

Workforce Development Board of Sullivan Inc.  
Director's Report  
March 10, 2026

**Workforce Development**

- Federal workforce policy has moved from confusion and uncertainty to a continuation of the core functions. The spending bill was signed on February 3, 2026. This locks in a full year of funding providing a stable operating environment.

Also receiving continued support is the Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) and the Job Corps program.

The system can now focus on areas such as Workforce Pell that will expand access to funding to high-quality, short term training and a number of federal waivers that can support innovation.

The expansion of Pell grants to short term programs will take place on July 1, 2026. This change allows students to access the federal financial aid for high-quality programs that are shorter than the traditional academic semester but lead to recognized credentials in demand sectors.

While reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act remains elusive with authorization stalling in the house and a full rewrite is unlikely in 2026. However, federal guidance letters allow for states to apply for waivers that provide greater flexibility. New York has applied for all waivers.

- The Center for Workforce Development (CWD) is working with SUNY Sullivan on a Construction Trades program for Spring 2026. The CWD will be responsible for recruitment, support services, job placement and follow up services with new workers that will increase retention and successful outcomes.
- The Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) class ended November 21, 2025. Seven (7) of the nine (9) participants were funded through the County. The remaining two (2) were either self-pay or paid through other mechanisms. Two (2) of the seven (7) County funded participants did not complete the program due to illness and family issues. The

remaining five (5) passed their state certifications exams and are employed.

The next class is scheduled for April 6, 2026. The Center for Workforce Development (CWD) has reached out to everyone on the wait list and is actively recruiting.

- In house hiring events are starting up again on March 17<sup>th</sup> featuring Rolling V Bus Corp., NYS Police, NYS Dept. of Corrections, US Army and the Delaware Valley Job Corps. The hiring event will be held at the Career Center from 2:00 pm until 4:00pm. *Please see attached flyer.*
- The NYS Systems Change and Inclusive Opportunities Network (NYSCION) update:
  - ✓ From May 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026, there are 329 participants who have received services, 256 are currently enrolled and 69 individuals with disabilities have gained employment.
  - ✓ The round table and sustainability group quarterly meetings have begun and redefined goals and objectives for 2026.
  - ✓ The program has been given approval for full financial sponsorship for the 2026 Workforce Summit. The tentative date is s October 7, 2026.
  - ✓ The Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) sits on three Sullivan County Task Force pillars, SALT, Single Point of Access (SPOA), Sullivan County Treatment Court, National Navigator Exchange, and the NYS Coalition to prevent addiction and support recovery in employment. In addition, The DRC sits on the Sullivan County Mental Hygiene Specialty group and the Wellness Committee.
  - ✓ The DRC is developing disability etiquette training for Resorts World Casino staff.

**Additional Information:**

<b>Move Sullivan 2025 7 Fixed Routes</b>	<b>Average Daily Ridership</b>	<b>Monthly Ridership</b>	<b>Monthly Paratransit</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Totals</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>31,140</b>	<b>809</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Totals</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>36,884</b>	<b>989</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Totals</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>40,831</b>	<b>1,102</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Totals</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>32,191</b>	<b>1,122</b>
<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>141,046</b>	<b>4,022</b>

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for States,  
 2025 11-month Average

The six state measures are based on the same definitions as those published for the U.S.:

- U-1, persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force;
- U-2, job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force;
- U-3, total unemployed, as a percent of the civilian labor force (this is the definition used for the official unemployment rate);
- U-4, total unemployed plus discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers;
- U-5, total unemployed, plus discouraged workers, plus all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers; and
- U-6, total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.

<b>2025 11-month average</b>	<b>U-1</b>	<b>U-2</b>	<b>U-3</b>	<b>U-4</b>	<b>U-5</b>	<b>U-6</b>
<b>New York</b>	2.1	2.0	4.2	4.6	5.4	8.0

### **2025 Unemployment Rate Comparison**

Month	2025 Sullivan County	2024 Sullivan County	2025 Hudson Valley	2025 New York State	2025 United States
January	4.1%	4.2%	3.6%	4.6%	4.4%
February	4.5%	4.6%	3.9%	4.3%	4.5%
March	3.9%	4.0%	3.5%	4.1%	4.2%
April	2.9%	3.4%	2.7%	3.7%	3.9%
May	2.8%	3.2%	2.8%	3.5%	4.0%
June	2.9%	3.3%	3.0%	3.8%	4.4%
July	3.4%	3.6%	3.5%	4.6%	4.6%
August	3.7%	3.5%	3.8%	4.7%	4.5%
September	3.6%	3.0%	3.7%	4.7%	4.3%
October	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
November	3.7%	3.2%	3.4%	4.5%	4.3%
December	3.6%	3.3%	3.2%	4.4%	4.1%
<b>11-Month Average</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>

### **Labor Market Data for December 2025**

- ✓ Sullivan County's total nonfarm jobs increased 3.2% (1,000) and private sector jobs increased 3.6% (900) for December 2025.

