

Please support New Choices/New Options in the Labor & Industry Budget!

The longstanding success of our statewide New Choices/New Options program relies on the \$500,000 line item within the Labor & Industry Budget to continue. We are asking for your support to maintain level funding for this program, which offers a 3-to-1 return on state investment.

STATEWIDE IMPACT

- By transforming job seekers and benefits recipients into working citizens, New Choices/New Options has **maintained a 3-to-1 return on state investment for 25 years.**
- Our graduates have **saved the state more than \$104 million** by reducing dependence on government benefits such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid, and generating new income tax revenue based on graduates' earnings.
- Graduates' average **starting wage in 2017-2018 was \$15.02/hour**; a significant number of positions come with benefits packages.
- For the last 25 years, **more than 65,000 Pennsylvanians** have graduated from New Choices/New Options.
- New Choices/New Options **serves 25 counties** across Pennsylvania.

ABOUT NEW CHOICES/NEW OPTIONS

The statewide New Choices/New Options Career Development program provides FREE classes to jobseekers who require intensive services (e.g. displaced homemakers, single parents, survivors of abuse, ex-offenders, and anyone who is long-term unemployed) — **resulting in an 85 percent average placement rate in jobs or training.**

The program's holistic approach builds self-esteem, professional etiquette, and communication skills. Small classes enable instructors to focus on individual needs in a safe and therapeutic setting.

The New Choices/New Options curriculum incorporates traditional career components such as resume writing, interview skills, time management, and Microsoft Office, with workforce and financial literacies. With more than two decades of success, New Choices has proven to be highly adaptive and effective at helping the "hard-to-employ" population attain jobs with family sustaining wages.

ABOUT PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN WORK

We transform women's lives through empowerment, employment and economic independence.

Founded in 1993, PA Women Work has assisted over 65,000 people across PA through New Choices/New Options, as well as other offerings, including mentorship, computer instruction, certification training and transportation assistance.

YARITZA'S STORY



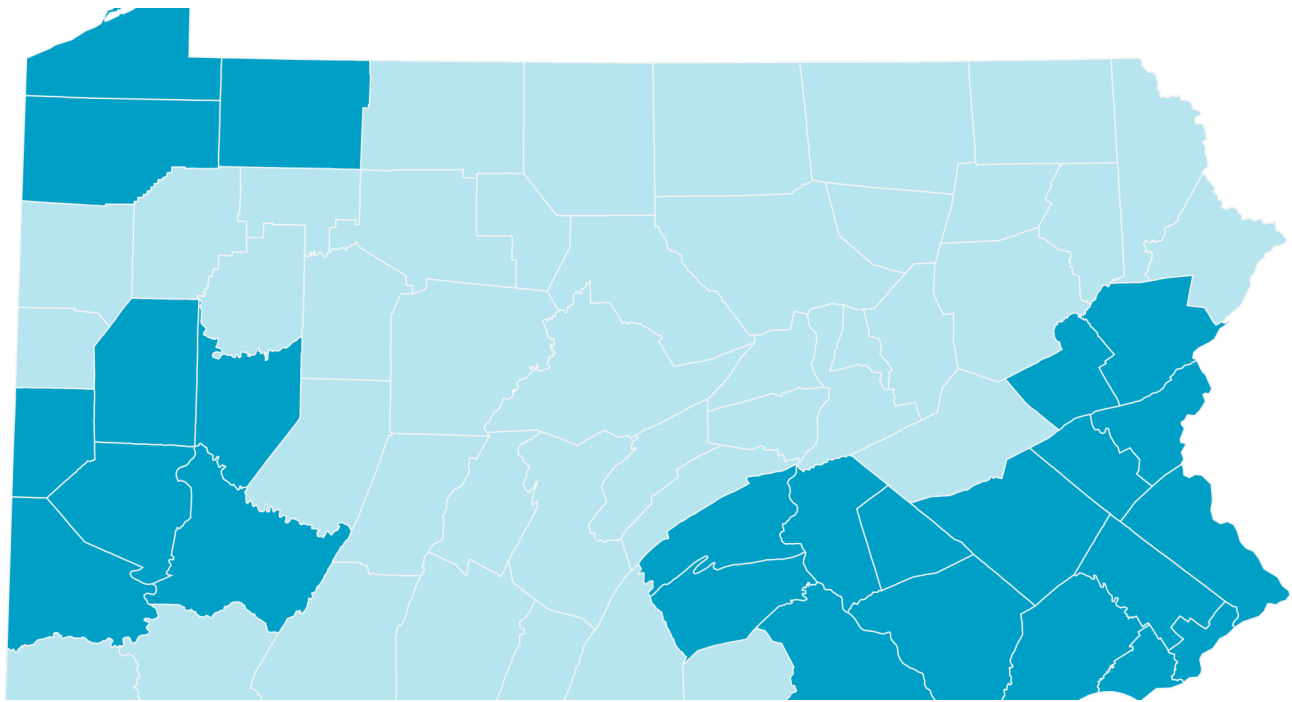
For four years, Yaritza Ramos was a stay-at-home mom and dedicated volunteer. As much as she enjoyed this stage in her life, she wanted to enter the workforce – but she wasn't sure where to start.

"I didn't know the first thing about writing a resume or how to interview for a job," she confessed.

She saw an ad for New Choices and learned there was a class starting the next week. Yaritza's English was limited, but the program staff assured her they would work through it together. "Taking the New Choices class was definitely a challenge and big step for me," Yaritza explained.

With each week, Yaritza's English got a little stronger, and she learned critical workforce skills. "I created a resume and cover letter. We were taught interviewing skills, how to answer questions, how to dress, what to expect, and we practiced," she said. On top of that, Yaritza learned budgeting strategies and how to better organize her finances.

Soon after graduating, with help from the New Choices team, Yaritza accepted a job at First Citizens Community Bank as a teller and recently became a home owner. "I have been at my job for more than six months now. I love my new career," she said.



COUNTIES SERVED BY NEW CHOICES/NEW OPTIONS:

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Counties Served:

Allegheny
Armstrong
Beaver
Berks
Bucks
Butler
Carbon
Chester
Crawford
Cumberland
Dauphin
Delaware
Erie
Lancaster
Lebanon
Lehigh
Monroe
Montgomery
Northampton
Perry
Philadelphia
Warren
Washington
Westmoreland
York