

Town of Hempstead/City of Long Beach Workforce Development Board
Opioid National Dislocated Worker Grant
HempsteadWorks Career Center
May 14, 2019

The Town of Hempstead/City of Long Beach Workforce Development Area was recently awarded with the Opioid National Dislocated Worker Grant (Opioid NDWG). The purpose of the grant is to address the opioid crisis through workforce development services. The Town of Hempstead Department of Occupational Resources (DOOR) convened a meeting on May 14, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. so that partners to the grant could learn about the grant and the ways in which their organizations can contribute to helping DOOR participants.

Present at the meeting were staff from Outreach Development Corporation; Urban League of Westchester County, Inc.; Nassau County Department of Social Services; Town of Hempstead; ACCES-VR; Nassau BOCES; Long Beach Adult Learning Center; Northwell Health; Nassau Community College; Bridges of New York; The Interfaith Nutrition Network; and Five Towns Community Center.

DOOR staff gave an overview of Opioid NDWG. As a way to combat the massive loss in workforce productivity due to the opioid crisis, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced a grant opportunity that would award funding to six states most impacted by the crisis. The New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) solicited proposals from local workforce development boards throughout the state. DOOR, which operated in a high-priority area, submitted a proposal and was selected.

Under the grant, DOOR will enroll participants in colleges, BOCES and proprietary schools so that they can gain the credentials necessary to enter demand occupations within the Healthcare and Social Assistance sector. Some of the courses in which they will be enrolled is the NYS Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselors certification; mental health first aid; medical records certificate programs; medical assistant programs; and nurse assistant. In addition to training, participants will meet with a career counselor and have access to HempsteadWorks' wrap-around services. To be eligible for services under the grant, an individual must be a dislocated worker, an individual temporarily or permanently laid off as a consequence of the disaster or emergency, a long-term unemployed individual, or an individual who had been self-employed but became unemployed or significantly underemployed as a result of the emergency.

Because the grant requires a partnership with at least one community organization that works with individuals impacted by the crisis, DOOR will leverage its relationships. During the meeting a discussion ensued about other possible disaster-relief training courses in which participants can be enrolled, such as in Addiction Recovery Coaching and Certified Peer Advocacy. The one concern shared by partners was the restriction against individuals with a criminal background from working in jobs in healthcare. DOOR agreed that it will think on an alternative solution.

At the conclusion of the meeting, partners expressed their willingness to aid in recruitment by referring eligible participants to DOOR, as well as to provide DOOR participants with supportive services. Partners also agreed to help DOOR with business engagement, as it is imperative for participants to find employment under the grant. DOOR partners will work with DOOR's opioid grant project coordinator moving forward. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in the future if necessary.