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Innovate+Educate and National Association of Workforce Boards announce twelve winning partners for Family Centered Employment

Family centered employment pilot enters third year with the announcement of Community of Practice supported by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Santa Fe, NM Today, Innovate+Educate (I+E) and the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) announced 12 (twelve) winning applications to join a Community of Practice for family centered employment strategies to launch the third year of a W. K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) grant. The project that started in 2017 supports three pilot Workforce Development Boards – Maricopa County, Borderplex (El Paso) and Montgomery County – with a focus on creating scalable strategies for Boards to engage families in their efforts around training and employment success. This includes integrating family centered strategies with traditional WIOA plans.

The 12 additional Workforce agencies from across the country were selected from a pool of twenty-two applicants by a team of judges. Their applications included family centered employment concepts to include integrated systems, innovative policies, and strategies to better serve families for economic success. The initial pilot sites will mentor and inform the Community of Practice and will participate in meetings, resource sharing, and tool kit development as outcomes to the grant. Each site will receive stipends for their dedication and time on the project.

List of 12 additional sites:
Area 14 Workforce Development Board in Ohio (Athens, Ohio)
EmployIndy (Indianapolis, Indiana)
Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (Fresno, California)
Lake County Workforce Development Board (Waukegan, Illinois)
Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board (Ashland, Wisconsin)
Ozark Region Workforce Development Board (Springfield, Missouri)
Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Board (Phoenix, Arizona)
Riverside County Workforce Development Board (Riverside, California)
San Diego Workforce Partnership (San Diego, California)
Workforce Alliance (New Haven, Connecticut)
Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico (Albuquerque, New Mexico)
Workforce Tulsa (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

“The goal of this grant is to develop multiple ways for workforce development boards to incorporate family centered employment strategies in their day to day operations. A large number of workforce clients are facing barriers that include taking care of their family and small children. We believe this work is a critical part of addressing economic mobility, which is at the heart of all of our projects,” said Jamai Blivin, CEO of Innovate+Educate. “We are grateful to the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for their focus on the family in employment. It is critical that families have resources while learning and working to ensure their success.”

“NAWB is pleased to partner with Innovate+Educate on this critical work and we thank the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for supporting family centered employment. NAWB continues to seek innovative strategies to define and advocate for federal policies and funding that enable Workforce Development Boards to help implement new strategies for low-income families. We know how critical early childhood development is to families seeking employment, and this grant will tackle the alignment we believe necessary for improving strategies that address two-generation families — with an ultimate impact on strengthening the future for the family.” said Ron Painter, CEO of NAWB.

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