

# NEWSLETTER

## REGION VII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

### NHEG - Opioid Grant

The National Health Emergency grants (NHEG) are meant to counter the negative employment impacts of the opioid crisis and encourage training opportunities for skilled professions positioned to address the underlying causes of the crisis.

A core principle of the NHEG is that career and training services are only one part of a comprehensive set of solutions that address the health and well-being of individuals who have been struggling with addiction issues. Therefore, the NHEG program requires that grantees develop appropriate partnerships and strategies with community, health, justice and other organizations to address the range of challenges that may be faced by opioid-affected individuals, prior to or concurrently with delivery of career and training services, to ensure the best chances of retaining current employment or finding new and sustained employment.

#### Goals:

- Test innovative approaches to address the economic and workforce-related impacts of the opioid epidemic;
- Provide training and support activities to dislocated workers (including displaced homemakers), new entrants in the workforce, and incumbent workers, including individuals in these populations who are or have been impacted by the opioid crisis; and
- To provide training that builds the skilled workforce in professions that could impact the causes and treatment of the opioid crisis, including addiction and substance-abuse treatment, mental health, and pain management.
- The Region VII WDB operated the NHEG - Opioid Grant from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022 and is in the process of working with the State to submit another NHEG - Opioid Grant application.



### Success Story



Idalis Joiner  
Morgan County  
NHEG - Opioid Grant

Idalis Joiner is the Youth Development Coordinator for the Morgan County Boys & Girls Club. Idalis came to us for employment in 2021 and through the National Health Emergency grant started employment at the Morgan County Boys & Girls Club working with the youth programs. Idalis also took a computer course and earned the Nxt Level Innovators certification in 2022. Idalis has done an exceptionally well with her job and loves working with the youth of Morgan County.

"I would like to thank the Region 7 Workforce Development programs for helping me to succeed in my job and my future."