

Tyrae Woodson-Samuels**Legislator, 13th District**

Chair, Committee on Budget & Appropriations

**Committee Assignments:**

Infrastructure & Housing
Public Safety & Veterans
Intergovernmental Affairs
Small Business

To: Honorable Members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators**From:** Hon. Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, County Legislator, District 13**Date:** TBD**Re:** Memo of Legislation — Youth Career Guarantee and Pre-Apprenticeship Pipeline Act**PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this legislation is to create a Countywide Youth Career Guarantee and Pre-Apprenticeship Pipeline Initiative to connect young people in Westchester County with real pathways into stable careers, including the skilled trades, public works, infrastructure, health care, clean energy, technology, and other high-demand fields.

Westchester County invests significant public dollars into roads, bridges, buildings, parks, environmental facilities, public safety infrastructure, and other capital projects. Those investments should not only build physical assets; they should also help build career pathways for young people who are looking for opportunity.

This legislation is intended to make sure that County investments are connected to workforce development, career exposure, and long-term economic mobility.

KEY PROVISIONS

This legislation would establish a Youth Career Guarantee and Pre-Apprenticeship Pipeline for eligible Westchester residents between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four.

The initiative would connect participants with career-readiness training, pre-apprenticeship opportunities, union pathways, job-shadowing, site visits, resume preparation, interview preparation, financial literacy, OSHA training, driver's license support, workplace readiness, and other practical supports.

The County would be required to coordinate with unions, school districts, BOCES, SUNY Westchester, municipal youth bureaus, nonprofit organizations, workforce providers, County contractors, and relevant departments.

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County departments managing major capital projects would be encouraged to identify opportunities for career days, contractor presentations, site visits, and apprenticeship information sessions. Contractors and subcontractors working on covered County projects would be encouraged to participate in workforce exposure and interview opportunities for qualified participants.

The County would submit an annual Youth Career Pipeline Report to the Board of Legislators showing enrollment, completion, referrals, placements, participating partners, and barriers that need to be addressed.

FINDINGS AND RATIONALE

Many young people in Westchester want to work, build careers, and contribute to their communities, but do not always have access to the networks, training, or guidance needed to enter family-sustaining careers.

The County has already taken steps to connect public construction projects to apprenticeship requirements. This legislation builds on that work by focusing on the front end of the pipeline: preparing young residents to actually qualify for and access those opportunities.

A strong youth career pipeline can reduce disconnection, strengthen public safety, support local hiring, help contractors find talent, and give young people a clear reason to believe their future can be built here in Westchester.

COORDINATION, EXISTING LAW, AND IMPLEMENTATION

The County shall coordinate with the Department of Public Works and Transportation, Department of Planning, Department of Social Services, Youth Bureau, Department of Human Resources, Department of Economic Development, school districts, BOCES, SUNY Westchester, unions, contractors, and municipal youth bureaus.

This legislation is intended to complement existing apprenticeship, workforce development, youth employment, education, and career-readiness programs. It does not replace those programs; it creates a Countywide framework to connect them more directly to County investments and real employment pathways.

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FISCAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The fiscal impact shall be subject to appropriation. The initiative may begin through coordination of existing County resources and partnerships. Any new funding for training, transportation assistance, stipends, nonprofit contracts, or program administration would require separate Board approval.

This legislation is not intended to require a property tax increase and should prioritize state, federal, union, philanthropic, and private workforce development funding where available.

The housing impact is indirect but important: stable employment helps young people and working families remain in Westchester. The economic development impact may be significant by strengthening the local workforce, supporting contractors, increasing access to skilled trades, and helping young residents build long-term careers.

REVIEW AND EFFECTIVE DATE

The Board of Legislators shall review the initiative two years after enactment to evaluate participation, placement rates, costs, and overall effectiveness.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyrae Woodson-Samuels'.

Tyrae Woodson-Samuels

Westchester County Legislator, District 13