



Grant Summary: \$1.8M WIOA Award to Strengthen EMS Workforce in West Virginia

We are excited to announce that the **West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission** has been awarded a **\$1.8 million grant** from the **U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)** under the **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**. This significant investment will support the **development and expansion of West Virginia's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workforce** over the next **three years**, addressing critical healthcare and emergency response needs across the state.

Through this initiative, we will collaborate with local partners to provide **training, certification, and job placement support** to individuals seeking careers in EMS — helping to build a stronger, more resilient emergency response system throughout our communities. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Target Population

This program will primarily serve:

- **Unemployed or underemployed individuals**
- **Young adults (ages 16–24)** not currently in school or working
- **Individuals living in rural and high-need areas**
- **Veterans and military-connected individuals**
- **Low-income adults**
- **Career changers** interested in healthcare and public safety roles

We are particularly focused on reaching populations that face **barriers to education and employment** and live in areas where access to EMS services is limited or declining.



Key Benefits of the Grant Program

- **EMS training and certification programs**
 - **Supportive services** for uniforms, and licensing fees
 - **Career coaching, job readiness workshops, and placement assistance**
 - **Connection to long-term employment with EMS providers and healthcare systems**
 - **Increased access to EMS careers** for rural, underserved, and economically disadvantaged residents
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Eligibility Requirements for WIOA Programs

To qualify for WIOA-funded services, individuals must meet general criteria such as:

- **Age 18 or older** for adult programs; youth services available for those aged 16–24
- **U.S. citizen or authorized to work in the U.S.**
- **Registered for Selective Service** (if male and born after 1960)
- Must face one or more barriers to employment, such as:
 - Low income or public assistance recipient
 - Lacking a high school diploma or basic skills
 - Long-term unemployed
 - Homeless or at risk of homelessness
 - Justice-involved
 - Individuals with disabilities

Eligibility for specific EMS training programs may also include **health screenings** or **physical ability requirements**, based on industry standards.

Eligibility Training Sites

The program is being offered tuition-free through participating Community & Technical Colleges in West Virginia.

BlueRidge Community & Technical College (Martinsburg)

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Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College (Logan)

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