



## CORONA VIRUS RELIEF EMPLOYER INNOVATION FUND AWARD LIST

**Announced September 23, 2020**

**Awards -- \$4,354,395.46**

### **2020 Coronavirus Relief Employer Innovation Fund Awards**

#### **Redstone Content Solutions LLC – Davenport**

The Redstone Customer Services Experience Internship Program will provide a 10-week paid internship program for 5-6 aspiring information technology service professionals, including 3-4 individuals whose jobs were affected or eliminated due to the pandemic. Interns are provided state-of-the-art equipment, online technical training, exposure to enterprise class software, and will develop real world, transferable skills. Employment with Redstone is a potential option following the internship.

Award: \$35,750

#### **Dethmers Mfg. Co. Inc – Boyden**

This Weld Training project will allow employees to obtain much-needed training for high-demand skills that would otherwise not be possible during these uncertain times. Individuals will obtain non-credit certification as well as support for related expenses including books and transportation. Six lowans with no post-secondary training beyond high school will be trained.

Award: \$24,370

#### **Truck Country of Iowa – Dubuque**

Truck Country is transitioning their instructor-led training to a virtual learning environment to adapt to the travel restrictions and social distancing required by the pandemic. This will ensure future employees continue to be certified with the necessary skills and training to be successful in the industry. With this project, Truck Country aims to provide training for 20 new hires and fast-track their skill growth.

Award: \$38,060

#### **Des Moines Area Community College – Ankeny**

In partnership with employers and community organizations, DMACC will provide training and support services for 10 individuals to be trained in construction and 12 individuals to be trained in semi-truck driving prior to February 28, 2021. They will target lowans whose jobs have been

affected by or eliminated because of the pandemic. Completion of training and job placement are project priorities.

Award: \$98,010

#### **BDC Group Inc – Cedar Rapids**

In response to high demand for fiber optic installers in construction, BDC has a significant need for skilled equipment operators. This project will provide training for 14 current employees to upskill. Training will include certification in drill operating, jetting operating and other related skills.

Award: \$86,597

#### **Iowa Restaurant Association – West Des Moines**

The Iowa Hospitality Industry has been one of the most affected industries by the pandemic. The Iowa Restaurant Association will enroll 500 affected industry workers in ServSafe Certified Food Protection Manager Courses (online or in-person) and cover the cost of training, books and exams. Training will be provided in multiple locations with several options to meet individual needs. Because every foodservice establishment in Iowa must have at least one Certified Food Protection Manager and the cost of the training is prohibitive due to the pandemic, this will serve hundreds of affected restaurants and bars.

Award: \$100,000

#### **The New Bohemian Innovation Collaborative – Cedar Rapids**

DeltaV had created two shorter IT programs to retrain adults whose careers have been impacted by the pandemic to become Computer User Support Specialists and Network and Computer Systems Administrators. The programs are 4 and 8 weeks respectively. Funding will provide 10 full-time scholarships for tuition, laptops, textbooks and Ops Kits.

Award: \$100,000

#### **Indian Hills Community College – Ottumwa**

This program will serve 15 Iowans, who will be provided with free tuition in the Productions Specialist Technician program. The grant also awards stipends to participants to address barriers such as childcare and transportation during training. Upon completion and receipt to certification, Indian Hills will assist with finding employment in the local area.

Award: \$100,000

#### **State Center Police Department – State Center**

This project will provide training for 24 initial participants to achieve the Reserve Peace Officer certification through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. The goal is to recruit candidates who are considering a career in law enforcement as a career change due to the impacts of the pandemic as well as address critical shortages in law enforcement.

Award: \$99,900

#### **The CEU Authority – Des Moines**

Through an Apprenticeship program, training in the high demand fields of HVAC/R, Mechanical and Plumbing will be made available to 20 Iowans whose employment has been affected by the pandemic. This program is provided 100% online and the training will be livestreamed for participants.

Award: \$88,000

**Fort Dodge United Way and Community Foundation – Fort Dodge**

Funding will be used to help members of the Fort Dodge community who are participating in training in high demand fields and who have lost jobs due to COVID-19 by addressing barriers to training such as childcare, transportation, books, equipment, and internet access.

