

JANUARY - MARCH 2026



QUARTERLY
REPORT



Candidate interview at
Holly Poultry Hiring Event

Holly Poultry Hiring Events

AAWDC partnered with Holly Poultry to support staffing efforts for its new production facility through a two-day hiring event in January that attracted more than 140 job seekers. AAWDC connected with Holly Poultry through the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), which was assisting the company in opening its new facility in Anne Arundel County. During the event, Holly Poultry conducted onsite applications and interviews and extended 19 job offers, including tentative offers made on the spot. Holly Poultry expressed strong satisfaction with both the turnout and AAWDC's support, noting that the partnership played a key role in efficiently advancing their hiring process.

Hear more from Holly Poultry at:
tinyurl.com/HollyPoultryTestimonial

Unemployment Rate

MARCH 2026

MARYLAND 4.4%

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY 3.8%



ANNE ARUNDEL
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

Building Success

T. Mical came to AAWDC unemployed and eager to build a new career in the skilled trades, with a strong interest in welding. Through AAWDC's partnership with Earlbeck Gases & Technologies, he enrolled in a welding training cohort and quickly demonstrated exceptional commitment and determination. Mr. Mical earned two industry-recognized credentials during the program and became the first participant in his cohort to achieve certification, highlighting his strong work ethic and readiness for success in the field. Building on this achievement, he took a major step toward self-sufficiency by launching his own business, The Mical Company, where he now works as a professional welder.



Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) Cohort

The Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) cohort, conducted in partnership with Luminis Health and Zollege Health Academy, successfully concluded in early February. The cohort, funded through the EARN Healthcare grant, was designed to upskill current Luminis Health employees and support their career advancement within the organization. Nine out of ten participants successfully completed the program, and nine participants earned their CCMA credential. As a result, those individuals were promoted into CCMA roles at Luminis Health, strengthening the organization's clinical workforce while creating meaningful career pathways for incumbent employees.

Financial Literacy Student Workshop Series

The Career Coach at North County High School launched a multi-grade Financial Literacy Workshop Series to equip students with essential money management skills for life after high school. To bring real-world financial expertise into the classroom, the Career Coach collaborated with Navy Federal Credit Union to deliver interactive sessions on topics such as budgeting, credit scores, fraud prevention, saving, investing, and retirement planning. Initially created for high school seniors, the series quickly expanded to include students in grades 9-11. In February alone, 73 students participated in these sessions, with more planned for the remainder of the school year.

Crofton Middle Skilled Trades Series

In January, the Crofton Middle School Career Coach launched a Skilled Trades Series to expand student awareness of high-demand career pathways that may not require a traditional four-year degree. The first two sessions engaged more than 230 students in grades 6–8 through interactive career exploration opportunities featuring professionals from the cosmetology and healthcare fields. Students gained firsthand insight into these careers through presentations, demonstrations, and question-and-answer discussions.

Winter of Writers

At Northeast High School, students' Career Coach transformed a request for a single guest speaker into the Winter of Writers Series, a multi-session career exploration initiative connecting students with local and nationally recognized authors. Through partnerships with the school's Media Center team and members of the writing community, students gained exposure to diverse career pathways within the Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications career cluster, including traditional publishing, independent publishing, literary entrepreneurship, and festival leadership. Authors also shared personal stories from their journeys, helping students better understand the realities of professional writing careers.



AACPS Open for Business Feature

In February, AAWDC's Youth Recruitment and Intake Specialist and a young adult client participated in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools television program Open for Business, highlighting AAWDC's youth and young adult workforce initiatives and career development opportunities. During the segment, the AAWDC client shared her experience with AAWDC's services, while the Specialist raised awareness of the resources available to local youth and emphasized the value of partnerships that connect students to meaningful career pathways.



Watch the episode here:
tinyurl.com/OpenForBusinessAAWDC

New Group Apprenticeships

In March, AAWDC's Apprenticeship Manager, in collaboration with the Maryland Office of Apprenticeship Development, secured approval from the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council (MATC) for two group Registered Apprenticeship Programs in the IT Generalist/Help Desk and SOC Analyst occupations. The IT Generalist/Help Desk Program is sponsored by AAWDC and the SOC Analyst Program is sponsored by the Maryland Workforce Association. Following approval, the Apprenticeship Manager began coordinating implementation efforts with participating businesses and partners including related technical instruction provider BCR Cyber to support recruitment, screening, and program launch.

Comeback Care

AAWDC continued its partnership with Comeback Care, an addiction treatment center serving individuals recovering from substance use disorders, to deliver services to more than 130 participants from January through March, many of whom are justice-impacted. AAWDC staff, including the Disability Services Navigator, Community Workforce Specialist, and Re-Entry Career Navigator, facilitated presentations and group sessions focused on re-entry supports, professional development, disability-related resources, Social Security programs, and the Ticket to Work program. Participants also received individualized guidance and follow-up support related to employment readiness, benefits navigation, and community resources.

Connect with Us Now!



www.aawdc.org