

# Recovering from Addiction

## Our Response to the Opioid Crisis

In 2020, The Partnership received a one million dollar, 3-year National Dislocated Worker Emergency Funding grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, with support from the State of Illinois (DCEO). The dollars allowed The Partnership to fund treatment specialists during the crisis and to train job seekers with personal, lived experience directly tied to opioid addiction. The Partnership sought applicants who had lost a job due to opioid addiction, were caring for an addicted loved one, or whose economic well-being was otherwise impacted by the opioid crisis. The initiative included work-based training and subsidized employment in various high-growth sectors and offered support services for participants. In addition to immediately hiring

treatment specialists, the program provided career coaching and job readiness services to approximately 65 people. About half now have jobs in healthcare, ranging from Certified Nursing Assistant to Peer Recovery Support work, and the transportation and IT sectors. Most of the remaining participants continue to receive job search or occupational training services. Funding for this program ends June 30, 2022.



*Kenneth is a Disaster Relief Employment (DRE) participant from the Above and Beyond Family Recovery Center, an employer partner of The Partnership. Kenneth trained as a Peer Recovery Support Specialist and obtained his Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS) credential. He successfully completed the DRE program and is now a Health and Nutritionist Specialist.*