



State of West Virginia

6/14/2024

OSF-12	Primary Location	Applicant
Opioid Settlement Fund	No location	 Darrell Pepper
Application		 304-395-7920
Status: Active		connectraincorp@gmail.com
Submitted On: 6/3/2024		 1116 Smith St.
		Charleston, WV 25301

Internal Section

Decision

-

Award Amount

-

Additional Comments

Certification

PLEASE CERTIFY THAT YOU HAVE REVIEWED THE SCHEDULE A CORE STRATEGIES AND SCHEDULE B-APPROVED USES

Digital Signature*

 Darrell Pepper

May 17, 2024

[Click here for more information.](#)



Contact Information

Organization Name*

Connec Train Corp

Address* 

1116 Smith Street Suite 301

Website (if applicable)

www.connectraincorp.com

Phone Number* 

3043957920

Email Address*

connectraincorp@gmail.com

 **Tax ID Number**

Tax ID Type*

TIN

Tax ID Number*

***-**-5099

Project Summary

Please provide a narrative overview or summary of your proposal, including but not limited to the following:

1. Brief description of the proposal *

Connec Train Corp is seeking a grant of \$250,000 to implement Broadband Technician Training Programs across Kanawha County. Our initiative aims to provide comprehensive training and support to individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD), equipping them with valuable skills for sustainable employment in the broadband industry.

2. Purpose and key anticipated outcomes***Objectives**

Skill Development: Deliver specialized training in broadband technology, ensuring participants gain industry-recognized certifications and hands-on experience.

Recovery Support: Create a supportive training environment that integrates recovery practices, helping participants maintain sobriety and build resilience.

Employment Opportunities: Facilitate job placements within the broadband industry, partnering with local businesses to ensure graduates have access to sustainable employment.

Program Components

Training Modules: Comprehensive courses covering broadband installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting.

Support Services: Counseling, peer support groups, and access to recovery resources integrated into the training program.

Job Placement: Collaboration with local broadband companies to secure employment opportunities for program graduates.

Impact

Economic Growth: Address the local demand for skilled broadband technicians, contributing to the economic development of Kanawha County.

Community Support: Provide individuals with SUD a pathway to recovery and self-sufficiency, reducing the social and economic costs associated with substance abuse.

Workforce Development: Enhance the local workforce by supplying trained and certified broadband technicians, supporting the expansion of broadband services in the region.

3. Individuals or communities served*

Individuals across Kanawha County suffering from SUD but are completing a recovery-based program.

4. Amount of funding requested*

250000

5. Amount of any bids or cost estimates received to date, if applicable

0

6. Amount of matching funds raised or committed by your organization*

3849001

7. Source of matching funds raised or committed by your organization*

ARC WORC grant \$1,370,000 and ARC Power \$1,500,000, \$125,000 from AEP Foundation, \$200,000 in-kind for the WV Land Grant Facility

8. How Opioid Settlement funds, if awarded, will be used*

The opioid settlement funds will be specifically allocated to provide financial stipends to students undergoing the training. This funding will help cover essential living expenses, allowing participants to focus on their recovery and training without the added stress of financial instability. By providing this support, we ensure that participants have a stable foundation to successfully complete the program and transition into sustainable employment.

9. Which Core Strategies or approved uses will be met*

Support people in recovery from OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions through evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals with OUD and any cooccurring SUD/MH conditions, including housing, transportation, education, job placement, job training, or childcare.

10. How long it will take you to complete the project if awarded funding

2 years

Proposal Details

1. Please describe the problem or need which your project seeks to address*

Broadband expansion is needed across the state of West Virginia and the Opiod epidemic has hit West Virginians the hardest. With these funds two problems will be solved. Individuals in recovery will be trained for gainful employmement and high paying jobs with specific skill sets and broadband will expand in West Virginia.

2. Please provide the details regarding the design and strategy of your proposal***Program Components**

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Impact

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Workforce Development: Enhance the local workforce by supplying trained and certified broadband technicians, supporting the expansion of broadband services in the region.

