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### **Green River Workforce Development Board Receives a \$1.5M Grant to Help Prepare Unemployed, Underemployed People for High-Quality Jobs in Expanding Industries**

The U.S. Department of Labor announced the Kentucky Department of Workforce Development was awarded \$5,000,000.00 to fund projects that support unemployed and underemployed people to access, return to, or advance in high-quality jobs in infrastructure, environment and climate, the care economy and other critical and growing industries. The Green River Workforce Development Board was awarded \$1.5 million to support the initiative.

Administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration, the Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST) Dislocated Worker Grant will focus on individuals whose employment was affected negatively by the pandemic and workers from historically underrepresented and underserved populations. The grant aligns with the administration's Investing in America agenda — including historic investments through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS and Science Act, and Inflation Reduction Act — and its efforts to drive an equitable economic recovery and align to business and industry demand.

This project will serve dislocated workers and those long-term unemployed, focusing on marginalized populations often overlooked that include (but are not limited to): racial/cultural minorities, persons with disabilities, individuals who are homeless, those recovering from substance abuse, low-income individuals, and those in the LGBTQ+community.

The main goal is assisting individuals in finding a career with a sustaining wage. Activities supported by the grant include providing outreach and recruitment to eligible populations, enrolling eligible participants through workbased learning and training, providing basic individualized career services to eligible jobseekers, providing supportive services to those individuals with significant barriers to employment, and assisting employers find qualified candidates through the individuals we serve.

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