

# Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities Summaries for Active Grants Round 6

## Angelic Ministries International

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Angelic Ministries
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Justice Employed Program
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>Angelic Ministries will implement the Justice Employed Program which seeks to create economic transformation in the East Tennessee region, specifically the Knoxville area (WORC region: Appalachian), by partnering with training providers to offer formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals recovering from substance use disorders job training and employment opportunities in trades, renewable energy, healthcare, and agriculture. Justice Employed aligns with the Appalachian Regional Commission Tennessee Investment goal of Building Appalachia’s Workforce Ecosystem by expanding the community ecosystem of the Knox County region and helping Appalachians obtain a job, stay on the job, and advance along a financially sustaining career pathway. Participants in eligible training Programs will receive industry-recognized credentials. Importantly, our Program will provide comprehensive wrap-around services focusing on the social determinants of health factors and resiliency services that are necessary to break the cycle of poverty and ensure that participants are successful in the program. The project is founded around strong collaborative partnerships between several key public, private, and non-profit partners including East Tennessee Human Resource Agency, Signature Healthcare, Knox County, Family Scholar House, Align9, Hand Up for Women, Small Business Administration, anu, and more.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Skilled trades, healthcare, and sustainable agriculture
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	150
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	Of the 150 participants, 60 will receive training in skill trades, 60 will receive training in healthcare (nursing or peer recovery), and 30 will receive training in sustainable agriculture (controlled environment agriculture farming)
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,499,500
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	East Tennessee region, specifically the Knoxville area
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals recovering from substance use disorders

## Appalachian State University

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Appalachian State University
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Rural Equity for Special Education (RESE): Developing and Supporting Career Pathways in Special Education in Rural Appalachia
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>Appalachian State University will partner with local county school districts and workforce development organizations to address special education workforce challenges through a coordinated set of evidence-based interventions. Appalachian State University aims to create multiple access points for individuals to enter the special education workforce with opportunities for training, sustainable employment, competitive wages, career advancement, and knowledgeable administrators able to support their development. The project includes several priorities (1) paraprofessional training, (2) a residency program for those wanting to gain teacher certification, (3) in-service teacher opportunities for career advancement through professional development and certificate programs, (4) administrator training in special education to improve working conditions, and (5) wrap-around supports including mentoring, coaching, and financial assistance to eliminate barriers.</p> <p>Appalachian State University will collaborate with three school districts in rural Appalachia (Watauga, Caldwell, and Catawba Counties), the High Country Workforce, myFutureNC, and community partner, Watauga Opportunities to increase the number of trained special education workforce professionals and provide opportunities for individuals to advance in their careers.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Education (Special Education Workforce)
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	138
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	102
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,439,444
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Watauga County, Caldwell County, and Catawba County in North Carolina
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Incumbent workers

## Arkansas Rural Health Partnership

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Arkansas Rural Health Partnership
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	The Rural Health Launch Pad: Frontline Healthcare Training Program
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>The Arkansas Rural Health Partnership will partner with the Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District, rural hospitals, and federally qualified health centers to effectively train and employ at least 54 Arkansas Delta residents in good jobs within the frontline healthcare sector. The project will support the launch of the first two training programs (medical assistant &amp; patient care technician) within the state-recognized career training center (Arkansas Rural Health Academy). Arkansas Delta residents from the 20-county service area will directly benefit from access to new, relevant frontline healthcare training programs available within their local community, as well as accompanying support to ensure successful completion and placement with local healthcare organizations spanning the region. Participants will receive financial support (covering the cost of training) and a laptop, as well as student and career placement coaching. Individuals will be cross-trained in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and as Community Health Workers (CHW), which will make them attractive to employers and well prepared to respond to the complex health and health- social needs of patients throughout the service area.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Healthcare Sector, specifically: 1) Medical Assistants and 2) Patient Care Technicians
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	60
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	54
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,200,000
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	The (predominantly south) Arkansas Delta service area includes 20 counties (Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Chicot, Cleveland, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Grant, Independence, Jefferson, Lee, Lincoln, Lonoke, Monroe, Ouachita, Phillips, St. Francis & Union)
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New entrants to the workforce and dislocated workers

## Catalyst Connection

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Catalyst Connection
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Forging Your Future
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>Catalyst Connection, the non-profit Manufacturing Extension Partnership affiliate for southwestern Pennsylvania, seeks to address the acute shortage of skilled labor needed for the burgeoning advanced manufacturing sector in the 12-county area of greater Pittsburgh and the southwestern Pennsylvania region. Catalyst Connection will address this challenge by expanding proven pre-apprenticeship training programs for high school students, leading into paid apprenticeships at manufacturing companies, which will create new, family wage, high-skills career pathways while boosting the manufacturing potential of this coal-impacted region.</p> <p>The “Forging Your Future” initiative will train and guide 300 pre-apprentices, 60 apprentices, and incumbent workers into expanded manufacturing career pathways. These earn-and-learn programs will focus on the key emerging manufacturing sectors. Key activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with high schools, students, community colleges, training providers, and manufacturing companies to use “Industrial Maintenance Technician” pre-apprenticeships for 300 trainees and 60 full apprenticeships for 60 employees.</li> <li>• Provide wrap-around and support service counseling for apprentices and pre-apprentices including tuition &amp; training stipends, tool &amp; uniform stipends, and support for transportation, day care &amp; other work needs.</li> <li>• Recruiting 50+ new manufacturers to employ these trainees and supporting those companies in becoming “Employers of Choice” for workers.</li> <li>• Working with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission on a regional strategy to coordinate key organizations to drive use of apprenticeships to higher and more effective levels.</li> </ul>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Clean energy; digital Industry 4.0 technologies in robotics, automation and machine learning; the defense supply chain; and other advanced manufacturing occupations
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	300
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	210
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,500,000

<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	The Southwestern Pennsylvania region made up of the following counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Cambria, Green, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New workforce entrants; High schoolers

