

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: July 23, 2015

Information Contact: Kellye Sharpe, (208) 799-5007 ext 3530 or Georgia Smith, 208-332-3570 ext 2102

Labor Awards First Micro-Grants to Idaho Communities

The Lemhi County Economic Development Association and the St. Maries Joint School District are the first two recipients of a new \$25,000 workforce development grant program administered by the Idaho Department of Labor.

Lemhi County will use \$25,000 to develop a local certified nursing assistant training program that meets an immediate and ongoing need for CNAs in the area. Partners include Eastern Idaho Technical College, the Salmon Discovery Care Center, the Hospice of Salmon, Steele Memorial Medical Center, the Salmon Valley Business and Innovation Center and the city of Salmon.

St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 will use its \$25,000 grant to help instructors provide students with the skills necessary for meeting a critical need for diesel mechanics, welders, millwrights, electricians, truck drivers, computer programmers, carpenters and equipment operators. Partners include Jack Buell Trucking, Potlatch Corporation, St. Maries Gazette Record, Danielson Logging and Stimson Lumber.

The \$500,000 micro-grant program, approved by the Idaho Workforce Development Council and funded through the Idaho Workforce Development Training Fund, provides up to \$25,000 per grant to local and rural communities for workforce development projects on a smaller scale than the traditional projects. Approved projects must increase employment and wages of a community's workforce or assist in stemming the out-migration of youth and young adult workers from Idaho communities.

Grant applicants must provide 100 percent in-kind match for support.

A complete description of criteria can be found at <http://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/idl/Businesses/TrainingResources/WorkforceDevelopmentTrainingFund/WDTFmicr ogrants.aspx>. Applications are reviewed and approved by a panel of representatives from business, education, economic development and the Idaho Department of Labor.

--end--

