Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy, Congressman Norcross Announce New Workforce Development Programs from Coronavirus Relief Fund

10/21/2020

CAMDEN – Today, Governor Phil Murphy and Congressman Donald Norcross announced $14 million in additional Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to develop workforce development programs. The programs are designed to help businesses impacted by COVID-19 replenish their workforce and help jobless residents learn new skills that lead to successful reemployment.

"As this pandemic continues to threaten our public health, we must work to ensure that a stronger, fairer, and more resilient New Jersey emerges on the other side of COVID-19," **said Governor Murphy.** "With today's announcement, we are investing in opportunities for job training in our workforce that will reignite and grow our economy."

"The Coronavirus pandemic has upended our economy, but we will recover by working together," **said Congressman Norcross.** "Using federal CARES Act funding, New Jersey is helping workers and businesses get back on their feet. These workforce programs will help employers provide skill-building opportunities and on the job training, connecting New Jerseyans with the services they need to get the job they deserve."

"The need is everywhere," **said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo**. "We all know of businesses that are struggling or have closed, and workers who have been laid off or have had their hours drastically reduced as a result of the pandemic. We are grateful for the opportunity to use these funds to turn lives around and help our state recover economically."

The CARES Act funding has been divided to a three-pronged plan to bolster workers' skills and get them back on the job. The programs will be implemented by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

1. **Relief Employment ($4 million grant)** – This funding will provide dislocated workers and the long-term unemployed the opportunity to perform temporary jobs related to the state's recovery from the pandemic. The first sector targeted for these jobs will be long-term care.
2. **Customized and On-the-Job Training ($3 million grant)** – This funding will cover up to 50 percent of training costs of a new employee if an employer commits to hiring that employee upon completion of the training. Essential and struggling industries such as retail, grocery, hospitality, tourism, health care, transportation, and logistics will be targeted.
3. **Employment and Training Services ($7 million grant)** – This funding will expand career support services supported by the Workforce Investment Boards throughout the State. The services include outreach, intake, assessment screening, resume critiques, virtual job referrals, and referrals for short-term training, which can be provided remotely.

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