

LIFTING FUTURES

OVERVIEW

Lifting Futures is the GE Aerospace Foundation's global workforce skills program, designed to support communities by expanding opportunities to work in the aviation and aerospace industry. The \$30M workforce program will train 10,000 skilled technicians by 2030.

FHI 360's team of education and workforce development experts co-designed the program with the GE Aerospace Foundation. In cities around the world, Lifting Futures convenes industry, education, and government leaders to build a strategy for strengthening the workforce development ecosystem in aerospace and aviation. The project then provides grants and technical assistance where it will have the greatest impact – reducing barriers to recruitment and training, expanding educational capacity, and strengthening rates of completion and job placement.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES TO CREATE WORK OPPORTUNITIES

The aerospace and aviation industries are growing rapidly, but the supply of workers skilled in advanced manufacturing and MRO has not kept up. Labor gaps widen as retirements accelerate and training opportunities remain limited. According to a GE



Aerospace | Morning Consult workforce survey, almost a third of industry workers cite adequate skills training as the biggest factor in their success. When communities make skill-building opportunities more accessible, affordable, and relevant, employers and job seekers can connect faster, boosting retention and long-term resilience. According to the same survey, 95% of workers say they would stay in manufacturing if they had the right skills.

Lifting Futures aims to achieve the following goals:

1. Train at least 10,000 workers for advanced manufacturing and MRO careers by 2030
2. Strengthen communities' capacity to sustain and expand workforce development for the aviation and aerospace industries
3. Generate and share new, actionable knowledge about how to close the workforce gap in aviation and aerospace.



LIFTING FUTURES COMMUNITIES

Five communities were selected for the 2026 round of Lifting Futures grants:

- Auburn, AL, USA
- Cincinnati-Dayton, OH, USA
- Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, USA
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Wrocław, Poland

Each of these locations has strong labor demand, a pipeline of potential new workers, and capable partner training institutions. An additional 5-7 communities will be selected for engagement in 2027.

"With Lifting Futures, the GE Aerospace Foundation is taking the next step to ensure a strong future for the aerospace industry and for the thousands of workers we need to meet growing demand."

- Christian Meisner, Chief Human Resources Officer, GE Aerospace



About FHI 360: FHI 360 is a global organization that mobilizes research, resources and relationships so people everywhere have access to the opportunities they need to lead full and healthy lives. With collaborations in over 60 countries, we work directly with local leaders to improve health and well-being, respond to humanitarian crises and strengthen community resilience. We share data-driven insights and scalable tools so communities can effectively address complex challenges, respond to shocks and achieve thriving futures.

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