



Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 25.182

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
Title I Administrators
MassHire Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
MDCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: November 8, 2019

Subject: **New Funding Available: Call for Participation!**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other workforce partners of a funding opportunity released by the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration for the support to communities – fostering opioid recovery through workforce development grant programs.

Background: The Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act), which became Public Law 115-271 in October 2018, is a bipartisan effort to address the country's opioid and substance misuse epidemic. This law includes critical provisions to standardize the delivery of addiction medicine; expand access to high-quality, evidence-based care; and address the impacts of the epidemic by increasing and strengthening our workforce. Further, it directs the Department to carry out a pilot grant program to address the economic and workforce impacts associated with high rates of substance use disorders. The provisions of the law related to the pilot grant build upon the model previously established by

the Department's NHE Dislocated Worker Demonstration Grants and the NHE Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grants.

As authorized by the SUPPORT Act, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is announcing the availability of up to \$20 million in grant funds for the Support to Communities: Fostering Opioid Recovery through Workforce Development grant program to fund approximately 8 to 10 partnership grants, with awards ranging from \$500,000 to \$5 million. The Department may award additional grants depending on the availability of funds.

Period of performance is 48 months with anticipated start date of April 1, 2020.

The goals of these grants are to:

- Implement innovative approaches for addressing the economic and workforce-related impacts on local communities affected by the opioid and substance misuse epidemic;
- Engage employers as essential partners to address the impacts of substance and opioid misuse by playing an active role in the grant's program design and delivery, pioneering creative ways to support the skills attainment of existing or new employees, and connecting businesses with resources such as the Employer Resource Network to help workers retain their employment;
- Provide training and employment services and comprehensive screening services, including outpatient treatment recovery care and other supportive services, to individuals impacted by the crisis; and
- Deliver training and employment opportunities to encourage more individuals to enter professions that could address the crisis and/or provide relevant skills training that would help individuals enter career pathways and find and retain employment in in-demand occupations.

Eligible participants are:

1. Workers, including dislocated workers, individuals with barriers to employment, new entrants in the workforce, or incumbent workers (employed or underemployed), who are personally affected, defined as individuals who themselves or whose friends or family members have been impacted by substance use disorders and voluntarily disclose that they have or a friend or family member who has a history of opioid misuse or other substance use disorder; or
2. Workers, including dislocated workers, individuals with barriers to employment, new entrants in the workforce, or incumbent workers (employed or underemployed), who seek to transition to professions that support individuals with a substance use disorder and need new or upgraded skills to better serve struggling or at-risk individuals.

Applicants may propose skills training and support activities that enable participants to transition to productive careers in in-demand occupations for workers who are personally affected by the opioid and substance misuse crisis. Applicants may also propose skills training in recovery and health-related professions for workers seeking to transition or gain new or upgraded skills in professions that support people with or at risk of developing substance use disorders. Individuals personally affected by the opioid crisis may also participate in training activities in recovery and health-related occupations.

Service areas:

Given that the intent of this grant is to reach communities combatting problems associated with opioid and substance misuse, applicants must propose projects that will serve communities, regions, or local areas that have been significantly impacted by problems related to the opioid crisis or other substance use disorders.

Applicants must propose grant activities in service areas that demonstrate an increase in such problems equal to or greater than the national increase, between 1999 and the latest year for which data are available. In addition, applicants must demonstrate the significant impact of opioid and substance misuse on the community (or communities) within these service areas by providing relevant information identified in the scoring criteria, Section IV.B.3(a)(1) Service Area.

The applications will be reviewed by DOL and awarded points based on the following:

Criterion	Points (maximum)
1. Statement of Need (See Section IV.B.3.a) Statement of Need	12
2. Expected Outcomes, and Outputs (See Section IV.B.3.b) Expected Outcomes and Outputs	30
3. Project Design (See Section IV.B.3.c) Project Design	36
4. Organizational, Administrative, and Fiscal Capacity (See Section IV.B.3.d) Organizational, Administrative, and Fiscal Capacity	14
5. Past Performance – Programmatic Capability (See Section IV.B.3.e) Past Performance – Programmatic Capability	4
6. Budget and Budget Justification (See Section IV.B.3.f) Project Budget	4
TOTAL	100

Response Template:

MDCS is providing a response template to be used as a self-assessment to determine if this project is a fit for your local area and if you're in a current position to fulfill the requirements. Please respond to each section, at a high level, regarding how you are prepared to meet the requirements. Also indicate with a check mark under each section if your ability to address the requirement is 'strong/available/in place' or 'unknown/needs work' – this will allow for a guide the MDCS review team in determining the local workforce areas with the strongest need and readiness to develop a complete application (due Jan 9, 2020).

Two to three MassHire workforce areas with the strongest responses will be selected to develop a full application.

Action

Requested: Please reference the complete FOA to guide development of ideas.

MassHire Workforce Boards who are interested in being considered for this state application must complete the Fostering Opioid Recovery through Workforce Development Response Template by COB Wednesday, 11/27/19.

Inquiries: For additional information, contact Leslie Seifried at leslie.seifried@detma.org. Please reference the title and number of this Issuance in your email.

Attachment: A. FOA-ETA-20-01
B. Fostering Opioid Recovery through Workforce Development Response Template