West Central Mountains Economic Development Council Awarded Idaho Labor Micro-Grant

The West Central Mountains Economic Development Council will use a $17,907 micro-grant from the Idaho Department of Labor to train four health care workers and one volunteer firefighter in the McCall area.

The grant will partially cover tuition costs for three certified nurse assistants, paramedic training for a Cascade Medical Center physician assistant and paramedic training for a Cascade Rural Fire Department volunteer firefighter along with books, supplies and administration costs.

A major objective of the grant is to eliminate travel outside the county to access training, which will be supported online by the College of Western Idaho, the National Medical and Education Training Center in Massachusetts and Creighton University in Nebraska. Local training will be provided by the Cascade Medical Center and the Cascade Rural Fire Department. Together, the two organizations are providing $24,560 of in-kind match.

Anticipated hourly starting wages range from $11 to $19.23 with gains anticipated for trainees who are already employed. The grant runs from Dec. 1, 2017, through Nov. 30, 2018.

The 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.

A complete description of criteria can be found at http://labor.idaho.gov/WDTFmicrogrants. Applications are reviewed and approved by a panel of representatives from business, education, economic development and the Idaho Department of Labor.

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