



Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for INSPIRE 2021 funding

Applicants interested in applying for INSPIRE 2021 funding—for either an implementation or planning award—must submit the LOI in PDF format to SUD@arc.gov by May 17, 2021. The LOI will then be forwarded to the States impacted by the proposal.

For guidance on submitting a full application by the June 8th deadline, please visit arc.gov/SUD. Submitted applications for INSPIRE 2021 funding that substantially differ from the information included on the received LOI will be subject to disqualification during the review process.

Applicant Name	Workforce Solutions for North Central PA
Applicant Mailing Address	425 Old Kersey Road Kersey PA 15846
Applicant Point of Contact (include job title)	Pam Streich, Interim Executive Director
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Tentative Title of Proposal	PROSPER: From Recovery to Career
Implementation grant (up to \$500k) or planning grant (up to \$50k)?	Implementation
ARC funding request amount	\$ 500,000.00
List Key Partners (in order of responsibility for administration and implementation of project)	Workforce Solutions for North Central PA(North Central Workforce Development Board PA CareerLink® centers - Elk/Cameron, Clearfield (Clearfield and DuBois), Jefferson, McKean and Potter Counties. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, Inc.(Cameron, Elk, McKean and Potter) Clearfield-Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Commission Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CIABs) Community Based Organizations(CBOs) Faith Based Organizations (FBOs)
Geographic Scope of Proposal (please list impacted State(s), as well as the respective Counties in each state)	Pennsylvania Counties of Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean and Potter

Please provide a brief **Summary of Proposal** of no more than 1000 characters. Please do not include any attachments.

The PROSPER from Recovery to Career project is a collaborative program that will provide job seekers who are in recovery from Substance or Other Drug Use Disorders a sustainable plan for job re-entry or job enhancement. Workforce Solutions, will partner with existing comprehensive providers of alcohol and drug treatment programs to address the large-scale community and economic impact that is a direct result of the substance abuse crisis in rural north central PA. Barriers to employment are compounded by the daily goal to remain sober for this population of individuals. To address this issue, the PROSPER project will offer Certified Recovery Specialist training, promote awareness and training for employers building on the Drug Free Workplace PA program, reduce the stigma that employees face in the workplace, provide supportive services to participants and will gain support from the community and faith based organizations across the region to create a sustainable recovery ecosystem.

Title: PROSPER from Recovery to Career

Summary

The PROSPER from Recovery to Career project is a collaborative program that will provide job seekers who are in recovery from Substance or Other Drug Use Disorders a sustainable plan for job re-entry or job enhancement. Workforce Solutions, the local board staff for North Central Pennsylvania will partner with existing comprehensive providers of alcohol and drug treatment programs to address the large-scale community and economic impact that is a direct result of the substance abuse crisis in rural north central PA. Our local workforce development area includes six counties, which contain several distressed areas in Appalachia. While there is growing support and funding for treatment and prevention for SUD, there is an unmet need in services and programs available to assist individuals in recovery with obtaining meaningful employment. Barriers to employment are compounded by the daily goal to remain sober for this population of individuals. To address this issue, the PROSPER project will develop, facilitate and monitor a project that will extend a recovery ecosystem to include several key components that target workforce needs:

- ❖ Provide services to customers that addresses the transportation barrier by offering vouchers, bicycles, and mileage reimbursement programs.
- ❖ Rely on the talent and knowledge of stakeholders and partners from our regional Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services Board of Directors & Drug and Alcohol Commission, to provide guidance for the project. Also partner with the PA CareerLink system to provide customized career plans with the consumer will be a key service.
- ❖ Offer Certified Recovery Specialist training for participants of the program. This is a key feature of the program which will utilize existing Behavioral Health Education providers for instruction.
- ❖ Support from faith-based communities and churches will be encouraged and added to this project for marketing, networking and recruitment since individuals in the north central PA region are comfortable discussing personal matters and drug related crisis with their pastors, ministers or priests.
- ❖ Promoting awareness and training for employers will be a significant part of the project, and will be provided in partnership with the comprehensive services of the Drug Free Workplace PA comprehensive program.
- ❖ Ensuring that project outcomes are met, a Workforce Development Coordinator will facilitate and monitor the project.
- ❖ Reducing the stigma surrounding the stigma that employees face in the workplace will be addressed: 1) Policies that impact the employee, 2) Workplace norms and culture related to recovery, and alcohol and drug use, 3) Impact on costs and finances for employee and employer will be considered.

Employers have a responsibility to the larger community and to the individual to make an impact, and be part of the recovery movement for their employee(s) who wants to remain sober. Recovering workers are an untapped population who can assist in shoring up the lack of skilled workers. This project is committed to providing a program that will help individuals and their employers develop individual plans for addressing the needs of this cumulative economic, community and health care issue.

This project aligns with one of the Appalachian Regional Commission five investment goals: **Ready Workforce**, which is to improve the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.