

**January 2021**

## **Apprenticeship**

- I. An Apprenticeship Solutions Group Presentation** occurred on Friday, October 9, 2020, where ApprenticeOhio, EasterSeals, LLC and TechSolve.
  - a.** ApprenticeshipOhio reviewed its expanded Registered Apprenticeship opportunities, funded through a three-year \$9.4 million federal grant: “Building State Capacity to Expand Apprenticeship through Innovation”.
    - i.** ApprenticeshipOhio collaborates with over 600 Registered Apprenticeship programs in [diverse fields](#). Each program includes, at a minimum, 2,000 hours of structured on-the-job training and 144 hours per year of related classroom instruction.
  - b.** Easterseals reviewed its new 4-year Youth Apprenticeship Readiness Initiative (YARI), launched after receiving one of 14 national Youth Apprenticeship Readiness grants from the Dept. of Labor.
    - i.** YARI will enroll youth (16-24) in new or existing Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAP), for careers in Construction, Deconstruction and Facilities Maintenance.
  - c.** TechSolve Inc., the regional subrecipient of the Dept. of Labor’s Scaling Apprenticeship Grant, reviewed a statewide initiative – Scaling Apprenticeship Grant, a Dept. of Labor initiative to expand apprentices in new or expanded programs through sector-based strategies, targeting Production, Machining, Welding, Industrial Maintenance, Automation, Robotics, and Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing)
    - i.** The Ohio Workforce Partnership a collaboration of Ohio TechNet and the Ohio Manufacturers’ Association, is executing a \$12 million grant to get 5,000 Ohioans employed in apprentices over four years through Earn- and-Learn strategies.
    - ii.** In the BCW|Workforce Region (specifically Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren) the Advanced Manufacturing Industry Partnership (AMIP) is committed to training 600 apprentices for employment over the next four years.
- II.** To better navigate our youth, workforce and job seekers to these programs, BCW|Workforce Operations suggests that the WIBBCW Board of Directors support contracting Career Advisors, whose responsibilities will include the focused Apprenticeship-related outreach, awareness, engagement and coordination of eligible residents for apprenticeship opportunities, to improve the bridge between our workforce, apprenticeship program providers, employers and the area’s Apprenticeship Solutions Group members.

## Workforce & Wellness

- I. A Workforce & Wellness Solutions Group is evolving**, with guidance and feedback from Karen Scherra (CCMHRB), Jerica Kruse (Ohio Office of Disabilities), Dan Bates (Hamilton Chamber of Commerce), John Weber (Ohio's Office of Workforce Development (OWD)) and Sonya Tillman (OWD)

Almost \$800,000 is available to navigate dislocated workforce residents, either directly or indirectly connected to opioid abuse, towards employment, education and/or training outcomes, with additional funds expected in 2021 to address Substance Use Disorders (SUD), in general.

To better obligate and expend Workforce and Wellness-related funds, BCW|Workforce Operations suggests that the WIBBCW Board of Directors contract Career Advisors, whose responsibilities will include the focused Workforce & Wellness-related outreach, awareness, engagement and coordination of eligible residents for:

- a. Opioid Emergency Response Grant (OERG) #3 Funds;
- b. The RETAIN Phase II Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work program; and
- c. Ohio's State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant;

## Critical Jobs

- I. No Solutions Group has yet been developed**

Commissioner Shannon Jones and Julia Horner, Groundwork Ohio Director of Communications & Development identify Critical Jobs as an important area of focus.

Last Spring, the State has made policy revisions to its Individual Training Accounts (ITA) policy to support critical jobs.

On Aug. 3, 2020, Ohio's Office of Workforce Innovations launch Ohio's Top Jobs List, which combines Ohio's In-Demand Jobs and newly created Critical Jobs into one list of prioritized job sectors. Critical jobs were included to ensure that the state's workforce supports the health and well-being of Ohioans, their families, and their communities.

Through WIBBCW Operations (BCW|Workforce) and the OMJ System Operator, the pending Business & Employer Solutions Team (BEST) Intermediary will collaborate with the WIBBCW BEST Committee to ensure that our OMJ One-Stop programs and services are accommodating the demand for the Critical Jobs in eight career clusters, created in collaboration with the Governor's Children's Initiative, RecoveryOhio, and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.

Opioid Emergency Response Grant (OERG) funds can be used to cover the salary for many Critical Jobs for up to 2,040 hours.