

## **Great Jobs KC's WANTO Project Abstract**

**Applicant Name:** Great Jobs KC

**Purpose of Project:** Great Jobs KC (GJKC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded to increase postsecondary educational attainment in the six-county greater Kansas City area. GJKC financially supports low- and moderate-income students and adults in achieving a postsecondary, credit-bearing credential or degree. The Great Jobs for Women in Apprenticeships and Nontraditional Occupations (GJWANTO) Program has three components. First, it will provide Technical Assistance (TA) to employers in the construction, advanced manufacturing, commercial driver's license (CDL), and information technology (IT) sectors in the six-county greater Kansas City bi-state area so that these industries can more effectively recruit, train, and retain women. Second, it will annually recruit, train, mentor, and support 50 women in A/NTO pre-apprenticeship/pre-employment programs as they enter the construction, CDL, advanced manufacturing, and IT industries, resulting in 100 women who are trained and empowered to thrive in apprenticeable and nontraditional occupations by the end of the grant period. Third and finally, it will establish the Women in Nontraditional Occupations Speaker Series in order to inspire women across the Kansas City Metro to pursue and persevere in jobs in nontraditional sectors. Together, these three components of GJWANTO will help more women find a pathway to a good job—defined as a job paying over \$45,000 a year with benefits—improving economic and social outcomes for participating women and their families as well as the Kansas City labor market.

**Funded Activities:** With support from the WANTO grant program, GJKC will:

- 1) Hire a Program Coordinator (1.0 FTE), who will oversee TA implementation; supervise participant recruitment, enrollment, employment, and success; and manage the

GJWANTO mentorship program; organize the Women in Nontraditional Occupations Speaker Series; and track project outcomes.

2) Contract with local training provider Critical Social Change Project to provide capacity-building TA to 200 decision-makers in A/NTO companies on how to transform organizational culture in historically male-dominated professions to a more equitable workplace.

3) Develop a recruiting campaign specifically aimed at bringing women into workforce credential programs in A/NTO and provide wraparound services and support stipends for participants, including childcare, transportation, food support, and more.

**Expected Outcomes:**

(1) 100 women will have enrolled in an IT, construction, advanced manufacturing, or CDL workforce credential program by 24 months after award (9/29/2027), with 80 women having completed the program; (2) 80 women will be employed in a job paying \$45,000 or more, plus benefits, by 24 months after award (9/29/2027); (3) 200 leaders and decision-makers in A/NTO businesses will have learned to create more welcoming employment environments for women; and (4) 2,000 community members will have attended the GJWANTO Speaker Series and learned about the challenges women face in A/NTOs.

**Intended Beneficiaries:** 1) 200 executives, HR professionals, managers, supervisors, and training providers in the CDL, IT, construction, and advanced manufacturing industries receive TA; 2) 100 low and moderate-income women in the six-county Kansas City metropolitan area receive training in A/NTO fields; and 3) 100 professional women in A/NTO field receive mentorship training.

**Subrecipient Activities:** N/A