

# OPIOID WORKFORCE INNOVATION FUND

*Workforce Development Response to the Opioid Epidemic*



The following entities are eligible to apply for OWIF funds:

- For-profit, private sector businesses,
- Non-profit organizations,
- Labor organizations,
- Industry associations, local and regional economic development entities,
- Registered apprenticeship sponsors,
- Local workforce development associations,
- Institutions of postsecondary education, and
- State and local government agencies.

The following activities and items are examples of allowable costs:

- Career services,
- Training services,
- Follow-up services,
- Work-based learning activities,
- Supportive Services,
- Behavioral health services, and
- Work-based learning activities.

The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation is excited to announce the **Opioid Workforce Innovation Fund (OWIF)**, part of a \$1.9 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. The OWIF

- Is a competitive grant fund intended to seed the implementation of new and promising ideas or to adapt proven strategies at the systems or service delivery level,
- Supports local organizations in developing innovative solutions that lead to improved employment outcomes for individuals and businesses who have been directly or indirectly impacted by the opioid crisis, and
- Further addresses the health and economic effects of widespread opioid use disorder with innovative workforce programs in Maryland.

Through opening broader connections to customers who have not historically visited American Job Centers, the OWIF expands

- Workforce capacity to meet industry demands, and
- The reach of opioid addiction and overdose prevention programs in Maryland.

Target populations include

- Workers directly or indirectly affected by the opioid crisis, and
- Workers seeking to enter professions that could help in addressing the opioid crisis and its causes.

Grants may not be used to pay costs of in-patient drug treatment and rehabilitation programs.

Successful OWIF applicants will build connections between the workforce system and behavioral health system to support Maryland jobseekers in eliminating barriers to employment and preparing for, securing, and retaining employment in high-demand industries and occupations.

For more information about the OWIF, please visit <http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/employment/opioid>, email [dllr.owif@maryland.gov](mailto:dllr.owif@maryland.gov) or contact Mary Keller at (410) 767-2017 or [mary.keller@maryland.gov](mailto:mary.keller@maryland.gov).