

Project Abstract

Applicant Name: Urban Workforce Advantage **Project Title:** RESTORE-NJ

Area to be served: Northern New Jersey - Federal Legislative Districts 6 through 12

Number of participants to be served: 100

Funding Level Requested: \$500,000

Total cost per participant: \$5,000

Urban Workforce Advantage (UWA) will be the lead agency in this project, providing full project oversight as well as the primary occupational training and career support services. UWA has successfully provided instructional services as part of consortiums in Union and Hudson Counties that receive federal funding under the WIOA Title II Adult Literacy programs. UWA has extensive experience in delivering educational, occupational and work maturity skills instruction; career planning; Job Readiness, Job Search/Retention and post-employment services for hard-to-serve populations including the long-term unemployed and TANF/GA populations, including ex-offenders/parolees as well as those that have suffered with the impacts of addiction. They are closely aligned with the workforce development process and with the One Stop Career Centers (OSCC) throughout the target area. UWA will be supported by Prevention Links (PL) who will provide Recovery Support Services and follow-up tracking. As the primary prevention service provider in the Union County and NJ Metro region, PL will enable our program *to take a robust response to the opioid crisis*. Both UWA and PL have extensive experience in serving women workers. Over the past 2 years, UWA and its sister agency Workforce Advantage (WA) have served more than 2,400 clients. Of these, 78% have been women. PL is recognized as a leader in providing recovery services. In the past year, they have served over 9,800 people, including 223 in recovery support (of which 84 were women).

Project Goal: To provide 100 women in Northern NJ who have been either directly or indirectly

affected by the opioid crisis with occupational training resulting in an industry-recognized certification or apprenticeship and long-term employment with a career pathway along with the necessary recovery support services to result in positive outcomes for the women.

Scope: There will be a brief 2 month planning period (during which students will concurrently be entered into the program). Recruitment to the program will be done through existing UWA, WA and PL clients, through the OSCC and through grassroots outreach. Over an 18 month period, women will be concurrently engaged in the instructional and career services component of the program as well as recovery support services. UWA will provide instruction leading to either CNA/Life Skills (90-hour NJDHSS curriculum) or IC3/Life Skills certification (Information technology skills). Prevention Links will also offer instruction leading to the Certified Peer Recovery Support certification. UWA will also engage the Elizabeth Development Company who will provide pre-apprenticeship opportunities in construction trades. Work Readiness instruction will be provided by UWA. Using a coaching based process, women will participate in job search resulting in employment. Once employed, UWA will provide ongoing supported work services to both the women and their employers assure their success. At the end of the 18 month operational program, PL will perform the 12 month ongoing tracking while women concurrently continue to receive recovery support services.

Proposed Outcomes: 1.) Enroll 100 women who will be placed into training. 2.) All 100 women will access career and recovery support services. 3.) 90 women will complete the workforce instruction. 4.) 80 women will gain either CNA, IC3, peer counseling credentials or complete a pre-apprenticeship program. 5.) 75 women will be employed in the second quarter after their exit from training. 6.) A minimum of 55 women will retain employment in the 4th quarter after their exit from training. 7.) The employed women's median earnings will be \$12 to \$15/hour.