



# Workforce Issuance

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**100 DCS 14.515**

☐ 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 4, 2023

**Subject:** **Native Americans and the Opioid Epidemic – Finding Solutions in the 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: Native Americans and the Opioid Epidemic - Finding Solutions in the Workforce on Monday, May 8 from 2:00 – 3:30pm.

**Background:** According to the American Addiction Centers, Native Americans experience higher rates of substance abuse and overdose than most other ethnicities in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that opioid overdoses in Native communities increased by 9.7 percent from 2019 to 2020 alone. Historical trauma, poverty, discrimination, lack of access to treatment, and other factors contribute to the heightened risks and impact of opioid misuse among tribal populations.

This webinar will first provide an overview of opioid and substance misuse in

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

Native American communities, presented by Dr. Spero Manson (Little Shell Chippewa) from the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health. Following the overview, representatives from Cherokee Nation will share how the tribe leverages its workforce system and Department of Labor grants to promote recovery and reintegration.

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.