

Accessible, Affordable, and Supported Training Opportunities

OBJECTIVE: We need accessible and affordable opportunities for Durham residents to gain life skills and job training to improve their quality of life and build generational wealth. We need to ensure local residents receive the job training needed to get hired in jobs being created in our community. We need partnerships, with organizations like Durham Public Schools, Durham Tech, NCCU, and Duke, to create community programs that connect residents to needed training. Durham needs equitable training and employment, prioritizing young people, seniors, houseless residents, justice-involved persons, non-native English speakers, single parents and those without formal education, living in public housing, recovering from addiction, or with disabilities.

BACKGROUND: Currently, residents do not see local government investing in their personal and professional growth or development. People face transportation, financial, and technological barriers to accessing important training for computer and digital expertise, financial literacy, parenting knowledge, civic engagement, and other life skills. Many residents want to gain new skills for jobs, find and interview for open positions, or start their own businesses but do not hear about opportunities in Durham to learn how to do these things. When trainings do exist, barriers like cost, schedule, location, language, and physical accessibility prevent many residents from participating.

We want government, institutions, and private organizations to support and prepare Durham residents for job placement in trade, manufacturing, and “green” jobs. We want to support entrepreneurship. We also want training focused on life skills and home ownership. We want residents to have equitable access to digital resources for training, employment, and life skills. We want training to begin at an early age for residents, with safe and easy-to-access opportunities.

Quotes from Durham Residents

“We need programs, training, workshops, webinars etc. that allow Durham's residents to become certified in different fields”

“Job training to help citizens learn new skills, amp up existing skills, and also to teach citizens the fundamentals of job training, searching, and obtaining employment”

“City government needs to do more training for open positions. There aren't many jobs that don't require college degrees or skills like HTML”

“Partner with Duke, NCCU, Durham Tech for continuing education programs that are income based and free”

“summer training and job training programs like they use to have at Durham Tech. and Rec Centers”

“Sometimes colleges require you to complete certain requirements including volunteering. They should focus more on students’ goals. A student might not do well in school but is good at other things. We need a training center for students with workshops where students can learn carpentry, electrical work, etc. This would allow them to get back to school because they feel like they will never get ahead in college because of their status, etc. and they will have a better future and get out of poverty.”

“Increase local training in the trades. The city and county governments should work with small business owners in creating a mentorship/internship program to provide an on the job training program.”