

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
Labor & Workforce Development
NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact

Karla Bardiñas

Director of Communications

609-984-2841

MediaCalls@dol.nj.gov



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**Christie Administration Announces \$1.3 Million in Grants to Expand
Successful Alcohol and Drug Counselor Pilot Program**

TRENTON, N.J. – The Christie Administration is expanding its successful Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) pilot program with a Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO) in the amount of \$1.3 million, moving forward another of the 25 initiatives Governor Chris Christie announced two weeks ago in his \$200 million anti-opioid campaign to create or enhance opportunities for addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery.

This grant will help establish a statewide addiction counseling training program. It is part of a broad strategy to train people for in-demand employment as we address this national epidemic.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the need for substance abuse counsellors is expected to increase 22 percent from 2014 to 2024. To address this need, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development launched a pilot program overseen by the Health Care Talent Development Center at Rutgers University. In this program, 10 current employees of Homeless Solutions in Morris County received on-the-job training in the shelter and upon completing their certification requirements, were able to better assist those struggling with addiction.

“We have seen firsthand the exceptional benefits of this targeted training in the great work being done at Homeless Solutions and it only makes sense to grow this program in a way that not only creates more counseling jobs, but addresses the addiction crisis head on,” said Aaron R. Fichtner, Ph.D., Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Eligible grant applicants include New Jersey’s public colleges and universities, including community colleges and four-year institutions, as well as independent not-for-profit colleges and universities. These entities will oversee training to current nonprofit employees servicing at-risk populations, as well as those who are unemployed and interested in pursuing a career in the field.

It is expected that up to 200 individuals will receive training through this investment, which was made possible through the Department of Labor’s Workforce Development Partnership (WDP) and Supplemental Workforce for Basic Skills (SWFBS) funds for Fiscal Year 2018.

For more information and specific eligibility requirements, please visit http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/forms_pdfs/Programs/NGO/FY18/17018-cadc.pdf.