## Center On Rural Innovation Inc

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Center on Rural Innovation
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Enhancing Rural Workforce Capacity Through Tech-Driven Development
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>The Center on Rural Innovation (CORI) will implement the project titled "<i>Enhancing Rural Workforce Capacity Through Tech-Driven Development</i>". This initiative aims to address technology talent gaps in three communities: two in the Appalachian Regional Commission: Portsmouth, OH and Chambers County, AL, and one in the Northern Border Regional Commission: Springfield, VT. The project, designed to meet local workforce needs and economic disparities, includes local employer engagement, participant training, support, and employment. Focusing on the tech sector (specifically computer networking and cybersecurity), it features a paid training, internship, and employment placement program. This includes a self-paced online Cisco Networking and Cybersecurity Academy certificate training and a paid internship and job placement. These job roles are critical in today's digital economy and are in high demand across various industries, including healthcare, finance, manufacturing, and government services. Participants will be prepared to take the CompTIA Network+ or CompTIA Security+ certification, which is ideal for those entering or transitioning within the IT sector. Post-internship, participants will secure tech employment across diverse industries.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Cybersecurity, Networking in Tech Industry
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	30
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	19
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,499,998
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Chambers County, Alabama; Portsmouth, Ohio; Springfield, Vermont
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New entrants to the workforce; Incumbent workers; Displaced Workers

## Community Concepts, Incorporated

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Community Concepts, Incorporated
<b>WORC Region</b>	Northern Border Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Early Childhood Registered Apprenticeship Program - Maine's Franklin and Oxford Counties
<b>Brief Summary</b>	Community Concepts, Inc. (CCI) will establish and implement an Early Childhood Registered Apprenticeship Program to address the Early Childhood Education sector's employment and training needs in Maine's Oxford and Franklin Counties. The program will offer hands-on learning and professional experience for individuals with low-income interested in joining or furthering their education in the Early Childhood Education field. Program participants will engage in one of three pathways leading to either the completion of a State or nationally recognized credential in the Early Childhood Education field or completing coursework towards an Early Childhood Education degree, with the ultimate goal of employment within the field in Maine's Oxford or Franklin Counties.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Early Childhood Education Sector; Ed. Techs, Teachers, and Substitute Teachers.
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	30
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	30
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,182,360
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Maine's Oxford and Franklin Counties
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New entrants to the workforce, dislocated workers, and incumbent workers

## Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri (CPSEMO)
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Cape Girardeau YouthBuild Construction Plus Information Technology (CGYB C+ IT) Program
<b>Brief Summary</b>	Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri (CPSEMO) will implement the <i>Cape Girardeau YouthBuild Construction Plus Information Technology (CGYB C+ IT)</i> project to address significant workforce development challenges in the Southeast Missouri region, specifically targeting Cape Girardeau, Perry, Bollinger, and Scott counties. This initiative focuses on providing training and employment opportunities in the Information Technology (IT) sector, with a specialized emphasis on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and drone technology. The project will train participants for pre-apprenticeships and registered apprenticeships as GIS Technicians, GIS Analyst/Specialists, drone pilots, and drone technicians.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Information Technology (IT) with a focus on GIS and drone technology
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	75
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	60
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,438,344
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Cape Girardeau, Perry, Bollinger, and Scott counties in Southeast Missouri
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Disadvantaged youth, including veterans, individuals with disabilities, and justice-involved youth

## Delta Health Alliance, Inc.

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Delta Health Alliance, Inc. (DHA)
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	The Delta Healthcare Careers Collaborative (DHCC)
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>The Delta Healthcare Careers Collaborative (DHCC) represents a coalition of Employer/Industry Representatives, a Local Workforce Development Board, the Regional Economic Development Council, and Mississippi's largest non-profit, community-based organization - Delta Health Alliance, united by this effort to support gainful careers and long-term economic growth in rural communities of the Mississippi Delta. The coalition seeks to 1) Promote the availability of good jobs in the field of allied healthcare; 2) Prioritize equity and career advancement; 3) Sustain economic transformation in rural, impoverished communities; 4) Increase access to family-sustaining wages and benefits; 5) Provide support services to participants and employers including childcare, transportation, healthcare and financial aid; and 6) Make meaningful gains in the placement and availability of qualified healthcare workers in rural, medically underserved communities of the Mississippi Delta.</p> <p>Highly trained Career Navigators, recruited directly from the communities served, will work with rural participants to assess their career goals and needs, then develop a customized Action Plan for achieving their career and economic objectives. Participants will receive assistance with enrollment in training programs, assistance with financial aid applications, access to professional development and financial literacy classes, opportunities for internships and apprenticeships, job placement support, linkages and follow-up for supportive services, and access to family support services that can support long-term career success.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Allied Healthcare
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	210
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	180
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,499,999
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Twelve rural, high poverty counties in the Delta Regional Authority in Mississippi including Bolivar, Coahoma, Grenada, Leflore, Panola, Quitman, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Washington, and Yalobusha
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Dislocated workers, incumbent workers, and new workforce entrants

## Electrical Training Alliance

<b>Grantee Name</b>	electrical training ALLIANCE
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Workforce Development in the Mississippi Delta
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>In collaboration with the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), 5 Joint Apprentice Training Centers (JATCs) in the Delta region, and local industry, educational, and community partners, the <i>ALLIANCE</i> will create economic mobility, address historic inequities, and produce high-quality employment outcomes for 716 new and incumbent electrical trade workers in four states in the Mississippi Delta. To provide new pathways to good jobs that sustain and nourish local communities, the <i>ALLIANCE</i> will implement a comprehensive, three-pronged strategy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The <i>ALLIANCE</i> will provide supportive services to 332 first-year apprentices at all participating JATCs. One-time childcare stipends will be distributed to all qualifying first-year apprentices, after their dependent status is verified. Each first-year electrical apprentice with children age 12 and under will receive an annual stipend of \$6,726. The program will also cover the costs of books, online fees, boots, and tool belts for 332 first-year students, eliminating a further barrier to entry for them.</li> <li>2. The project entails developing, testing, and implementing a VR module on commissioning and deploying clean energy systems, such as solar, wind, and geothermal technologies. Beginning in Year 2 of the project, 655 apprentices at five JATC partner locations (Monroe, LA; Baton Rouge, LA; New Orleans, LA; Gulfport, MS; and Little Rock, AR) will have access to VR headsets and the new VR module.</li> <li>3. This grant will enable the <i>ALLIANCE</i> to send 10 JATC employees and committee members to the annual National Training Institute (NTI) conference each year of the grant, starting in 2025.</li> </ol> <p>Partnerships across sectors, including in education, industry, and local nonprofits, further enrich the project's impact, ensuring a robust pipeline of prospective apprentices and guaranteed industry jobs for graduates.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Electricians
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	655
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	655
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,499,993

