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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bus passes increase job opportunities for Southwestern Connecticut workers

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For many people, transportation to and from job interviews and work can be a major barrier in getting and keeping a job. But thanks to the **People to Jobs Regional Transportation Task Force**, if you are looking for work and living in Southwestern Connecticut without personal transportation, there's help available.

“People to Jobs can help you alleviate the financial strain of employment transportation through our Job Start Transportation Assistance Program,” said Program Manager Debbie Venditti. “We provide free bus passes to help you get to and from work for your first 30 days of employment. This is available to eligible workers to help alleviate the barrier of transportation until more permanent arrangements can be made. By temporarily removing the cost of getting to work, low-income workers are more readily able to respond to job opportunities.”

The **Job Start Transportation Assistance Program**, funded by the **Connecticut Department of Social Services**, has been helping workers in Southwestern Connecticut since 2003. In addition to passes, workers receive additional benefits offered through partnering agencies: the **Southwestern CTWorks Career Centers** in Bridgeport, Stamford, and Derby, the **Connecticut Department of Labor**, and the **Connecticut Department of Social Services**.

These benefits include job placement, career planning, on-the-job training, seminars and access to computers for resumes and job searches.

You must be receiving or be eligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits from the Connecticut Department of Social Services in order to qualify for a bus pass.

For information, please contact Debbie Venditti at (203) 610-8544.

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About People to Jobs

People to Jobs, a project of The WorkPlace, Inc., is a Regional Transportation Task Force that improves access to employment by initiating and financing positive enhancements to the public transportation system in Southwestern Connecticut. People to Jobs helps get thousands of people throughout Southwestern Connecticut to and from work, and is counted on by employers. More information is available at www.peopletojobs.org.

About The WorkPlace

The WorkPlace, Inc., Southwestern Connecticut's Regional Workforce Development Board, has a 27-year track record in workforce development training, employment and education for a diverse mix of people. The WorkPlace administers public and private funds for job training and education to meet the needs of residents and employers in 20 towns and cities in the region.