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RochesterWorks!

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RochesterWorks Awarded Grant Funding by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation and the ESL Charitable Foundation for Enhanced Programs and Services Supporting Adults in Recovery

Rochester, NY – RochesterWorks, the region’s largest nonprofit provider of workforce and career services, is honored to be named a recipient of a **\$200,000** grant from The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation. This funding will allow RochesterWorks to provide enhanced employment services for adults in recovery for substance use disorders and mental health.

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation is a nonprofit organization that funds programs and initiatives across New York State “that bolster the health outcomes of vulnerable communities, eliminate barriers to care, and bridge gaps in health service.”

“Our team is honored to have been chosen by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation to receive the funding,” says Dave Seeley, Executive Director of RochesterWorks. “This is an excellent opportunity for us to expand our role in a program that has proven to be successful in addressing one of the most important issues facing our community. Through the Foundation’s grant funding, we can take a successful model and apply it to a broader community of individuals who are recovering from mental health or substance use disorders.”

RochesterWorks plans to enroll at least 26 individuals in the program. Participants will receive classroom training for certification or re-certification as a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA), Certified Addiction Recovery Coach (CARC), Certified Peer Specialist and/or complete required paid work experience hours towards initial certification to become a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate. Participants will also enroll in RochesterWorks’ 5 Steps to Rapid Employment Program. They may be eligible for additional supportive services such as transportation assistance.

RochesterWorks recognizes that providing workforce development services tailored to the needs of residents who are in recovery is a strategic priority, especially given COVID-19’s impact on addiction and mental health. RochesterWorks will model this Enhanced Service program’s structure on the enhanced programming services launched in 2019 with the \$500,000 Opioid National Dislocated Worker Grant (ONDWG) awarded by the United States Department of Labor. ONDWG has allowed RochesterWorks to serve over 100 unemployed and dislocated workers impacted by the opioid crisis. Program participants collectively earned 46 certifications in Mental Health First Aid, 18 certifications in Psychological First Aid, and over 100 Narcan First Responder certifications. 98% of program participants are employed following training, including four Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors (CASAC) and 34 Certified Recovery Peer Advocates.

RochesterWorks has also been awarded supplemental funding from the ESL Charitable Foundation in addition to the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation award. These grants will expire **on December 31, 2022**.

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As Monroe County’s largest employment and training initiative, RochesterWorks! is dedicated to developing a strong workforce in the Rochester, NY, region as we serve job seekers, youth, and businesses in our community.