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Grant Assists Those in Recovery with Training, Support and Treatment; Family Members of Those Impacted Also Eligible

Tuition costs for those pursuing a career in substance abuse counseling may also be covered

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) has received a grant from the US Department of Labor to provide workforce training, support and other benefits to individuals and their families impacted by substance misuse. The grant, totaling \$1.1 million, allows the FVWDB to work with individuals impacted by substance misuse of any kind.

“This grant covers not only the costs of substance abuse treatment for the individual seeking recovery, but also ensures the family members of those impacted by alcoholism or drug abuse can find the support and mental health treatment they need,” said Anthony Snyder, CEO of the FVWDB. “Our first goal is to get someone the treatment they need to enter sobriety and then we want to focus on those around the addicted person who need help. Once treatment has proven successful, we will look to get all of these individuals into some kind of job training program to fill one of the many open roles across our region.”

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), approximately 7.66 percent – that's about 1 in 13 people – in Wisconsin have a substance abuse disorder (SAMHSA,

2021) -- or about 445,965 people in the Badger State. That doesn't even include the spouses, parents, children and others who are impacted by the physical and mental toll of addiction.

“Employers in all sectors are desperate to fill their open roles. Those impacted by substance misuse may not be actively participating in the workforce, or, in some cases, they are working infrequently due to hangovers, intoxication or another physical or mental health issue,” Snyder said. “While not every person will successfully remain sober, we want to start them on their recovery journey. As an addict is never cured – someone is always ‘in recovery,’ we want to speak to ANYONE at any stage of this issue – from those who haven't started yet, to those who haven't misused substances in years.”

The grant is called the Support to Communities Grant and is available to anyone residing in the counties of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago – all six of the counties served by the FVWDB. Following a brief enrollment and evaluation by a trained career planner, individuals impacted by substance misuse are eligible to have their treatment costs covered, if needed. The grant can cover tuition and books for training or retraining, mileage to and from the classroom as well as childcare costs for those with small children. Other support services, pending eligibility, include rent reimbursement, and internet costs for those taking at-home classes. The Board may also be able to assist with the reinstatement of a lost driver's license or the cost for a bus pass.

“Everyone will come to us with different circumstances and our plan is to meet them where they are and attempt to assist with their greatest needs for as long as the grant dollars are available,” Snyder said.

Besides serving those in recovery and those impacted, the grant also can cover tuition costs for those pursuing a career in substance abuse counseling or other related roles.

To learn more about the grant, the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board urges anyone interested to complete the information form at www.foxvalleyjobcenters.com or call/text the FVWDB at 920-594-3655. Following receipt of your information, Board staff will be in touch to begin the enrollment process and determine eligibility.

There is no deadline to respond, but the Board will accept enrollees for this grant only until it is fully expended. Those who are interested in taking classes this summer should be aware of a June 6 start date for most local colleges. Start dates may vary for other training programs.

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Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) is a not-for-profit working to build a world-class workforce in northeast Wisconsin. Serving six counties — Calumet, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago — FVWDB collaborates with a number of state and local agencies to help job seekers gain the skills needed to find employment, and to help businesses find the highly skilled workers they need.

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need assistance with this information, please dial 7-1-1 for Wisconsin Relay Service or at 800-947-3529. At no cost, you may request information in an alternate format, including language assistance or translation information to your preferred language by contacting us at (920) 594-3655.

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