The goal of the WORC grants is to create economic prosperity and gainful employment opportunities for eligible residents in impacted ARC and DRA regions, enabling them to remain and thrive in these communities.

Working with Independence (WIN) will provide eligible participants pre-employment training and a range of wraparound support services through a three-phase process. Integral to the success of this project is helping those impacted by substance use disorder (SUD). WIN will work with program employers to design training for them to develop standards and processes to create an SUD recovery-friendly workplace and to train peer coaches to assist with workplace mentoring programs. The project also intends to serve local minority communities, especially the growing Hispanic population. And last, the project intends to increase revenue (taxes) to counties/towns because of employment obtained by participants, increase employer investment in workforce development planning, decrease employee turnover – especially related to SUD, increase the talent pipeline, and increase economic development through a skilled workforce.