

Moore Community House Women in Construction

WANTO Program 2023-2025 Abstract

Applicant name: Moore Community House

Project title: Women in Construction (WinC) WANTO Program

Service area: Mississippi, predominantly the three coastal counties: Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson

Projected outcomes: 1,500 to be introduced to A/NTO; 365 training enrollments (252 unique participants); 292 from underrepresented communities to be served; 285 enrollments to complete; 154 to secure full-time employment; 85 to secure employment with a higher wage.

Funding request: \$750,000

Cost per enrolled participant: \$2,055 (WANTO) + \$365 (Other Funding) = \$2,420

Other ETA grant funding: DOL Strengthening Working Families Initiative (SWFI) & WANTO FY '21

Summary of project: In MS, approximately half the workforce are women, yet women are about 70% of minimum wage or below minimum wage earners. The poverty rate for women in MS is the highest of any state at 21.9%, and the poverty rate for single mom families is 52.8%. Moore Community House Women in Construction (WinC) is a pre-apprenticeship and nontraditional job training program located in Biloxi, MS that serves women, transgender women, and non-binary individuals in the MS Gulf Coast region. WinC provides access to skills training and nontraditional occupations targeted toward the skilled craft trades and advanced manufacturing to correct this gender disparity and build a pathway for women, and moms, into high-wage apprenticeships and nontraditional occupations (A/NTO), while also providing

essential supportive services, such as case management, stipends, child care assistance, and access to work-related clothing, PPE, and tools.

WinC is located in Harrison County, where approximately 84.7% single mom families participate in the workforce; however, where women's earnings are 69.9% than those of men's. In WinC's local workforce development area, manufacturing provides a large number of job opportunities, with advanced manufacturing, specifically, expected to generate over 2,800 new jobs with annual wages averaging \$52,078 - more than double the current average annual earnings of single mom families in Harrison County at \$25,039. WinC works to reduce wage disparity and gender segregation in the workforce through targeted outreach, recruitment, training, and retention services for women.

WinC is submitting this WANTO Program proposal to provide technical assistance to employers and apprenticeships along Mississippi's coastal counties to further develop and improve pathways into apprenticeship and nontraditional occupations in the skilled craft trades for women. During the period of performance, WinC plans to hold 23 courses with varying structures, days, and times, as well as rolling enrollments for virtual courses offering industry-recognized credentials in response to women and industry needs. Additionally, WinC will build upon the existing program activities and enhance the program through monthly outreach sessions with new community agency partners; coordinate quarterly industry tours with partner employers; offer at least two tailored trainings to parents enrolled in MCH's EHS program; offer at least two new courses offering new credentials; host at least two women's resource and employer fairs annually; and plan and conduct at least one small business/contractors' workshop for graduates of WinC.