

NEWS RELEASE

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Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board's Receives New Grants

(WESTCHESTER/PUTNAM) – The Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board (WPWDB) is the recipient of three new grants, two from the U.S. Department of Labor and one from the New York State Department of Labor. While each grant has different eligibility criteria, they all share the overarching goal of building the local workforce to meet the demands of high-growth employment sectors and assisting individuals, particularly those with barriers to employment, in building skills and gaining credentials that will lead to re-entry and long-term employment.

“The WPWDB, through the implementation of these new grants, existing grants, and county funding, is helping to fuel the local economy,” said George Latimer, Westchester County Executive. “An economy is driven by the workforce and training and educating the local workforce will help propel Westchester and Putnam counties. Additionally, the Board’s work with the counties’ most vulnerable populations is critical to getting the long-term unemployed back to work.”

The first grant, the **Unemployed Worker Training Program**, seeks to prepare eligible individuals for jobs as Certified Nursing Assistants and Patient Care Technicians. Eligibility is focused on long-term unemployed individuals, those who are TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) eligible or have been formerly incarcerated.

The second, **Trade and Economic Transition Dislocated Worker Grant**, seeks to transform the local economy by providing job readiness and vocation training for healthcare, high tech manufacturing, and information technology sectors. All categories of Dislocated Workers are eligible for this grant.

The third grant, **the National Health Emergency Phase Two: Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant** seeks to address the opioid crises by providing funds for employment and training activities and supportive services to address economic and workforce impacts related to opioid use, addiction, and overdose. The grant also seeks to encourage individuals to enter professions that could provide relief to those affected by the crisis: mental healthcare, addiction treatment services, and pain management services.



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“We are very excited to have been awarded three new grants in recent months,” said Thom Kleiner, WPWDB Director. “These grants will help us continue our mission to educate and train individuals so one day they can gain sustainable, fulfilling employment.”

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THE WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WPWDB) is comprised of leaders and staff of state and county government agencies, non-profits, public education, and the private sector who work together to strengthen the partnerships between business, education, and service providers within the “Career Center Network” to meet the needs for a skilled workforce. The WPWDB pursues funding opportunities and develops model programs and leading-edge practices. The “Network” is made up of four Career Centers (White Plains, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, and Carmel) as well as partner agencies that provide state-of-the-art technology, training, resources, and services to youth, adults and employers. For more information, visit www.westchesterputnamonestop.com.

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WESTCHESTER COUNTY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, The Office of Economic Development works to improve the County’s economic well-being and quality of life. This includes a broad range of activities to attract, create and retain jobs, and to foster a resilient, pro-growth and inclusive economy. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com

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