This project seeks to promote a path to employment for individuals impacted by opioid misuse or other substance abuse. The creation of local Support to Communities Councils brings together regional partners to create a network of support, training, and accountability that will lead to positive employment outcomes and ensures that aspects of treatment and recovery are addressed in addition to career services. Furthermore, Wisconsin will provide training for individuals interested in pursuing careers in the field of substance abuse and recovery to build a talent pipeline for this vital part of our workforce.

Through these grant funds, the local areas will ensure opportunities for those who seek to transition to professions that support individuals with substance use disorder or occupations that address the opioid recovery efforts in local service areas. These individuals often need additional skills or upgraded skills. Labor market information indicates that mental health counselors and emergency medical technicians are in demand throughout the state of Wisconsin. Because each of the participating Workforce Board areas include counties that are designated Health Professional Shortage Areas, the project will promote the Substance Abuse Counselor program that is available through the local technical colleges and/or four-year institutions.

The target populations are both types of allowable participants: those personally impacted by substance abuse disorder (SUD) and those wishing to transition to careers to address SUD impacts, including incumbent workers.