<p><b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b></p>	<p>Arkansas, Ascension, Assumption, Caldwell, Caddo, Clark, Cleburne, Cleveland, Conway, Dallas, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Faulkner, Forrest, Franklin, Fulton, George, Garland, Grant, Greene, Hancock, Harris, Hot Spring, Iberville, IZARD, Jackson, Jackson, Jefferson, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafourche, Lamar, Lincoln, Lincoln, Livingston, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Morehouse, Ouachita, Pearl River, Perry, Perry, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Polk, Prairie, Pulaski, Richland, St Bernard, St Charles, St Helena, St James, St Landry, Saline, Shelby, Stone, Stone, Tensas, Terrebonne, Union, Van Buren, West Baton Rouge, West Carroll, West Feliciana, White, Woodruff</p>
<p><b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b></p>	<p>New workforce entrants, incumbent workers</p>

## EO Companies

<b>Grantee Name</b>	EO Companies
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Project HEALTH
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>Project HEALTH aims to create a robust pathway to healthcare careers for high school students in Southwest Virginia. By integrating career exploration, relevant training, barrier removal resources, and employment opportunities, the project seeks to address the critical need for healthcare professionals in the region. This initiative will be led by EO, an organization with a long history of improving the quality of life in Southwest Virginia.</p> <p>Project HEALTH will develop comprehensive healthcare career mapping. A working group will be convened, including key stakeholders such as Ballad Health, Buchanan General Hospital, Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, other local post-secondary education providers, and the Virginia Employment Commission. This group will work collaboratively to draft an initial career map that clearly connects job opportunities paying more than \$15 per hour with the required certifications and training. The career map will also include local providers of training from job shadowing, internships, dual enrollment, and apprenticeship opportunities. The project will address barriers to participation by identifying and compiling resources that support students. This includes transportation assistance, childcare, and financial aid.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Healthcare
<b>Total participants enrolled</b>	300
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	175
<b>Funding level requested</b>	\$1,500,000
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, and Wise Counties in Virginia
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	High school students and recent graduates from historically marginalized communities, including low-income, rural, and SUD-affected students

## Floor Covering Education Foundation

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Floor Covering Education Foundation
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	FLOOR-Delta (Facilitating Learning Opportunities for Occupational Readiness in the Lower Mississippi Delta Flooring Sector)
<b>Brief Summary</b>	The Floor Covering Education Foundation (FCEF), housed under the umbrella of the World Floor Covering Association (WFCA), was established in 2020 to address the critical shortage of skilled flooring installers. Its focus is to bring awareness to the career pathway of flooring installation, recruit talent, scholarship, and place professionals in installation roles across North America. A primary factor leading to the lack of qualified flooring installers is the absence of structured training programs. Building their success with similar projects in Georgia and Alabama, the FCEF proposes the Facilitating Learning Opportunities for Occupational Readiness in the Lower Mississippi Delta Flooring Sector (FLOOR-Delta) project. FLOOR-Delta will establish flooring sector partnerships and training programs in the Lower Mississippi Delta (states of Missouri and Mississippi) that prioritize equity, align with regional priorities, and support long-term economic prosperity. The FCEF has secured numerous regional and national partners, all expressing support and a need for the project, including industry partners, employers, workforce agencies, community and economic development organizations, and training providers.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Flooring industry, specifically for the occupation of floor installer
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	116
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	74
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,499,700
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Missouri counties: Butler, Carter, Ripley, and Wayne (Three Rivers College) Mississippi counties: Jefferson Davis and Marion (Pearl River Community College)
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Individuals who are unemployed and underemployed in low-wage jobs that lack sustainability and career advancement opportunities

## GradUS Project

<b>Grantee Name</b>	GradUS Project
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Project E.A.T. – Establishing Memphis’ Food Manufacturing Training Hub
<b>Brief Summary</b>	Project E.A.T. aims to address the workforce demands of Memphis' growing food manufacturing industry by establishing a Food Manufacturing Training Hub. This initiative targets dislocated or unemployed workers, particularly domestic violence (DV) survivors, providing them with comprehensive training and support to secure stable, well-paying jobs. The project builds on previous successful initiatives by offering paid transitional employment, technical skills training, and continuous support from success coaches. The training is aligned with local employer needs, ensuring participants gain relevant skills for high-demand roles in the food manufacturing sector. Additionally, the program includes certifications like OSHA 10 and ServSafe, enhancing participants' employability and ensuring they are well-prepared for the job market.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Food Manufacturing Cluster, including the following NAICS industries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 311340 Nonchocolate Confectionery Manufacturing</li> <li>• 311612 Meat Processed from Carcasses</li> <li>• 311941 Mayonnaise, Dressing, and Other Prepared Sauce Manufacturing</li> <li>• 311511 Fluid Milk Manufacturing</li> <li>• 312120 Breweries</li> <li>• 311811 Retail Bakeries</li> <li>• 311999 All Other Miscellaneous Food Manufacturing</li> <li>• 911520 Ice Cream and Frozen Dessert Manufacturing</li> <li>• 312230 Tobacco Manufacturing</li> <li>• 311919 Other Snack Food Manufacturing</li> </ul>
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	75
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	60
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,134,709
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Memphis, TN
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New Entrants, Incumbent Workers

## Green Building Alliance

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Green Building Alliance
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Green Pathways Initiative
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>Non-profit Green Building Alliance (GBA) seeks \$1.48 million in DOL WORC grant funding for the Green Pathways Initiative to expand sustainable and high-performance workforce development initiatives aimed at addressing critical green building employment needs in rural Appalachian communities. With WORC funding, GBA will work with regional and local partners to expand the following programs into six rural counties.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Expansion of Green Building Curriculum:</b> GBA will partner to expand and supplement green building trade curriculum to reflect the growing demand for green building and sustainability skills emerging in Southwestern PA.</li> <li><b>2. Upskilling and Scaling of GBA Stackable Credential Trainings:</b> GBA will expand training into six disadvantaged and rural counties of Southwestern Pennsylvania to offer GPRO and LEED upskilling.</li> <li><b>3. Career Exploration for Rural Students:</b> GBA and partners seek to conduct career events, fairs, and training for high school students looking to enter into the clean energy workforce.</li> </ol>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Energy efficiency, clean energy, and sustainable construction
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	800
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	100
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,488,707
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Allegheny, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties in Pennsylvania
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Dislocated workers, incumbent workers, new workforce entrants

