



Green River Area Development District

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$1.8M to GRADD to Provide Employment, Training Services to Counties Affected by Layoffs

Grant aids workers in Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, Webster counties

Citing an unprecedented rise in global energy costs, Century Aluminum Co. – the nation’s largest producer of primary aluminum – [announced plans in June 2022 to curtail operations and begin the idling process at its Hawesville, Kentucky, smelter](#) until energy prices return to more normalized levels. By August, all operations had ceased at the aluminum smelter with layoffs affecting more than 600 workers.

To address the economic hardship caused by the temporary closure, the U. S. Department of Labor today announces the award of a \$1,798,844 [National Dislocated Worker Grant](#) to Green River Area Development District (GRADD) to provide employment and workforce training services for dislocated workers in Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster counties.

Administered by the department’s [Employment and Training Administration](#), this award will allow the district to provide retraining and skills development for affected workers in the seven counties the regional planning agency serves.

“While this has been a significant layoff that directly impacted workers of Century Aluminum and their families, we are confident this grant will enable us to provide immediate assistance,” said GRADD Director of Workforce Development. “Through job placement services and tuition for training or retraining, we are confident those who lost their jobs will find a new career. Thanks to the Department of Labor’s guidance and flexibility with this grant, we also intend to reach out within the area and help individuals who have been unemployed for a significant period of time.”

Supported by the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014](#), National Dislocated Worker Grants provide assistance to a state or local board to fund direct services and assistance in areas experiencing a major economic dislocation event.

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The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is a regional planning agency and council of governments serving the communities of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster counties. GRADD offers assistance in the fields of aging, health, and social services; community and economic development; transportation planning; and workforce development. Our mission is to afford local governments and citizens a regional forum to identify issues and opportunities, and to provide leadership in planning and implementing programs to improve the quality of life in our district.