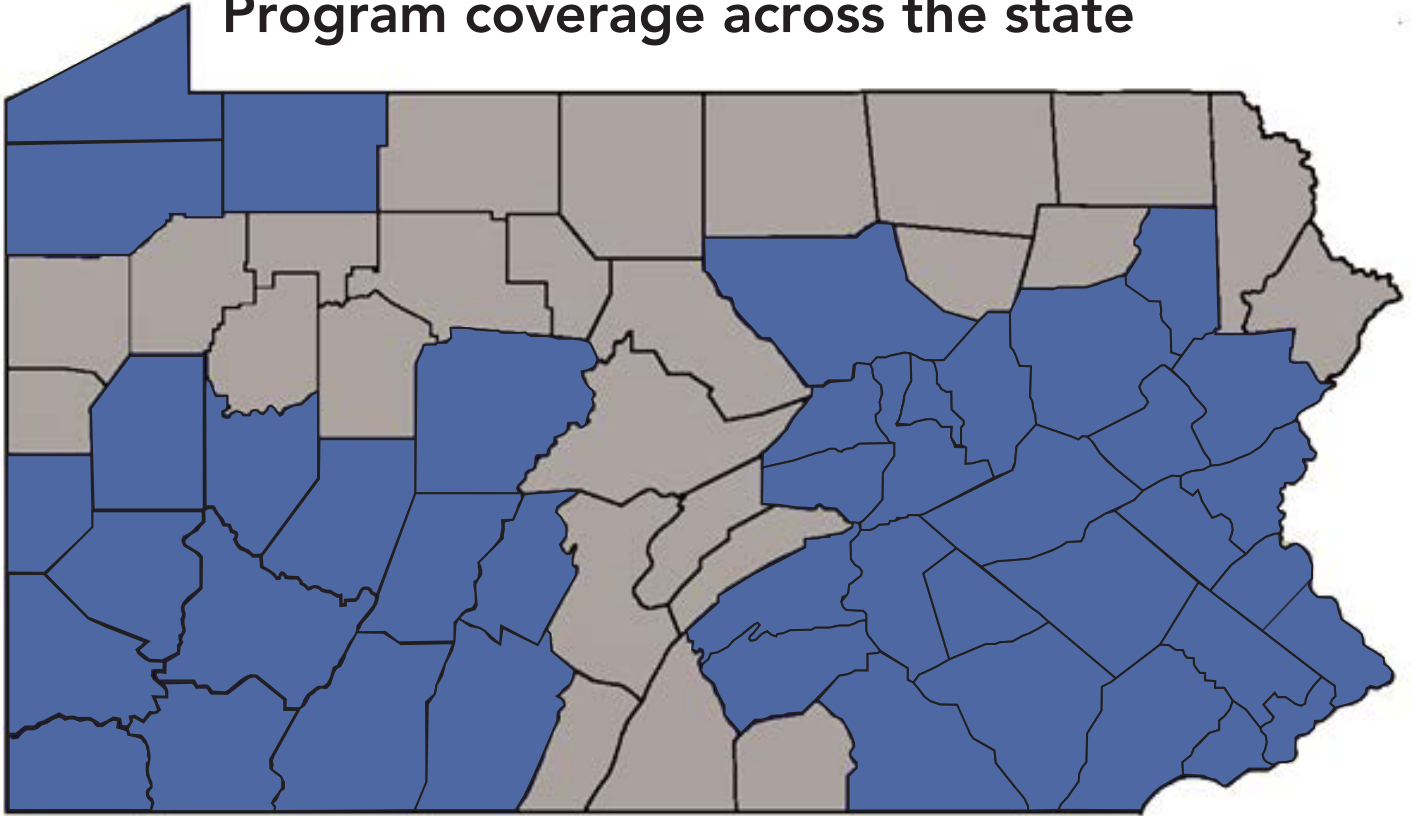
She discovered Pennsylvania Women Work was offering its New Choices career development program virtually and signed up. During the class, Carla met others experiencing the same challenges. "I realized that I wasn't going through this alone, and it made all the difference."

During New Choices, Carla learned to articulate her skills, revised her resume, and discovered new job opportunities. She was recently hired as a receptionist at UPMC and started her new job in October 2020. "The guidance I received helped me to make lasting professional connections and find a career I can be proud of," Carla said.



New Choices/New Options

Program coverage across the state



■ 2020-2021 areas served

New Choices/New Options reaches job seekers in
43 counties.

PRIMARY PARTNERS

Western Pennsylvania

Greater Community Action Committee
PA CareerLink
Pennsylvania Women Work
POWER: PA Organization for Women in
Early Recovery
YWCA Titusville
YWCA Westmoreland County

Mid-East Pennsylvania

P.R.O.B.E
YWCA Lancaster

Southern Alleghenies

Goodwill Industries
PA CareerLink
Westmoreland County
Community College

Southeast Pennsylvania

Delaware County Community College
Northampton Community College
Temple University

*Pennsylvania Women Work partners with more than 80 agencies across the state.
For a full list of partner organizations, please email info@pawomenwork.org.*