## Kentucky Horticulture Council, Inc.

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Kentucky Horticulture Council, Inc.
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	KY GreenWorks
<b>Brief Summary</b>	The KY GreenWorks project team includes industry employers, professional member organizations, governmental agencies, technical service providers, and education partners, collaborating to develop and execute a strong and impactful workforce development project that addresses known labor issues across Kentucky's green and AgriTech industries. The green industry cluster is a major economic driver in the state and includes golf courses, athletic fields, managed landscapes (municipal, commercial, and residential), sod farms, and production nurseries as well as lawn and garden retail stores and ag tech manufacturers. AgriTech includes controlled environment agriculture (CEA) production of ornamental and food crops in greenhouses, high tunnels, and other structures. Primary barriers to expansion are a shortage of quality labor, capacity to conduct training, industry competition, and high investment cost for new technologies. Project activities that will connect and prepare workers for job opportunities in the green industry include a multi-sector industry evaluation, apprenticeship and internship workforce training programs, and an industry cluster employer training and support program. Program participant support through paid registration fees and travel stipends will reduce barriers to workers seeking job opportunities.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Green and AgriTech
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	150
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	150
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,466,398
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	The following 54 Kentucky counties are included in the project area: Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Elliott, Estill, Fleming, Floyd, Garrard, Green, Greenup, Harlan, Hart, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Lincoln, McCreary, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Robertson, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley and Wolfe.
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Unemployed and underemployed residents, including youth and others entering or reentering the workforce

## Kentucky Rural Health Information Technology Network, Inc.

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Kentucky Rural Health Information Technology Network d/b/a/ Horizon Health
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Horizon's Empowering Futures Program
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>The Empowering Futures Program is a comprehensive workforce development initiative aimed at providing targeted job training and support services to individuals in Southeast Kentucky. This job training program will provide training and certification in three areas identified by local employers and program partners as having a high unmet need including childcare, healthcare coordination and office administration. The program will provide participants with basic and higher technical skills, knowledge, and support needed to overcome these barriers and secure high-paying sustainable jobs as care coordinators for positions in the healthcare industry, childcare workers to staff daycare facilities in support of working families and administrative workers by providing training in office software applications such as Microsoft Office, QuickBooks.</p> <p>The Empowering Futures Program employs a range of strategies and activities to achieve its goals, focusing on comprehensive job readiness, hands-on experience, continuous support, equitable access to resources, and data-driven improvement. These strategies are designed to remove barriers, meet the needs of participants, local businesses, and the broader community in Southeast Kentucky. By leveraging partnerships with local employers, educational institutions, and community organizations, the program seeks to address the critical skills gap and enhance economic stability in the region.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Healthcare, Childcare, Office Administration
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	540
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	432
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,260,235
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Bell, Clay, Knox, Laurel, and Bell counties in southeast Kentucky
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New entrants into the workforce, dislocated workers, incumbent workers

## Maine Community College System

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Maine Community College System
<b>WORC Region</b>	Northern Border Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Remote Work for Maine
<b>Brief Summary</b>	The Maine Community College System's (MCCS) proposed project, "Remote Work for Maine" will address workforce shortages and economic disparities in Maine's Washington County, Lewiston Auburn area, and Oxford County by training individuals for remote positions in virtual assisting, medical coding, and financial management. This initiative will be conducted over a three-year period, engaging college partners Washington County Community College (WCCC) and Central Maine Community College (CMCC). The training will equip 375 participants with the necessary skills for remote work, with an expected 70% employment rate for completers post-training. The project will support the healthcare, IT, and financial service sectors, collaborating with employers like Northern Light Healthcare, L.L. Bean, and KeyBank to ensure job placement opportunities.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Information Technology (Virtual Assisting), Healthcare (Medical Coding), and Financial Services (Financial Management)
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	375
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	279
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,237,568
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Washington County (including Calais, Pembroke, Dennysville, Passamaquoddy, Woodland, Alexander, and Crawford), Androscoggin County (Lewiston and Auburn), and Oxford County in Maine
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Unemployed and underemployed adults aged 18-65

## Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital
<b>WORC Region</b>	Northern Border Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Rural Health Careers Program -WORC Project
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>The project brings together a network of employers, state agencies, community organizations and educators to expand best practice training strategies to dismantle access-related barriers. The project aims to recruit and upskill people who have employment barriers, skill gaps, or are members of micro- populations that face higher unemployment rates, and to help the existing healthcare workforce gain education and skills to advance into more skilled and higher paying roles. Supporting the current healthcare workforce drives retention and stability in the region’s capacity to provide access to high quality healthcare services.</p> <p>The project’s strategy is founded on fully engaging in the contributions and potential of our communities, based on a proven 3-pronged strategy. <b>1) In-Roads:</b> remove access, skill and capacity barriers to training, education and employment through outreach, career navigation, readiness resources, expanding virtual access, and financial support; and prepare faculty to teach programs for target occupations. <b>2) Up-Roads:</b> promote skill, credential and career advancement for the incumbent healthcare workforce through career navigation and financial support. <b>3) Out-Road Prevention:</b> sustain full-time benefited employment during education or training activities to support completion of training activities and retention in jobs.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	<p>Industry: Healthcare</p> <p>Occupations: Physical and Occupational Therapist Assistants; Licensed Nurse Assistant; Home Health and Personal Care Aide; Medical Assistant; Respiratory Therapist; Dental Assistants; Phlebotomist; Registered Nurse; Surgical Technologist; Licensed Practical Nurse; Medical Equipment Preparer; Pharmacy Technician; Substance Abuse, Behavioral &amp; Mental Health, Medical Lab Technician</p>
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	300
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	250
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,267,392
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	New Hampshire: Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan Counties

	Vermont: Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor Counties
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	People who are under & unemployed

## Muskingum University

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Muskingum University
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Expanding Rural Integrated Healthcare Pathways in Appalachian Ohio (E-RIHP-AO)
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>The project will expand healthcare credentials to meet the needs of underserved populations and provide a solution to two major issues impacting the twenty-one-county service area: poor health outcomes and disparities paired with a critical shortage of healthcare professionals. The project's collaboration of stakeholders from education, economic development, and the healthcare industry to create economic prosperity and gainful employment opportunities.</p> <p>A consortium approach was deployed in the development of the project model and will be sustained throughout the project implementation and beyond the funding period. By leveraging both the resources and the best work among consortium members, increasing coordination with workforce development agencies, and deepening engagement with industry partners, the proposed program will build accelerated learning pathways that allow multiple entry and exit points for participants leading to higher wages and quality of life. The project also increases the engagement of employers who have committed to hiring the program completers and graduates.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Healthcare
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	400
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	300
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,499,641
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Adams, Athens, Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Scioto, Tuscarawas, Vinton, and Washington Counties in Ohio
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New Entrants, primarily recent high school graduates, Dislocated Workers from the area's energy extraction and other industries, and Incumbent Workers requiring upskill opportunities

