Regional Alliance for Pathways in Defense (RAPID)
RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING

SERVICE AREA
RHODE ISLAND: Bristol, Kent, Newport, Providence, and Washington County
CONNECTICUT: New London, Windham, and parts of Tolland County; and serves all of the cities in Rhode Island and 39 municipalities in Connecticut

GOALS
★ Meeting the needs of the region’s defense-oriented advanced manufacturing companies
★ Building high-wage, high-skill career pathways for regional job seekers
★ Meeting the national security imperative for a talented civilian workforce
★ Building robust, long-term partnerships with regional employers

TARGETED POPULATIONS
★ Unemployed and underemployed adults
★ Community college degree non-completers
★ Unemployed youth between the ages 18 – 24

TARGETED INDUSTRIES
Advanced Manufacturing
Information Technology

PARTNERS
★ Employers and Industry Representatives: Electric Boat; Southeastern New England Defense Alliance; RI Marine Trades Association; Polaris MEP; RI Manufacturer’s Association
★ Workforce Boards: RI’s Governor’s Workforce Board; Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board; Workforce Partnership of Greater RI; Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston
★ Economic Development Agencies: RI Executive Office of Commerce; RI Commerce Corporation
★ Education and Training Providers: Pipeline to Manufacturing Careers in Ship Building; Real Jobs RI CyberSecurity Partnership; RI Marine Composites Partnership; RI Manufacturing Bootcamp
★ Others: Skills for Rhode Island’s Future

ACHIEVEMENTS
★ Exceeded the To-Date Employment Target by over 20% (693 Jobs to 567 Target, February 2019)
★ Enhanced the profile and reputation of the public workforce system as a reliable source of talent
★ Nearly half of all individuals enrolled in education and training activities possessed a high school degree or less

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
★ Employer-informed and industry-designed training and human resource solutions improves likelihood of successful placement outcomes
★ Robust sector partnerships led by industry-identified intermediaries
★ Customer-centered employment planning and support services custom to each client’s needs
★ Innovative performance management tools help get ‘behind the numbers’ to remedy challenges and boost opportunities
MAKING A DIFFERENCE…

Cristian V. is a single dad who recently was awarded custody of his daughter and was looking for a stable, higher-earning career. A friend told him about the America’s Promise-funded “Fast Track to Manufacturing.” Completing the training wasn’t easy – especially as a single-parent who was also balancing a job, but he persevered.

Cristian is now employed as a Mechanical Assembler making $18.50 an hour, with the likelihood of being promoted to a computer numerical control (CNC) Machinist. His employer considers the “Fast Track to Manufacturing” program a reliable source for machining talent as well as a critical partner in helping upskill and promote new workers like Cristian.

“Taking the Fast Track to CNC Manufacturing Program gave me the skills to launch the beginning of my career. My expectations for the program were high, I’m satisfied to share that I got just what I expected and more. My most sincere ‘Thank You’ goes to them. If you enjoy working with machines, like problem solving, and love creating, this could be the beginning of your future. From my personal, unforgettable experience, I’d advise [others] to be prepared to work hard for your own benefit and be ready to change your life.” – Cristian V.