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## QUARTERLY REPORT

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025



Participants at the Fall Hiring  
Event and Resource Fair

### Fall Hiring Event & Resource Fair

AAWDC's annual Fall Hiring Event and Resource Fair, held in October at the Anne Arundel County Career Center, welcomed 198 job seekers for an afternoon of direct connection with local employers and community resources. The event featured 16 businesses representing Anne Arundel County's top industries, offering attendees opportunities to network, explore career pathways, and participate in on-the-spot interviews. Participating employers reported 100% satisfaction, with one company hiring four candidates directly from the event.

### Unemployment Rate

SEPTEMBER 2025

MARYLAND 4.3%

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY 3.8%



ANNE ARUNDEL  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

## Building Success

Riley B. came to the Anne Arundel County Career Center through Maryland's Autism Hiring Program and expressed a strong interest in securing permanent employment after a brief role with a state organization. She actively participated in AAWDC's Career Jumpstart workshops and completed a summer internship with Anne Arundel Public Library, gaining valuable experience and confidence. Riley remained engaged through AAWDC's Next Success program, where she strengthened her communication skills and overcame anxiety in professional settings. Despite multiple job rejections, she persisted with the support of her career coach. Her determination paid off when she was accepted into the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option in August. Riley is now working as administrative support with the Maryland Department of Agriculture through June 2026 and is thriving in a supportive work environment.



## Apprenticeship Business Academy

The Apprenticeship Manager partnered with Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program staff to design and launch the Apprenticeship Business Academy to help AAWDC's workforce partners connect employers with Registered Apprenticeship Programs. The training covered the value of apprenticeships, success stories from other organizations, available incentives and grants, and clarified the process for connecting employers with the appropriate subject matter experts. The event was highly successful, with day-of feedback and post-event survey results indicating strong participant satisfaction, appreciation for the content, and clear achievement of the learning objectives.



## Volunteering at Food Distribution Sites

AAWDC staff volunteered alongside the Anne Arundel County Food Bank at multiple community food distribution sites, supporting residents while sharing employment and workforce resources. These efforts focused on reaching ALICE households—working individuals and families experiencing economic instability—by meeting them in trusted, accessible locations. Through five outreach events, AAWDC staff helped serve 437 Anne Arundel County residents, providing immediate food support while connecting individuals to job readiness services, training opportunities, and career pathways.



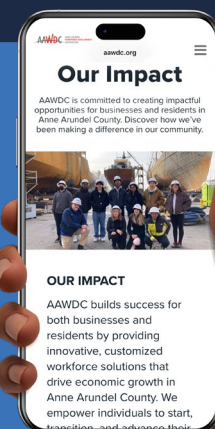
## State of Workforce

In October, AAWDC President & CEO Kirkland Murray participated in the Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce's State of the Workforce event alongside fellow panelist Sarah D. Sheppard, Director of the Office of Talent and Workforce at the Maryland Department of Commerce. The forum provided an opportunity to discuss the evolving workforce landscape and explore strategies for strengthening talent pipelines across Maryland. Kirk also shared insights from the Post-Pandemic Workforce Survey Report.



## Website Launch

AAWDC launched its new website in November, featuring a modern, user-friendly design that better reflects our mission and services. The redesigned site makes it easier for residents, businesses, and partners to connect with AAWDC, explore workforce resources and career opportunities, and quickly find the information they need. The new website also creates a stronger foundation for sharing programs, success stories, and timely updates.



## Business Appreciation Week

Several AAWDC team members participated in the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation's annual Business Appreciation Week in late October. The team visited businesses across key industries, including hospitality, IT, and healthcare. Businesses shared insights into their daily operations and challenges, while AAWDC staff highlighted services and resources available to support workforce needs and streamline operations.



## NDEAM Workshop Series

AAWDC recognized National Disability Employment Awareness Month by hosting a workshop series for individuals with disabilities. Each session, led by AAWDC's Disability Career Navigator, covered topics such as public benefits, workplace accommodations, inclusive practices, and transition planning for youth. One workshop was held during the Fall Hiring Event & Resource Fair to connect directly with job seekers.

## Healthcare Roundtable

AAWDC participated in the Local Workforce Development Board's October Healthcare Roundtable, which brought together key employers and partners to discuss workforce needs and solutions. Job readiness and soft skills training were identified as top priorities to address going forward. Participants also emphasized the need to highlight diverse healthcare career pathways beyond traditional roles.

## CDL Learner's Permit Workshop Series

To address information gaps around the CDL learner's permit process, AAWDC partnered with Best CDL to host a three-part virtual workshop series in December. Part One explained the permit process, exam requirements, and test-taking strategies, while Parts 2A and 2B offered CDL A and CDL B-specific preparation. Over 15 individuals attended the sessions, gaining clarity and confidence to move forward in the CDL process.

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