## NextOp Inc.

<b>Grantee Name</b>	NextOp, Inc.
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	NextOp's Training-to-Career Pipelines for Transitioning Service Members and Veterans
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>NextOp is committed to developing and implementing programs that help combat economic barriers experienced by the military/veteran (MIL/VET) population while also meeting the talent needs of local and regional employers. Since 2014, NextOp's innovative MIL/VET workforce development program has placed 4,500 veterans in family-sustaining careers featuring salaries of \$66,000 or more. On average, NextOp has placed these individuals into jobs in 40 days and has expanded programming and services across the Southeast part of the U.S. with the assistance of federal, state, and private contributions. In partnership with local and regional stakeholders, NextOp will build on this proven model in DRA's Kentucky and Tennessee footprint by implementing an expansion project in four key phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Outreach, Recruitment, and Wraparound Support Services:</b> Targeting MIL/VETs through extensive outreach and offering tailored support services to aid transition.</li> <li><b>2. Career Assessment, Training, and Job Placement:</b> Providing individualized career assessment, preparatory training, and job placement assistance.</li> <li><b>3. Employer Support Services:</b> Offering customized support to ease the integration of MIL/VET workers into civilian roles.</li> <li><b>4. Program Evaluation:</b> Utilizing a Salesforce CRM system to track and measure outcomes, ensuring effective program delivery and continuous improvement.</li> </ol>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Construction, Healthcare, and Transportation & Logistics
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	700
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	280
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,499,891
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	<p>West Kentucky (21 counties): Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Todd, Trigg, Union, and Webster</p> <p>West Tennessee (21 counties): Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood,</p>

	Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, and Weakley
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New entrants to the workforce, Dislocated workers, and Incumbent workers

## Northern Forest Center Inc.

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Northern Forest Center
<b>WORC Region</b>	Northern Border Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Develop and Sustain Pathways to Outdoor Recreation and Forest-based jobs in the Moosehead-Katahdin Region
<b>Brief Summary</b>	The project supports the Outdoor Recreation and Forest Products sectors and targets new workforce entrants from 4 high schools across 4 districts and one postsecondary institution. The project will build new and constructive points of intersection between youth, K-16 schools, employers, and community/ economic development partners in the Moosehead-Katahdin Region. The proposed work will connect employers to share workforce development needs and build understanding of Good Jobs and the related needs of new entrants into the workforce; create Extended Learning Opportunities to expose area youth to good local employment opportunities and build educational aspirations; and define and activate K-16 career pathways to employment in outdoor recreation and forest product industry jobs.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Outdoor Recreation and Forest Products
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	150
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	75
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,262,512
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	<p>Maine, specifically:</p> <p>Greenville School District: Serving Greenville and Shirley, and 10 unorganized territories</p> <p>Piscataquis Community Secondary School: Serving Guilford, Sangerville, Abbot, Cambridge, Parkman and Wellington</p> <p>Millinocket School District: Serving Millinocket</p> <p>Katahdin Schools: Serving Stacyville, Sherman, Patten, and Mount Chase, as well as multiple unorganized territories including Moro Plantation and Hersey</p> <p>Katahdin Higher Education Center: Serving the towns of Millinocket, Medway, Patten, Staceyville, Mount Chase, Sherman, Island Falls and surrounding unorganized territories</p>

<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Youth aged 14-18 and new workforce entrants
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## Pennsylvania State University

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Pennsylvania State University Hershey Medical Center
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Supporting Apprenticeship Pathways in Rural Pennsylvania
<b>Brief Summary</b>	PA AHEC will utilize this funding mechanism to grow and support the workforce of community health workers (CHWs) to address the needs of rural and underserved communities in the Appalachian region. We will enhance our support of apprentice employers who often face financial barriers to hiring CHWs by providing on-the-job training reimbursement for apprentices who often face financial barriers to hiring CHWs. PA AHEC will also support the continuation of the CHW Continuing Education series in partnership with Project ECHO, a tele-mentoring service providing education and case-based discussion and led by experts in the field. In Year 3 PA AHEC will utilize this funding mechanism to continue to sustain the apprenticeship program by providing funding to cover tuition, fees, stipends, and OJT wages to enrolled CHW apprentices. In total, PA AHEC will enroll 56 new CHWs into our Registered Apprenticeship Program and provide continuing education for at least 100 current CHWs per session across the commonwealth. PA AHEC will provide training for CHW Supervisors to enhance their skills and better equip them as mentors to their apprentice trainees. PA AHEC will utilize current database resources and evaluations to ensure program compliance and satisfaction.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Care Economy, Healthcare, and Community Health Workers
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	56
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	40
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,499,928
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bradford, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Elk, Erie , Fayette, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon , Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Westmoreland, and Wyoming Counties in Pennsylvania
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Incumbent workers, dislocated workers, and new workforce entrants

## Reid State Technical College

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Reid State Technical College
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Engage Empower and Employ (E3) WORC Initiative in Alabama's Delta Region
<b>Brief Summary</b>	Reid State Technical College proposes the "Engage Empower and Employ WORC Initiative in Alabama's Delta Region" to address the critical workforce development needs in Butler, Conecuh, Escambia, Monroe, and Wilcox Counties. The project aims to provide targeted skill development programs in construction and transportation, addressing regional employment challenges and skill gaps. The initiative will focus on training 150 participants, aiming for an 80% employment rate post-training within six months. The project will foster partnerships with local businesses, and offer comprehensive participant support services, including tuition assistance, stipends, career counseling and job placement assistance. This comprehensive workforce development initiative will significantly enhance the economic stability and growth of the project service area by equipping residents with the necessary skills to secure stable, well-paying jobs in high-demand industries.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Construction and Transportation
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	150
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	120
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,500,000
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Butler, Conecuh, Escambia, Monroe, and Wilcox Counties in Alabama
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Dislocated workers, incumbent workers, and new workforce entrants

