

Abstract

Applicant name: Helen Ross McNabb Center, Inc.

Project Title: Jail to Work RESTORE Expansion Project

Area to be served: Hamblen and Sevier Counties in East Tennessee

Number of participants to be served: Eighty participants yearly from Hamblen and Sevier Counties

Funding Level Requested: \$499,999

Total Cost per Participant: \$6,250

Summary:

Helen Ross McNabb Center, Inc. (The Center) proposes the Jail to Work RESTORE Expansion Project. The program intends to extend employment skills services to women who are involved in the criminal justice system and have been directly or indirectly affected by the opioid crisis in Tennessee. Hamblen and Sevier Counties are the targeted areas, both of which fall into two opportunity zones, and already have Center offices, group spaces, and residential spaces for this project. Both sites have existing services for women that will be utilized as partners and referral sources to the expansion project. Participants from the Hamblen and Sevier County jails will be eligible to receive work skills, support services and employment placement. This expansion program intends to supplement the currently implemented, successful Jail to Work program model and both increase the numbers served in Hamblen County and add services for women from Sevier County. The project mission is to improve the lives of those affected by the opioid crisis by providing re-entry, work, life, and soft skills as well as supportive services needed for

gainful employment. The program will utilize established partnerships and develop new partnerships with employers to prepare participants for placement in jobs. The proposed outcomes include increasing the number of women served and employed, with an 80% percent employment rate at 2nd quarter, and 60% percent employment rate at 4th quarter. Program goals include providing more women with work skills, life skills, supportive services, and increasing the number of women in sustainable jobs in the workforce. Ultimately, women served by the project will gain support and education to help them transition to independence, with decreased unemployment for women who have been impacted by the opioid epidemic, decreased poverty for the target population, and decreased recidivism rates in both Hamblen and Sevier Counties. The Center has a long history of successfully creating and implementing projects with measurable, attainable outcomes in a wide variety of social services for vulnerable populations in a fiscally responsible manner.