MD’s Beating the Odds project focuses on two overarching goals: 1) supporting Local Workforce Development Boards (Local Areas) in Maryland hardest-hit by the opioid crisis in delivering holistic, integrated workforce solutions aligned with the state’s strategic response; and 2) increasing the pipeline of workers by providing training and support activities to those who have been impacted by opioid substance use disorders (SUD) or those who seek to transition to professions that support individuals with SUD and need new or upgraded skills to better serve struggling or at-risk individuals. The project will prioritize a range of work-based learning methods including Pre-Apprenticeships, Registered Apprenticeships, OJT, Paid Internships, and Transitional Jobs where applicable.

The project will focus on in-demand occupations, which vary across the various workforce areas. These include, but are not limited to, healthcare, IT, hospitality, construction, and manufacturing.

Eligible participant groups under this grant are those who are personally affected by opioid SUD (defined as individuals who themselves or whose friends/family members have been directly or indirectly impacted by opioid SUD), or those who seek to transition to professions that support individuals with a SUD and need new or upgraded skills to better serve struggling or at-risk individuals. Maryland is committed to serving those more severely affected, including males under age 50, returning citizens, and individuals who have low basic skill levels who could greatly benefit from career skill development and training.