3. Please provide your project timeline* **Implementation Timeline****Year 1: Program Setup and Initial Training Cohort****Months 1-3:**

Recruitment of program staff and instructors.

Development of curriculum and training materials.

Establishment of partnerships with local broadband companies.

Months 4-6:

Outreach and recruitment of participants.

Initial intake assessments and support service planning.

Begin first training cohort.

Months 7-12:

Continue training and support services.

Monitor progress and adjust program as needed.

Start job placement process for first cohort.

Year 2: Expansion and Continuous Improvement**Months 13-18:**

Evaluate first cohort outcomes.

Refine curriculum and support services based on feedback.

Recruit and start second training cohort.

Months 19-24:

Continue training and support services for second cohort.

Ongoing job placement support for graduates.

Final evaluation and reporting of program outcomes.

Impact

4. Please provide your project's total proposed budget.*

\$288,000 will support 80 students in Kanawha County to participate in the training for two years with a \$4,000 stipend.

5. Please list any partners in this proposal, and the partner's role and your relationship with them. *

West Virginia State University - They provide the building to house the training.

6. Please identify the anticipated leadership of the proposal and upload/attach their resume(s) or CVs*

Darrell Pepper, Authorized Representative to carryout the terms of the grant agreement. Renee Jackson will be the controller, budget manager. TItk will be the manager of the program and implemetary of said activities as described.

7. Please describe your plan for sustainability of the project or initiative after the grant award has been exhausted

This project will be sustained by increased initiation of seeking grants and congressionally directed spending to carryout further program expansion across the state of West Virginia.

Organization Information

1. Please provide your organization's mission statement. *

Our mission is to train people and make them employable in the Information Technology sector as well as rebuild, revitalize and transform communities by improving connectivity.

2. Describe the history of your organization, tell us about your current programs and activities*

The Connec Train Corp Broadband Technician Connectivity Job Skill Training program will offer four 16-week Connectivity Certification training sessions in Fiber Optic Installation and Low voltage Cabling for a total of 40 Charleston residents. Upon completion of the training program, graduates will qualify for entry-level positions currently in-demand in the broadband installation and maintenance industries. The project will create 40 jobs in the Charleston area.

Participants in the 16-week training program will engage in theoretical, practical, and technical exercises to gain the skills needed to work in entry-level positions within the broadband installation sector. The course is scheduled three days a week and includes hands-on training and exam preparation sessions.

The program also includes exam fees for Electrician Technician Association (ETA) credentials in Data Cabling Installers certification (DCIC) and Fiber Optics Installer (FOI) certification.

After passing the exam, graduates will qualify for entry-level positions in broadband installation, maintenance, and repair.

Connectivity Certification Track**i. Low-voltage Cabling**

The 8-week Low-voltage Cabling track is composed of 10 modules that cover safety, management, installation, testing, and blueprint analysis. Participants will also spend three weeks preparing for the Low-voltage Cabling exam through video lessons, class discussions, and hands-on practical projects. Program graduates are prepared to pass the ETA Data Cabling Installer Certification (DCIC) exam and to become a certified cable installer. The DCIC is nationally recognized and is the hiring criterion used by major communication companies.

More information – Commercial Low Voltage Wiring (Adobe PDF file)

ii. Fiber Optics Installation

The Fiber Optics Installation course follows a similar 8-week schedule broken down into 8 modules. The modules cover safety tools, optic fundamentals, fiber connectorization, network systems, blueprint analysis, and troubleshooting. The final two weeks of the program are focused on training, examination preparation, and hands-on training. Upon completing the program, graduates may sit for an advance exam, the ETA Fiber Optics Installer (FOI) certification.

Both certification tracks meet all of the criteria set by broadband providers for entry level installer roles. Several West Virginia-based private employers in the telecommunications and cable installation sector, such as Citynet, Lumos Networks, and Electronic Specialty Company, have reported openings for qualified technicians and have expressed the desire to hire local workers. By collaborating with the private sector, the Connec Train Corp broadband installation training program will be able to function as a talent pipeline that identifies members of the displaced coal-industry and coal-adjacent workforce, enrolls these workers into a certification program, and connects graduates directly to well-paid work opportunities.

