

Arkansas COVID-19 Economy Recovery Project

Abstract

Arkansas COVID-19 Economic Recovery Project address Absolute Priority 1(a) of the Notice Inviting Applications: creating, developing, implementing, and replicating short-term educational programs and training courses to help displaced workers return to gainful employment and help new workers enter jobs within in-demand industry sectors or occupations. The project also addresses Competitive Preference Priority 1, Distance Education, as all of the training programs will be delivered online in order to cover the entire state.

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, University of Arkansas Global Campus, Shorter College and iDatafy LLC will partner to 1) recruit unemployed, underrepresented, and rural individuals from across the state to enroll in existing online short-term training programs; 2) work with industry partners to develop new online training programs targeting in-demand occupations; and 3) remove barriers to participation by supporting students with financial assistance, career counseling, and job placement assistance, thereby increasing remote learning options and ensuring a quick return to work for displaced workers and an earlier start for those entering the workforce. The majority of the grant funds will be used to provide tuition support for participants—dislocated workers, workers entering the workforce, those in rural areas of the state, and those from traditionally marginalized communities. Most of the remaining funds will be used for personnel to develop and deliver the short-term training which will enable workers to quickly return to the workforce.