



# Workforce Issuance

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**100 DCS 14.514**

☐ Policy ☒ Information

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**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs  
MassHire Workforce Board Directors  
MassHire Career Center Directors  
MassHire Fiscal Officers  
MassHire DCS Operations Managers

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

**From:** Diane Hurley, Acting Director  
MassHire Department of Career Services

**Date:** May 2, 2023

**Subject:** **The Impacts of Opioid Addiction on the Rural Workforce – WorkforceGPS Webinar**

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**Purpose:** To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other workforce partners of an upcoming WorkforceGPS webinar: The Impacts of Opioid Addiction on the Rural Workforce on Wednesday, May 31 from 2:00 – 3:30pm.

**Background:** According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, 45% of rural adults say they have been impacted by the opioid epidemic, and 74% of farmers and farmworkers have been directly affected. Rural communities encounter unique challenges when combating substance misuse in the community and the workplace. Rural areas typically have a high poverty rate, are sparsely located, and lack access to healthcare, mental health, and recovery services. To tackle opioid misuse, strong community partnerships, quality programs to connect people in recovery to employers, and supportive services are central to ensuring a productive and strong workforce and community.

An equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TDD/TTY 1-800-439-2370 - Voice 1-800-439-0183

This webinar brings together presenters from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and the First Tennessee Development District and its partners to provide resources, promising practices, and grant opportunities to rural workforce systems, employers, and business on supporting recovery efforts in the workplace.

WorkforceGPS is an online technical assistance website created to help build the capacity of America's public workforce investment system. Sponsored by the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, WorkforceGPS was developed specifically for workforce professionals, educators, and business leaders. WorkforceGPS is free but does require account registration.

**Action**

**Requested:** Please share with all managers, staff and partners as appropriate.

**Effective:** Immediately.