## Rutland Regional Planning Commission

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Rutland Regional Planning Commission
<b>WORC Region</b>	Northern Border Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Rutland Region Education to Employment Bridge Program
<b>Brief Summary</b>	The Rutland Regional Planning Commission, in partnership with the Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board, Vermont Department of Labor, Stafford Technical Center, the City of Rutland, Robert Stubbins Electrical & General Contractor, Inc., Naylor & Breen Builders, Inc. and Casella Construction, Inc., will develop and deliver a comprehensive 3-year program to train high school seniors not planning on attending college, youth who have dropped out of high school and are completing alternative diploma completion programs, and refugees and immigrants in the technical and professional skills needed for placement in Good Jobs, specifically targeting the fields of infrastructure, construction, and clean energy.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Infrastructure, Construction, and Clean Energy
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	162
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	130
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,250,168
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Rutland County, Vermont
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New entrants to the workforce

## Save The Children Federation, Inc.

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Save the Children Federation, Inc.
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian and Delta Regions
<b>Project Title</b>	SCUS Education Careers Pathways Project
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>The SCUS Education Careers Pathways Project will increase childcare, early childhood education (ECE), and school-age education workforce participation and qualifications by creating career pathways for eligible individuals to access workforce development services and obtain credentials and higher education degrees in the Education industry. All participants will receive training from the Early Care and Education Empowerment Toolkit (ECEET), a comprehensive and multifaceted online resource that guides participants to start, manage, or teach in high-quality early childhood settings. Covering a range of topics, the ECEET will provide foundational supports, as well as educational opportunities and financial assistance, for new professionals entering the field or experienced teachers looking to further their education or start their own childcare business.</p> <p>Participants who want to further their skills or education can choose from the following Career Pathway options: <i>Pathway 1</i>: Obtaining a Child Development Associate® Credential to support immediate employment in a Good Job or career advancement, or <i>Pathway 2</i>: Enrolling in an associate degree/industry-recognized credential program supporting increased job opportunities or a bachelor's degree program leading to higher earnings.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Education Industry, focusing on occupations in childcare, early childhood education, and school-age education sectors
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	100
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	77
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,482,460
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	<p>Delta counties and parishes: <u>Arkansas</u>: Ashley, Bradley, Desha, Jefferson, St. Francis, and Woodruff; <u>Louisiana</u>: De Soto, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis, Natchitoches, Red River, and St. Landry; <u>Mississippi</u>: Bolivar, Coahoma, Jefferson Davis, Leflore, Quitman, Panola (also ARC), Sunflower, and Washington; and <u>Tennessee</u>: Crockett, Dyer, Fayette, Lauderdale, and Tipton.</p> <p>Appalachian counties: <u>Kentucky</u>: Bell, Clay, Jackson, Knott, Knox, and Whitley; <u>South Carolina</u>: Union; and <u>West Virginia</u>: Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, McDowell, and Nicholas.</p>

<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New Entrants to the Workforce, Dislocated Workers, and Incumbent Workers.
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## SHRM Foundation, Inc.

<b>Grantee Name</b>	SHRM Foundation
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Keeping It Local: Employers Driving Good Jobs in Rural Arkansas
<b>Brief Summary</b>	Keeping It Local will empower employers to lead in creating economic mobility and addressing inequities for underserved talent in Union and Craighead Counties through a multi-pronged approach: 1) Employer Good Jobs Training, Action Planning, and Implementation to support to incentivize employers to adopt Good Jobs Principles; 2) building capacity to address wide-scale barriers to employment through supporting the development and piloting of long-term Community-Wide Interventions; 3) providing Job Seeker Employability Training to underserved populations to prepare them for Good Jobs with employers in their communities. This project is a collaborative effort between SHRM Foundation, the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, South Arkansas College, Arkansas State University, Southwest and Northeast Arkansas Workforce Development Boards, Education Design Labs, the Good Jobs Institute, and several local employers.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Advanced Manufacturing, Distribution and Logistics, and Health Care and Professional Services
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	360
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	180
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,497,561
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Craighead County, Arkansas and Union County, Arkansas (and reasonable communities within the Delta Region Authority region)
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Dislocated Workers, incumbent workers, and new workforce entrants, employers

## Spartanburg Regional Health Services District

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Spartanburg Regional Health Services District, Inc.
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Creating Equity and Opportunity for the Rural Healthcare Workforce in Upstate South Carolina Project
<b>Brief Summary</b>	The proposed project of Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System (SRHS), Creating Equity and Opportunity for the Rural Healthcare Workforce in Upstate South Carolina, aims to address the healthcare workforce shortage in the rural Appalachian region of upstate South Carolina, specifically in Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union counties. The project will focus on creating opportunities for the rural healthcare workforce through a comprehensive strategy involving partnerships with local schools, colleges, and community organizations.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Healthcare and nursing
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	2,600
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	2,210
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$996,598
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union Counties of South Carolina
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Rural youth that are new entrants to the workforce

## St. Landry Parish Government

<b>Grantee Name</b>	St. Landry Parish Government
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Country Road Inclusion Project
<b>Brief Summary</b>	Acadiana Workforce Solutions (AWS) is launching the Country Road Inclusion Project, a collaborative effort tackling the need for skilled healthcare workers in Acadiana. The project targets populations in rural areas, upskilling and preparing them for careers in this critical field. To enhance accessibility to American Job Center services for rural individuals, AWS staff will collaborate with regional housing authorities. Career counselors will deliver AJC services onsite, supplemented by Transfr, an innovative virtual reality job training tool designed to engage participants in career exploration and skill development at their locations. South Louisiana Community College will serve as the healthcare training partner. St. Landry Community Action Agency will provide transportation services, ensuring program participants can access training and employment. Employer partners like Ochsner Lafayette General and Opelousas General Health System are committed to hiring qualified candidates upon completion of training and credentialing. This project tackles the economic challenges that rural residents are facing in the 8-parish Acadiana region.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Healthcare, focusing on entry-level positions, such as CNA, Respiratory Tech, LPN, Phlebotomy, and Radiology Technician
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	450
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	450
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,500,000
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	8-parish Acadiana region (Louisiana): Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion, and Lafayette
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Populations in rural areas

