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November 19, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mayor Elicker Celebrates Launch of Construction Jobs Program**  
*Pilot Initiative with Community Partners*

NEW HAVEN, Conn. –Today, New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker joined New Haven Economic Development Administrator Michael Piscitelli, William Villano, President and CEO of [Workforce Alliance](#), and other community partners for a press conference to celebrate the launch of a pilot initiative for a new construction jobs program. The program prepares New Haven workers for apprenticeships and employment in the construction industry. It is part of the overall [Together New Haven](#) effort, which supports small businesses, neighborhood commercial districts, and workers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Through this program, we have created a means for dislocated workers to train for jobs in emerging sectors of the regional job market," Mayor Elicker said. "The robust state of the construction sector in New Haven made it ideal for this pilot. Despite the pandemic, opportunities are surging thanks to the many projects we have underway. With over 750 housing permits issued in 2020, New Haven is leading the state in construction activity, and the pipeline of new residential and commercial projects is seen as a pathway for economic recovery and job growth," he concluded.

As of October, New Haven had approximately 7,000 residents filing for continued unemployment benefits – upwards of 10 percent of the City's overall workforce. In addition to advocating for impacted city residents, the City's Economic Development Administration is working with longstanding workforce partners. Workforce Alliance, Gateway Community College, New Haven Works, and the New Haven Building Trades have focused on emergent sectors, like construction.

For this pilot program, the New Haven Building Trades Council is providing instruction for the Construction Workforce Pipeline Pilot through the John J. Driscoll United Labor Agency, a certified Workforce Alliance provider. New Haven Works is providing case management and connections to employers. The curriculum covers construction basics, blueprint reading and measurements, basic math for construction, tools, and equipment, and more. Students who successfully complete the program receive requisite certificates and building trade certifications.

"Efficiently training people with in-demand skills benefits not only job-seekers but employers in our region," said Villano. "Our charge is to be sure that we are setting people up for success."

Workforce Alliance, the Regional Workforce Development Board of South Central Connecticut, is the policy and oversight organization responsible for creating a comprehensive, community-wide response to building a highly-skilled workforce in South Central Connecticut. This 30-town region includes New Haven. In partnership with the City of New Haven, Workforce Alliance is providing funding for the training, managing enrollment, purchasing laptops, and providing weekly cash stipends. As customers of the [American Job Center](#), trainees can also access additional job support and readiness services.

Following evaluation of the initial pilot, additional cohorts will be scheduled for 2021.

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