Award: \$10,000

**Eastern Iowa Community College – Davenport**

Funding will be used to cover tuition costs for 88 lowans in high-demand careers like truck driving, manufacturing and front-line supervision with the goal of placing all completers in jobs with local employers.

Award: \$100,000

**Clarke University of Dubuque, Iowa – Dubuque**

Partnering with Four Mounds, Fountain of Youth and Crescent Community Health Center, the University will offer free, non-credit, post-secondary micro courses to those underserved and affected by the pandemic. The project will serve 60 participants by providing training in soft skills identified as critical by employers in the area. Wrap around supports will also be provided.

Award: \$11,000

**Project Iowa – Des Moines**

In partnership with DMACC Continuing Education, DoExtra and NewboCo, Project Iowa will provide comprehensive Path to Purpose education and wrap around services while education partners will provide skill development for participants on one of three high demand fields (Transportation and Logistics, Salesforce Management and Design and IT Help Desk). This programming is available virtually and therefore available to lowans impacted by the pandemic all across the state.

Award: \$98,800

**Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission – West Burlington**

The pandemic has significantly impacted incarcerated men due to the reduction and elimination of training programs within facilities. Without training, re-entry prospects are limited. Homes for Iowa Inc. will facilitate this project to train 25 men in OSHA 10 and construction. The program will provide equipment, worksite protective clothing and tools. Homes for Iowa works with employer partners to make job contacts and place trained individuals in high-demand construction jobs upon release.

Award: \$99,997.50

**Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG) – Des Moines**

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, students facing multiple barriers will need additional support to compete in the job market. Funding will provide skill-building and career exploration programs for more than 1,500 participants, all of whom are facing reduced employment opportunities. This project will also support credential preparation and achievement in high-demand careers for at least 100 underserved young people.

Award: \$100,000

**Iowa Western Community College – Council Bluffs**

Due to the coronavirus, the delivery of CEAM Welding and Hydraulic Training is being reconfigured into a hybrid education model. Funding will support the reconfiguration and proposes to enroll 8-27 participants affected by the pandemic to successfully complete the program.

Award: \$99,000

**Iowa Prison Industries – Rockwell City**

This project will provide vocational training to men incarcerated at the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City. The participants are soon to be released and will be provided with training, testing, and work opportunities leading to American Welding Society Qualification and OSHA 10 certificates. The pandemic has limited training opportunities to this population and this project seeks to provide this critical training to a population in need.

Award: \$100,000

**Heartland AEA – Des Moines**

High-demand and high growth industry-sponsored learning modules are available to thousands of Iowa students. This funding will provide training for teachers, counselors and others on how to utilize and enroll students in these modules. This work leads toward the goal of having 10,000 students enrolled in investigative learning modules.

Award: \$55,000

**UnityPoint Des Moines – Des Moines**

Funding will pay tuition for 14 patient care technicians to be trained and placed with employment at UnityPoint Des Moines.

Award: \$13,630

**Iowa Chronic Care Consortium – West Des Moines**

The Iowa Chronic Care Consortium will partner with the University of Iowa's Institute for Public Health Practice, Des Moines Area Community College and community-based organizations to create a virtual Community Health Navigator training program which will be available statewide. Training and stipends to address barriers related to training will be provided for up to 25 participants.

Award: \$94,512

**United Way of Story County – Ames**

This collaborative project will offer three educational programs in Story County including MIG Welding, Manufacturing Production Technician Certification and Certified Nursing Assistant training. Programs will be geared toward those impacted by the pandemic and who are underrepresented. The project will provide training at no cost to the participants and will support employment placement upon completion.

Award: \$87,868

**Iowa Central Community College – Fort Dodge**

Funding for this grant will support design and implementation of an 8-week hybrid non-credit Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Operator certificate training program. Participants will complete lecture components online and meet face-to-face for lab skills and hands-on training.

The goal is to enroll 10 participants. Upon program completion, the college will partner with Fisher Industries and Bobalee Inc. to host a job fair networking event.

