

CareerSource South Florida launches culinary training program



Image: Klaus Vedfelt

A new culinary training program has launched to support Miami-Dade County's growing restaurant sector.

KLAUS VEDFELT VIA GETTY IMAGES



By [Cortney Danielle Moore](#) – Reporter, South Florida Business Journal
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CareerSource South Florida has launched a Culinary & Catering Employment Training Program that aims to teach underprivileged Miamians essential job skills for the restaurant industry.

The Miami-based workforce development organization launched the program Sept. 6. Up to 45 participants will receive comprehensive hospitality training during an eight-week course, which includes 200 hours of culinary instruction and customer service coaching.

CareerSource partnered with the AGAPE Network, a local nonprofit rehabilitation center, and Miami Dade College to launch the program.

Lessons will be hosted in the kitchen facilities of the AGAPE Treatment Center in Allapattah, and taught by Miami Dade College faculty. Industry experts will also be brought in for the training.

Aside from hands-on experience, program participants will have opportunities to gain certifications from ServSafe, a food and drink handling academy, and the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute, a national hospitality school.

CareerSource estimates that at least 75% of the program participants will complete their training and gain employment that pays an average hourly wage of \$15, which equates to an initial net economic impact of \$892,500.

The organization projects that the cost to train each participant is about \$2,667 and the cost per job placement is about \$3,555.56. CareerSource says the culinary program's estimated return on investment is \$7.44 for every dollar spent.

“With the rapid expansion of Miami's culinary scene, it's vital that we invest in developing local talent,” CareerSource South Florida Executive Director Rick Beasley said. “This program represents a significant step toward equipping individuals with the skills they need to succeed in the hospitality industry while simultaneously addressing workforce demands.”

CareerSource launched the Culinary & Catering Employment Training Program to support Miami's growing hospitality industry and local humanitarian efforts. The agency found Miami-Dade County added 15,600 hospitality jobs between June and July.

The county is home to thousands of restaurants and more than 100 hotels. Analysts with the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau say the leisure and tourism industry has an [estimated \\$30 billion economic impact](#) on the county.

The restaurant sector has experienced significant growth and elevation in recent years. Sixty-six eateries have been added to the [Miami Michelin Guide](#) since its introduction in June 2022. Of the recognized restaurants, 14 have earned Michelin stars and 17 have earned Bib Gourmand honors.