

NORFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF PATRICK W. McDERMOTT

P.O. Box 149 | 200 West St
Dedham, MA 02027

Phone: (781) 329-3705
Fax: (781) 326-1079

www.NorfolkSheriff.com



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Contact: Garrett Nichols, Communications Director
Phone: 781-751-3475
Email: gnichols@norfolksheriffma.org

Norfolk County Sheriff's Office Awarded Competitive Perkins Grant to Develop Workforce Training Program

DEDHAM – The Norfolk County Sheriff's Office announced today that it has been awarded a competitive Perkins planning grant through the Massachusetts Department of Education to develop a workforce training program to provide offenders with valuable training and career certification.

Through the program, the NCSO will partner with Massasoit Community College to enroll offenders as students in the college's HVAC registered pre-apprenticeship program, which provides training in a rapidly growing industry. Drawing on the NCSO's previous investment in distance learning technologies, participants will be able to take courses from Massasoit Community College instructors remotely while receiving career and educational counseling to help with re-entry.

Norfolk County Sheriff Patrick McDermott said, "This program is a much-needed investment in the successful rehabilitation of offenders. It provides people with the skills to succeed and make positive choices after release, but it also provides them hope for a productive future. These community partnerships show that rehabilitation is a community effort, and I look forward to developing more partnerships that support individuals and strengthen our communities."

The program involves strong community participation to ensure that offenders are able to translate their training into success post-release. In addition to a partnership with Massasoit Community College, the NCSO will be working closely with MassHire to provide participants with certification and help secure employment. The Gavin Foundation will help individuals navigate the various post-release issues that offenders often face, and the Massachusetts Parole Board and Massachusetts Probation Services have agreed to encourage individuals to continue with the program after release.

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