Award: \$99,053.62

### **Central College – Pella**

Funding will support the Pella Talent Pipeline Apprenticeship School and to accelerate individual completion of apprenticeships and certifications in the following programs: welding, information technology, culinary arts, engineering assistant, early childhood education and certified nursing assistant.

Award: \$80,850

### **CCR – Circle Computer Resources – Cedar Rapids**

CCR has partnered with 4 organizations to serve lowans whose employment has been lost due to the pandemic. The program will start with a 4-week help desk training course led by Delta V, followed by 8 weeks of network training and remote work training skills provided by Distributed Consulting and CCR. A monthly stipend will be provided to each participant to assist in transportation, childcare and other expenses during training. Upon certification, participants will be eligible for a full-time role at CCR.

Award: \$74,762.44

### **Gregory Design & Manufacturing – Fort Madison**

Gregory Design and Manufacturing has a goal of training a total of 44 people with a 4-week weld training program geared toward well-rounded production welding. Gregory intends to partner with the Burlington Residential Correctional Facility to recruit participants and hopes to hire completers.

Award: \$99,909

### **Iowa Valley Community College – Grinnell**

In partnership with multiple local organizations, this project will provide credentials in high-demand manufacturing occupations. Training will be provided in the areas of machining, welding and electro-mechanical systems technology. The program will enroll 20 participants to take part in a 7-week program. A hybrid learning model will be available.

Award: \$95,062

### **Four Oaks Family and Children's Services – Cedar Rapids**

This grant will enable Four Oaks' TotalChild Workforce model to operate on a virtual platform. Once is in place, 20 youth will complete the curriculum in a virtual, independent study format.

Award: \$27,633

### **Kirkwood Community College – Cedar Rapids**

This project will help students complete the second year of their associate's degrees in high-demand occupations. It will focus on students who are now facing barriers to completion due to the pandemic. Students will be provided wrap around support services to help with retention and completion, including assistance paying for books, food, childcare, transportation, internet access and other barriers.

Award: \$100,000

**Mercy College of Health Sciences – Des Moines**

The program will support students who have been negatively affected by the loss of jobs and/or faced a reduction in hours due to the pandemic. The funding will focus on providing sufficient resources and support so that students in the final semester successfully graduate and pass the National Council Licensure Examination.

Award: \$82,500

**Willis Dady Emergency Shelter – Cedar Rapids**

Willis Dady Emergency Shelter works with clients who have been unable to maintain housing due to unstable employment most recently due to the pandemic. The funds will be used to support 40 clients with multiple barriers by providing funding for online or in-person training programs in high-demand jobs.

Award: \$100,000

**Allen Memorial Hospital – Waterloo**

Allen Memorial Hospital intends to recruit and train 70 new Patient Safety Technicians and Nurse Residents. The program will provide additional training in crisis intervention to 100 existing team members whose work has been affected by the pandemic.

Award: \$69,707

**Goodwill of Central Iowa – Johnston**

This project will fund a maximum of 16 participants in a 6-week Retail Skills Training program. The participants will be supported by a career specialist and provided with job coaching. The RISE Up training and credentials will help prepare participants build the skills required to start critical retail jobs adversely affected by the pandemic.

Award: \$14,915

**Iowa Women's Foundation – Coralville**

The project's goal is to recruit, train, retain and support quality child care and early education providers across Iowa. Training sessions will be hosted in each of the 5 regions for a total of 10 training sessions resulting in 100 new childcare providers trained and ready to provide childcare in a home or business setting.

Award: \$83,050

**One City United – Waterloo**

Job and life skills training is provided to unemployed and underemployed Iowans facing 2 or more barriers to employment. This program will include wrap around supports for participants while they obtain training leading to job placement in warehouses or manufacturing.

Award: \$63,997

**HS Medical Billing Services – Des Moines**

Funding will provide training opportunities in the high-demand medical billing and coding occupations. Participants will attend workplace training and on-line courses to complete one of five certification programs through the American Academy of Professional Coders related to medical coding and billing.