Connec Train Corp will procure and engage a cabling contractor to facilitate a training program that culminates in industry-recognized certifications in data

and fiber optic cable installation. These certifications and specialized trainings are designed to meet regional needs for qualified telecommunication professionals and technicians in various federal projects and facilities in WV.

More Information – Fiber Optic Installers Certification Course (Adobe PDF file)

Funding for this project will cover curriculum licensing fees, classroom supplies, training manuals, and related costs. Exam costs for trainees will also be covered by the project.

Program instructors will be compensated with a salary and benefits that commensurate with industry standards.

Admission into the training program will be limited to Charleston residents who meet the following criteria:

- ? At least 18 years of age
- ? Minimum of high school diploma or equivalent
- ? Previous employment in coal sector/coal-impacted industry

3. List any federal, state, local or private grant awards or funding received in the last three years and the current status of those funds. If your organization has previously received funds from Kanawha County, please list the amount, nature of the project(s) and current status of the funding and project(s). *

ARC Power
ARC WORC
CDS (Earmark)
AEP Foundation \$100,000
Kanawha County Commission \$80,000

4. Please list your Owner(s), Board of Directors, senior staff members, or other key members of your organization:*

Darrell Pepper – Executive Director , Renee Jackson - Accountant, Carl Chadband – Projector coordinator, Maria Terrell - Office Manager, Todd Moris - Board member, TLTEK, LLC – Primer Contractor – Tim Taylor

5. Please list the staff involved with this project and describe their roles and responsibilities:*

Charlie Singleton – Classroom Instructor for Broadband, Frank Sansom – Classroom Instructor for Broadband, Daniel Miller - Broadband Lab Assistant, Tim Taylor Jr. - Broadband Lab Assistant

6. Please upload/attach the following financial documents, if applicable:

Cash flow statement for applicant's most recent fiscal year



CTCFinancialStatements2024.pdf

Two years of audited financial statements



No File Uploaded

Current operating budget



No File Uploaded

If the applicant has not been audited, please include an unaudited balance sheet and income statement as prepared by the applicant



No File Uploaded

7. If you have made an application for funding for this project from other sources (city, state, private or non-profit organizations) please list the same here.*

Yes, ARC Power, ARC WORC, CDS (Earmark), AEP Foundation, Kanawha County Commission

8. Please describe three significant accomplishments of your organization within the last three years

Certified by the Federal Department of Labor for Apprenticeship Programs
Recognized as a Certified Statewide Training Provider by Workforce West Virginia

Successfully trained approximately 75 clients, awarding Certificates of Completion in Low Voltage and Fiber Optic Cabling

Supplementary Information

1. Please enter contact information (name, email, and phone) for at least one third-party reference. *

Kanawha County Commission 304-357-0101 info@kanawha.us

2. Please include any supplementary information or documentation (such as letters of support, newspaper articles, etc) which you feel will be essential to the County's review.



Opiod Settlement Documents.
pdf

Attachments



Optional: Additional Proposal Leadership resume(s) or CVs

T Taylor Sr 9-2014.pdf

Uploaded by Darrell Pepper on Jun 3, 2024 at 9:44 PM



Darrell Pepper resume.pdf

Darrell Pepper resume.pdf

Uploaded by Darrell Pepper on Jun 3, 2024 at 9:44 PM



Tyrone_Resume.pdf

Tyrone_Resume.pdf

Uploaded by Darrell Pepper on Jun 3, 2024 at 9:45 PM

History

Date	Activity
6/3/2024, 9:45:40 PM	changed the deadline to Jun 04, 2024 on approval step Application Review on Record OSF-12
6/3/2024, 9:45:39 PM	Darrell Pepper submitted Record OSF-12
5/17/2024, 9:32:20 AM	Darrell Pepper started a draft of Record OSF-12

Timeline

Label	Activated	Completed	Assignee	Due Date	Status
✓ Application Review	6/3/2024, 9:45:40 PM	-	-	6/3/2024	Active
✉ Request Letter of Acknowledgement	6/3/2024, 9:45:40 PM	6/3/2024, 9:45:40 PM	-	-	Completed