## Total Action Against Poverty in Roanoke Valley, Inc.

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Total Action Against Poverty in Roanoke Valley, Inc. d/b/a Total Action for Progress (TAP)
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Appalachian CareerForge
<b>Brief Summary</b>	The proposed project is titled CareerForge 2.0 and often referred to as “CareerForge.” CareerForge aims to address the employment needs of low-income or unemployed individuals within the Appalachian region. The project provides vocational training in high-demand occupations such as construction, transportation (truck haulers and passenger bus drivers), manufacturing, and the medical field (EMT, CNA, CMA, phlebotomy). Key activities include assisting with enrollment into targeted training tracks, assessing barriers to employment and education, providing mentorship programs and business skill workshops, and preparing participants with necessary soft skills. This comprehensive approach ensures participants are well-equipped to secure and maintain meaningful employment, creating a robust talent pipeline for local employers.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Construction, Transportation (truck haulers and passenger bus drivers), Manufacturing, and Healthcare (EMT, CNA, CMA, phlebotomy)
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	187
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	97
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,499,607
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Greenbrier County, WV; Alleghany County, VA; City of Covington, VA; Craig County, VA; Bath County, VA; Rockbridge County, VA; City of Lexington, VA; and City of Buena Vista, VA
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Low-income or unemployed individuals within the Appalachian region

## Tri County Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG)

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Tri County Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG)
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Appalachian Ascent – Powering up Eastern Ohio’s Workforce Ecosystem
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>Appalachian Ascent will serve Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana Counties in Ohio, which are part of the Appalachian region and whose residents and businesses face challenges. JOG will recruit 80 and enroll annual cohorts of 60 participants (a total of 180 served). Each will complete an assessment, an Individual Opportunity Plan, weekly case management, needed supportive services, and employability workshops. Participants will be placed into one of four employment tracks: 1) job training and certification with an education partner; 2) employer-sponsored job training and certification; 3) employer-sponsored upskilling training for incumbent workers; or 4) employability services and job placement for those with requisite skills and certification for career pathways. JOG expects about 60 will complete job training for a manufacturing career, 45 will complete State Tested Nurse Aide training, and 75 will engage in employer-sponsored training while employed (entry-level training for new workers or upskilling for incumbent workers). 100% of participants will complete employability training, and at least 70% of participants (84 during project period and a total of 126 within the extended period of performance that includes 12 months of follow up after year 3) will be placed in or advance into Good Jobs that pay at least \$15/hour. Of participants placed in employment, 80% will be retained in employment the second quarter after exit, and 65% will be retained in employment in the fourth quarter after exit for those who exited and with a 12-month follow-up completed during the period of performance. JOG will deliver 12 capacity-building training sessions to employers (output), and 50% of participating employer partners will implement at least one enhancement aligned with Good Jobs Principles (outcome).</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Primary manufacturing and nursing and residential care facilities
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	180
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	126
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,500,000
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Ohio's Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana Counties, with a particular focus on 49 distressed areas (census tracts) within these counties

<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New entrants to the workforce (high school seniors, recent high school and trade school graduates), dislocated workers (former coal workers referred through partner WDBs), and incumbent workers (those hired at entry level and upskilled by employers)
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## Tunica County Administrators Dept.

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Tunica County Administrators Dept.
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Tunica County Workforce Development Center Training and Support Services Project
<b>Brief Summary</b>	The Tunica County Workforce Development Project aims to address persistent socioeconomic challenges by upskilling residents to meet the demands of high-paying, in-demand jobs. The project focuses on reducing high turnover rates, enhancing employability, and fostering sustainable economic growth within the community. Key strategies include tailored training programs, industry collaboration, and specialized supportive services.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Advanced Manufacturing, Renewable Energy, Transportation and Logistics, and Emergency Medical Services
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	225
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	150
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,074,000
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Tunica, Tunica Resorts, Austin, Dundee, and North Tunica Counties in Mississippi
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Working-age, non-disabled residents of Tunica County who are unemployed, underemployed, new workforce entrants, those who have exited the labor force, and Returning Citizens (those re-entering society post-incarceration)

## University of Louisiana at Lafayette

<b>Grantee Name</b>	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Rural Energy Network for Equitable Workforce and Economic Development (RENEWED)
<b>Brief Summary</b>	Targeting justice-impacted individuals and people from marginalized communities in Louisiana, the overall goal of the proposed RENEWED project is to develop a sustainable and replicable coalition for energy workforce and economic development that 1) offers latest and standardized training for industry-recognized certification in the areas of building electrification/ weatherization, photovoltaic (PV) system installation (residential/commercial), and PV panel manufacturing, 2) provides financial and technical supportive services to trainees and employers, and 3) conduct strategic planning to better align training with future workforce needs. The overall goal will be achieved through the following objectives: 1) develop a circuit rider training program (CRTP) to train at least 600 justice-impacted individuals in 30 training sessions with 50% of trainees from disadvantaged communities and 75% of the trainees certified with industry- recognized credentials during the 3-year grant period, 2) implement participant supports for trainees to overcome financial and other barriers to accessing quality training and good jobs, 3) develop a rural energy network consisting of local employers for business advancement and job placement, and 4) convene bi-annual stakeholder advisory board (SAB) meetings for strategic planning.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Building construction and energy efficiency, renewable energy, photovoltaic and semiconductor industry
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	600
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	450
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,499,784
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	West Feliciana, East Baton Rouge, Rapides, St. Tammany, Jefferson, Orleans, Caddo, Lafourche, and Evangeline Parishes (Louisiana)
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Justice-impacted individuals

## University of Tennessee

<b>Grantee Name</b>	University of Tennessee Health Science Center
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Delta Nurse Scholars
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>This project will provide support for undergraduate student nurses, new graduate nurses, and newly hired nurses to work in the Delta region and in rural hospitals. There will be thirteen students for each of the three years of the grant for a total of 39 students selected to participate in the Delta Nurse Scholars program. The students selected will be determined by specific criteria that are based on the area where they reside being from the Delta, and other criteria to include financial need, and diversity of the student. These students will be able to obtain employment as a nurse intern during their summer breaks at a rate of \$15/hr. and continue through the final semesters to complete their BSN degree. For the final terms of study, tuition and fees will be paid for participating students. Students and new graduates and up to thirty newly hired nurses will be offered a medallion program that provides education specific to the role of the nurse and will provide \$75.00 for each completed medallion. Students, and new graduates, and newly hired nurses will also be afforded the opportunity to have support for travel to a rural setting, childcare for educational needs, and salary supplement if hired as a nurse intern and the hospital does not pay at least \$15/hr.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Nursing
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	69
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	69
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,500,000
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	<p>Tennessee – Most underserved West TN Counties: Lake, Obion, Henry, Dyer, Gibson, Carroll, Benton, Lauderdale, Crockett, Haywood, Madison, Henderson, Decatur, Shelby, Fayette, Hardeman, McNairy, Hardin, Tipton, Chester, and Weakley Counties.</p> <p>Mississippi – DeSoto, Marshall, Benton, Tippah, Tunica, Tate, Coahoma, Quitman, Panola, Lafayette, Union, Bolivar, Tallahatchie, Sunflower, Yalobusha, Leflore, Grenada, Carroll, Montgomery, Washington, Humphreys, Holmes, Attala, Sharkey, Yazoo, Issaquena, Warren, Madison, Hinds, Rankin, Claiborne, Copiah, Simpson, Smith, Jasper, Jefferson, Adams, Franklin,</p>

