Economic Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant

North Carolina



Period of Performance	Approved Amount
05/01/23 - 05/31/25	\$7,509,459*
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Planned Participants	Target Population
885	Dislocated Workers
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*The grant approval threshold may not represent the current obligation of funds.



North Canton Paper Mill Closure

Grant Number: 23A60DW000006-01-00

Counties to be served are: Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Swain, and Transvlvania



Economic Transition Factors

The layoffs resulting from the closure of Pactiv Evergreen's Canton Paper Mill. The company is the largest employer in the area, therefore its closure will have dire repercussions in this rural area.



Proposal Summary

The North Carolina application for DWG funding plans to serve approximately 885 of the 1100 affected workers by the closures. The area affected is very rural and does not have public transportation. The Pactiv Evergreen Canton Paper Mill is a century-old paper mill where up to four generations in that region have worked. In addition to the paper mill workers being affected by the closure, there is a host of other businesses being affected, such as grocery stores, restaurants, healthcare providers and other local small businesses.



Proposed Outcome

The local Rapid Response team, which included the Southwestern Workforce Development Board, Haywood Community College, and NCWorks Career Center, all collaborated to provide for resources and materials. Mobile units will be purchased and deployed to provide career services to individuals in the program. Participants will be provided the employment and training services needed to find jobs that provide livable wages.



Sectors of Focus

The sectors of focus were manufacturing production, maintenance/engineering and product service distribution. The local areas' economic developers will have to seek manufacturing companies to move to the area or the dislocated workers will need to train in other high-demand industries in the area.