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QCC granted \$200K to help formerly incarcerated people obtain work in the food industry

[By Timothy Doyle](#)

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development granted Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester \$200,000 to fund a training program for previously incarcerated individuals.

The funding is an increase [from \\$160,000](#) in fiscal 2022.

The program is a partnership between QCC and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office to provide culinary education in order to help people transition back into the community following incarceration. Successful program graduates will be placed into food preparation roles at Massachusetts Restaurant Association and Worcester-based food service staffing company Snapchef.

“Those who have been incarcerated often struggle to find employment after they have completed their sentence, often preventing them from completely re-integrating into society and increasing the likelihood they will re-offend,” State Sen. Michael

Moore (D-Millbury) said in a Friday press release from Moore announcing the funding.

The U.S. Department of Justice released a report in 2021, following a study of 51,500 people released from prison in 2010, that found 33% of them did not find any employment during the four years following their release and, of the people in the study, no more than 40% of the cohort were employed at any time.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development provided the funding through the FY23 Re-Entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program.