Award: \$64,658

**Hawkeye Community College – Waterloo**

John Deere and Hawkeye Community College have partnered to create IGNITE: Mastering Manufacturing competency-based program for the manufacturing industry. The program is designed with multiple stackable, industry-recognized credentials that can be offered as non-credit training offered online, as a hybrid learning model, or in a classroom setting. The project intends to enroll 25 participants including those whose employment was affected by the pandemic. Waterloo Community School District is also a partner.

Award: \$100,000

**Geater Machining & Manufacturing – Independence**

Geater Manufacturing will purchase a 3D printer for Don Bosco High School and will provide training for 2 teachers and certification for 30 students. Blackhawk and Buchanan counties will be served by the project - two counties with high employment in advanced manufacturing.

Award: \$3,546.79

**Bridges of Iowa – Des Moines**

This program links classroom learning, on-the-job training and employment placement in entry level trades for underserved populations. Program components are being adapted as a result of the pandemic. Each program group will serve 10 participants.

Award: \$8,800

**Mount Pleasant Area Chamber Alliance – Mount Pleasant**

A collaborative project will offer a Team Leads Academy for individuals who were adversely affected by the pandemic. Instruction will be specific to the skills identified by local area employers. The program will enroll 15 participants, who will receive a certificate upon completion.

Award: \$5,500

**Mary J Treglia Community House – Sioux City**

Funding will introduce a new curriculum that focuses on job readiness, technology literacy with a core foundation of teaching English Language Learners. It will also incorporate the ESOL Customer Service Training Curriculum and Google Applied Digital Skills curriculums. The goal is to train 30 individuals in 3 months.

Award: \$40,172

**Horizons, A Family Service Alliance – Cedar Rapids**

Neighborhood Transportation Service will implement on-demand transportation scheduling to increase access to education and training for individuals working to earn credentials linked to high-demand jobs. The funding will provide software and two new wheelchairs to support program services.

Award: \$97,490

**Generativity DBA The Lakeside Village – Panora**

Assisted living services have been hard hit by the pandemic. Funding will provide training for current employees as well as new hires in ServSafe, CPR, CNA, Medication Manager, and Certified Medication Aide positions.

Award: \$96,800

**Cedar Rapids Tank Wash, Inc. – Cedar Rapids**

Funding will enroll low-income individuals, lowans with disabilities and those who have lost jobs due to the pandemic to guide them through training in various tasks such as daily truck trailer maintenance to advanced computerized diagnostics on new EP 2200 computerized truck engines.

Award: \$47,643.11

**Mahaska County Hospital dba Mahaska Health Partnership – Oskaloosa**

Funding will provide continuing education opportunities to many employees in areas most affected by the pandemic.

Award: \$10,806

**Four Mounds Foundation – Dubuque**

Building on a current and successful model, funds will support at-risk youth in obtaining training and paid hands-on experience in the high-demand construction industry. Additional support services will also be provided.

Award: \$97,493

**University of Iowa – Iowa City**

This project will provide education, skills training, non-credit certifications and support for at least 100 lowans whose employment has been affected by the pandemic. Funding will also provide stipends and certification fees for course participants to attend an intensive, two-week accelerated course in at least 3 communities.

Award: \$87,890

**EMBARC – Des Moines**

Training will be provided to 54 RISE Americorp members, preparing them to support refugees across the state with mentoring, job coaching and access to obtaining credentials. These 54 individuals will then assist at least 200 refugee clients to enroll in education and training with the goal of gaining employment in high-demand fields.

Award: \$50,985

**Woodbine Community School District – Woodbine**

Funding will restart a much-needed Welding program that was ended due to the pandemic. The Woodbine Community School District is partnering with Tommy Gate International for this program and will offer between 1-3 academic and concurrent enrollment credits to certify no less than 5 welders to fill needed positions at Tommy Gate.

Award: \$91,398

**AAA Refrigeration, LLC – Red Oak**

Funds will support training costs for 2 employees. The program will help employees obtain the necessary training to service HVAC equipment, an industry affected by the pandemic.



Award: \$6,944

**Involta – Cedar Rapids**

Funding will pay for the training of 7 individuals whose careers have been disrupted by the pandemic to become Computer User Support Specialist and Network and Computer Systems Administrators. Upon completion of the program, the goal is to hire all 7 participants. Training will be virtual and participants can come from anywhere in the state as long as they are willing to relocate to the Cedar Rapids metro area once trained.

