Supporting Maryland’s COVID-19 Dislocated Workers

Counties of Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot

Project Summary (Need)

The Upper Shore economy is dependent upon face to face human interaction that has been limited in response to COVID-19 mitigation actions. Twenty-four percent of its workers are employed in retail and food service. This pandemic has targeted non-essential retail, restaurants and bars limiting gathering sizes (fewer than 10) thus adversely impacting the economic engine of the Upper Shore region. The personal service sector has also been impacted: home health, hair salons, nail salons, with many of its workers being private contractors or self-employed, thus dependent upon customers to make a living.

Employment Recovery Activities

The project proposes to provide eligible individuals with reemployment services, focusing on apprenticeships, entrepreneurial training, and skilled trades. The Upper Shore WIB will aid self-employed workers who wish to acquire new skills and who wish to stay self-employed and see the benefit in participating in entrepreneurial and business fundamentals training. The project will also provide very much needed supportive services.

Eligible Participants

Workers laid off due to quarantine orders or business closures related to disruptions caused by the outbreak are eligible participants. Also eligible are workers unable to go to their regular workplace due to social distancing requirements, as well as those missing work to care for a family member.

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