	<p>Lincoln, Lawrence, Jefferson Davis, Covington, Wilkinson, Amite, Pike, Walthall, and Marion Counties.</p> <p>Arkansas – Clay, Randolph, Fulton, Sharp, Baxter, Marion, Searcy, Van Buren, Stone, Izard, Lawrence, Independence, Greene, Mississippi, Craighead, Jackson, Poinsett, Crittenden, Cross, White, Woodruff, Pulaski, Lonoke, Prairie, Monroe, Lee, St. Francis, Phillips, Arkansas, Jefferson, Grant, Desha, Lincoln, Cleveland, Dallas, Ouachita, Calhoun, Bradley, Drew, Chicot, Ashley, and Union Counties.</p>
<p><b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b></p>	<p>Nursing students who either have lived in the Delta area or anticipate working in the Delta area upon graduation.</p>

## Upper Cumberland Local Workforce Development Board

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Upper Cumberland Local Workforce Development Board
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Project RIVET: Rural Investment in Virtual Employment Training
<b>Brief Summary</b>	As the entity responsible for connecting its 14-county community to work opportunities, The Upper Cumberland Local Workforce Development Board (UCLWDB) in Appalachian Tennessee can attest to the demand for increased programming to address barriers to regional employment and training. Specifically, there is an immense need for mobile workforce training opportunities to meet individuals where they are – geographically and educationally – to provide career exploration, hands-on skills training, and even soft skills training (interview preparation, communication skills) and ultimately direct employment placement. With experience administering and managing federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding for programs, the UCLWDB understands that independently implementing a new training modality will not solve regional employment gaps; this is why Project RIVET also proposes wraparound supports that adequately support participants and encourage enrollment, persistence, and placement—prioritizing individuals in persistent poverty, those without a high school diploma, those with disabilities, those who are justice-impacted, and those with substance use disorder. These supports include stipends and vouchers so participants can maintain their focus on career discovery, gaining skills, and sustainable Good Jobs. Project RIVET’s goal to comprehensively serve 420 marginalized people is achievable, but it can only be accomplished through crucial community partnerships and employers committed to hiring participants following their own education, improvement, and dedication to the Good Jobs principles.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Healthcare and Social Assistance, Manufacturing, Logistics, and Construction
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	420
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	200
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,480,000
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, Dekalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, and White Counties in Tennessee
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New workforce entrants (adults and out-of-school youth 18+), dislocated workers, and incumbent workers

## Volunteers of America Mid-States, Inc.

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Volunteers of America Mid-States, Inc.
<b>WORC Region</b>	Appalachian Region
<b>Project Title</b>	Recovery Reintegration Program
<b>Brief Summary</b>	<p>Volunteers of America Mid-States (VOAMid) proposes a Recovery Reintegration Program (RRP) to support gainful employment, the development of employable skills, and wraparound support for unemployed and underemployed individuals impacted by substance use disorder in Appalachian Kentucky. The program will create economic prosperity, gainful employment, and career opportunities for 525 new and incumbent workers within the proposed 12-county service area.</p> <p>RRP will (i) strengthen relationships with employers to address hiring needs; (ii) provide workforce case management including needs assessments/interviews, linkages and referrals to wraparound services, and placement in job training and careers; (iii) job training and skills development for in-demand industries and occupations; (iv) career coaching to provide career planning, including pathways from entry-level positions to higher earning jobs, job coaching, and job matching services; (v) and supportive services to ensure that basic needs are met for participants to achieve and maintain gainful employment, including car repair allowance, child care assistance, transportation assistance, expungement, subsidized job training, fees for state IDs and birth certificates, internet service fees, stipends for work clothes and supplies, gas gift cards, transportation vouchers, cell phones/minutes, education materials, payments for employment and/or training-related applications, tests, certifications, and similar items.</p>
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Manufacturing/Production; Transportation; Trades (e.g. welding, plumbing, electrical); Medical Support
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	525
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	525
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,260,234
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	McCreary, Whitley, Knox, Bell, Leslie, Clay, Laurel, Jackson, Owsley, Garrard, Madison and Clark Counties in Kentucky
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	Unemployed or underemployed individuals impacted by substance use disorder located in twelve rural Southeastern Kentucky counties

## Young Men's Christian Association of Memphis & the Mid-South

<b>Grantee Name</b>	Young Men's Christian Association of Memphis & the Mid-South ("YMCA")
<b>WORC Region</b>	Delta Region
<b>Project Title</b>	YMCA Works: Workforce Innovation for Potential to Profession in the Mid-South
<b>Brief Summary</b>	"YMCA Works: Workforce Innovation for Potential to Profession in the Mid-South" initiative features a comprehensive strategic planning process that will run parallel to a three-year training and hiring program targeting new workforce entrants. The strategic planning process will be conducted in the first 6 months of the grant timeline and will involve several key components to ensure the success and sustainability of the program. This includes conducting an industry needs assessment to identify skill gaps and workforce demands in the manufacturing sector. Stakeholder engagement will involve collaboration with local employers, educational institutions, and community organizations to align the program design with regional economic needs. Workforce pipeline development will focus on creating a robust training curriculum and methodologies, while employer engagement will secure job placements and ensure training meets industry standards. Support services will be established to assist participants throughout their journey, and continuous improvement mechanisms will be implemented to regularly assess and refine the program. Plans for sustainability and scalability will be developed to ensure the program can continue and expand beyond the initial grant period.
<b>Industry Sector(s) and Occupation(s)</b>	Manufacturing
<b>Number of total participants enrolled</b>	150
<b>Number of participants projected to enter Good Jobs or obtain new or enhanced employment</b>	120
<b>Federal funding level</b>	\$1,498,559
<b>Counties, parishes, or communities included</b>	Tennessee (Gibson, Haywood, Lauderdale, Shelby), Arkansas (Crittenden, Mississippi, Woodruff), and Mississippi (Coahoma, Marshall, Panola)
<b>Intended beneficiaries/eligible participants</b>	New workforce entrants