*Please note:* The net month (November – December 2025) showed a decrease in nonfarm jobs of -0.3% (-100) and a decrease of -0.4% (-100) in private sector jobs.

- ✓ For Sullivan County the job gains were:
  - Private Educational and Health Services at 5.7% (500)
  - Leisure & Hospitality at 5.7% (200)
  - Other Services at 9.1% (100)
  - Professional and Business Services at 4.5% (100)
  - Trade, Transportation and Utilities at 2.2% (100)
  - Government at 1.6% (100)

For Sullivan County the sectors that showed no job growth were:

- Information
- Financial Activities
- Manufacturing
- Mining, Logging and Construction

NYS showed an increase of 0.8% (77,600) in total nonfarm jobs and 0.8% (67,900) in private sector jobs.

NYS saw the largest jobs gains were found in:

- Private Educational and Health Services at 5.1% (122,500)
- Government at 0.6% (9,700)
- Information at 0% (100)

NYS saw job losses in:

- Mining, Logging and Construction at -4.2% (-16,500)
- Financial Activities at -1.8% (-13,400)
- Leisure & Hospitality at -1.2% (-10,800)
- Manufacturing at -1.8% (-7,600)
- Other Services at -1.0% (-3,900)
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities at -0.2% (-3,400)
- Professional and Business Services at -0.1% (-1,100)

- ✓ Within the region, Sullivan County's private employment sector grew the fastest, up 3.6 percent. The second fastest growth was recorded in Rockland County (+1.5 percent), followed by Westchester County at (+0.1 percent). The Kiryas Joel-Poughkeepsie-Newburgh MSA\* and Kingston MSA\*, both declined by 0.4 percent, respectively. Putnam County remained unchanged over the period.

\*MSA stands for Metropolitan Statistical Area. A Metropolitan Statistical Area is defined as a region that includes a central city and surrounding communities that are linked by social and economic factors. This classification is used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLAS) to analyze labor market conditions within specific geographic areas.

- ✓ The Hudson Valley region showed an increase of 0.1% (1,200) in total nonfarm jobs and an increase of 0.2% (1,900) in private sector jobs.

The largest job gains were found in:

- Private Educational and Health Services at 2.8% (6,600)
- Financial Activities at 1.0% (500)
- Manufacturing at 0.7% (300)

The Region's job losses were in:

- Mining, Logging and Construction at -3.9% (-2,300)
- Professional and Business Services at 1.6% (1,900)
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities at -1.0% (-1,800)
- Other Services at -2.6% (-1,200)
- Leisure & Hospitality at -1.1% (-1,000)
- Government at -0.4% (-700)
- Information at -3.9% (-500)

- ✓ Sullivan County's unemployment rate was 3.6% for December 2025, an increase from 3.3% in December 2024.

December 2025 had 38,300 people in the labor force (36,600 employed & 1,400 unemployed). The number of employed individuals increased by 4.9% (1,700) and the number of unemployed individuals increased 16.7% (200). Overall, there was an increase of 5.3% (1,900) in the labor force compared to December 2024.

The total labor force decreased by -0.3% (-100) November to December 2025. The number of employed workers decreased by -0.3% (-100) and the number of unemployed individuals remained flat.

- ✓ The Hudson Valley's unemployment rate was 3.2% for December 2025, an increase from 3.0% in December 2024.
- ✓ NYS's unemployment rate was 4.4% in December 2025, an increase from 4.2% in December 2024.
- ✓ The US unemployment rate was 4.1% in December 2025, an increase from 3.8% in December 2024.
- ✓ The December 2025 unemployment rates across the 62 NYS counties ranged from a low of 2.8% for Putnam County to a high of 7.4% for Bronx County. Sullivan County with a 3.6% rate ranked 16th in the State along with Cayuga, Orange, Washington and Wayne counties.
- ✓ Hudson Valley unemployment rankings for December 2025:
  - # 1 Putnam County at 2.8%
  - # 3 Rockland County at 3.0%
  - # 4 Westchester County at 3.1%
  - # 6 Dutchess County at 3.2%
  - #11 Ulster County at 3.5%
  - #16 Sullivan County at 3.6%
  - #16 Orange County at 3.6%