Award: \$64,350

**Apprenticeship America – Cedar Falls**

This project will create an online platform that provides online pre-apprenticeship training and placement services for high-demand careers. A minimum of 21 lowans will receive training and a stipend along with additional support services via community-based partners.

Award: \$95,590

**B&D Services, Inc. – Independence**

Training will be provided to 76 participants to become a Direct Support Professional, a critical job need in Iowa. In addition, financial support will be provided to remove barriers to start and maintain employment including laptops and hot spots for participants to use during training.

Award: \$100,000

**Marshall County Communications Commission – Marshalltown**

This project will offer a series of eight virtual one-week online courses with the ability to accept applicants from all geographic regions of the state. Funds will provide wrap-around support such as internet reimbursement, childcare costs, and other items needed to assist participants in completion of training. This will provide 200 lowans with certification upon completion for the 40-hour basic course required by all 911 agencies in the state of Iowa.

Award: \$100,000

**Veterans Home, Iowa – Marshalltown**

The program will serve 30 Resident Aide participants, who will attend the 75-hour CNA class and begin working in the role of Resident Treatment Worker. The pandemic has been a barrier to this training opportunity and there has been a shortage of workers in this position statewide. This will result in better career opportunities for these front line workers.

Award: \$24,000

**JB Holland – Decorah**

JB Holland will hire 10 new employees at beginning level training and upskill 25 current employees with the purchase of an additional training simulator. The simulator will be portable and accessible for on-demand training, which helps employees receive additional training and certification. This supports new training opportunities for those affected by the pandemic and helps those hired gain additional experience related to the job.

Award: \$95,441

**Iowa Lakes Community College – Esterville**

A group of 16 businesses and support agencies collaborated to create a menu of short-term, non-credit programs needed in the area that will be made available to lowans affected by the pandemic. Programs include Intro to GIS, three levels of Excel from Beginning to Advanced, Electrical Maintenance I and II, Class A CDL licensure, Commercial Drone Licensure prep and more. The goal is to enroll 100 participants resulting in certification and job placement.

Award: \$100,000

#### **Pro Tow LLC – Cedar Rapids**

This program will train 12 to 15 potential new drivers who will become certified and licensed, including a class A CDL, in many areas related to the towing field. This project will recruit lowans experiencing barriers and those whose jobs were affected by the pandemic and provide training and certification in these areas. A stipend will be provided to participants during training to reduce barriers as they complete the program. Upon successful completion, a job offer may be extended to qualified participants.

Award: \$89,654

#### **Greater Dubuque Development Corporation – Dubuque**

This project will serve 70 students by providing in-demand and essential short-term training focused on Industrial Maintenance, Production, Industrial Sewing, CNC assembly and more. Stipends will be available during training to those students in need.

Award: \$100,000

#### **Vermeer – Pella**

Funds will support Weld training for 24 individuals impacted by the pandemic, including those who are coming to Vermeer or the newly hired.

Award: \$46,467

#### **Valley Machining Company – Rock Valley**

Funding will support training of a minimum of 25 employees who have experienced reductions in salary and hours due to the pandemic. The training will include advanced CNC programming training.

Award: \$27,750

#### **Family Pet Veterinary Centers Management Company LLC – Johnston**

The pandemic has contributed to an even greater need for Veterinary Technicians. This project will employ, train and provide on-the-job experience for individuals as they concurrently become accredited technicians. The group will provide a short-term, 3-month training program for 6 individuals to ignite their interest and passion for this career.

Award: \$30,984

#### **Community Transportation Committee – Iowa City**

Funds will provide free bus passes for members of the Johnson County community who are seeking employment. The goal is to help reduce transportation barriers they may have during a job search. The passes will be provided to transport low-income lowans to job interviews and for the first two weeks of on-the-job training. CTC will work with numerous community-based organizations to provide 2,000 passes over the course of the grant.

Award: \$5,100

**Community Educational Outreach – Cedar Falls**

This project will provide access to online training, hot spots and additional support for participants as they work toward attaining certifications in high-demand fields.

Award: \$33,000