

ATTACHMENT A – ABSTRACT

Lead Applicant / Organization Name: FHI 360	
Lead applicant entity type: Non-profit Consortium Lead (Apprenticeship Intermediary)	
Lead Applicant City and State: Durham, NC	
Select Grant Category: <u>X</u> Registered Apprenticeship Hubs (Category 3)	
Project Title: Promising Leaders Apprenticing in the Care Economy (PLACE) Apprenticeship Hub	
Funding Amount Requested: \$8 million	
Applicants Geographic Scope of Proposed Project: National	
Number of apprentices enrolled in RAPs during the life of the grant: 620	
Population(s) to be served: Care economy workers supporting the mental health and well-being of youth and young adults in historically underserved communities nationally with an emphasis on employer networks in California, Illinois and Massachusetts.	
Required Partners: (Organization name and entity type)	
Organization Name	Entity Type
National Collaborative for Transformative Youth Policy (TYP Collaborative)	Equity-focused CBO
National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC)	Equity-focused CBO and Workforce Intermediary
National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP)	Employer Sponsor and Workforce Intermediary
New Ways to Work (NWW)	Employer Sponsor and Workforce Intermediary
Public Works Alliance (PWA)	Employer Sponsor and Non-profit Service Provider
California Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	Employer Sponsor
City of Los Angeles	Employer Sponsor
MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board, Massachusetts	Employer Sponsor and Workforce Intermediary
Workforce Boards of Lake County, Illinois	Employer Sponsor and Workforce Intermediary
Optional Partners: (Organization names and entity type)	
Organization Name	Entity Type
Cuesta College	Educational Organization
East L.A. College	Educational Organization
National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)	Workforce Intermediary

Project Purpose: FHI 360 leads a consortium of nationally recognized leaders in youth development and workforce development to propose the **Promising Leaders Apprenticing in the Care Economy (PLACE) Hub**, a national network hub to support the rapid development, scaling, and deployment of registered apprenticeship programs (RAPs) within the care economy, with a focus on occupations that support youth. Services and wraparound supports for youth, from education and job training to youth services, mental health, and substance abuse services, are of critical and increasing urgency in the U.S., especially in underserved communities. However, there is currently no systemic human capital strategy to develop and train entry level youth-facing workers that are equipped with essential skill sets such as positive youth development, healing-centered care, and mental health and substance use disorder crisis response competencies. Apprenticeships remain a growing but largely untapped model for meeting this need, and recent estimates show significant demand and projected growth in several youth-serving occupations, such as peer support specialist, substance use disorder and mental health counselor, behavioral health specialist, and youth development practitioner. In order to train and retain quality staff in care economy career paths, especially those serving youth and young adults, employers and workers have demonstrated interest in clearer credentials for employment and advancement of their workers. Partners across the care economy demand a strong industry hub to develop national program standards, offer resources and technical assistance across the country, and promote innovative and scalable RAP strategies for critical youth-serving occupations and career pathways for care economy workers.

Through the PLACE Hub, we aim to expand the reach, relevance, and industry recognition of a range of DOL-approved RAPs within the care economy, with a focus on occupations that support youth – **Peer Support Specialist, Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Counselor, and Youth Development Practitioner**, expand access to sustainable career pathways for underserved communities, and strengthen the pipeline of credentialed youth-serving workers that is needed to support progress towards national DEIA and quality jobs goals to improve the nation’s health and wellbeing. As we promote the Good Jobs Principles in youth-serving occupations, we are also developing a future talent-pool of workers who have been introduced to the tools and opportunities that will help the next generation build lives with purpose and stability.

Subrecipient Activities:

- National Collaborative for Transformative Youth Policy (TYP Collaborative) - Equity focus; policy and system alignment
- National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) - Employer sponsor and engagement, workforce intermediary, curriculum development
- National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) – Employer sponsor and engagement, workforce intermediary
- New Ways to Work (NWW) – Employer sponsor and engagement and RAP expansion
- Public Works Alliance (PWA) – Employer sponsor and engagement and RAP expansion
- California Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs – Employer sponsor
- City of Los Angeles – Employer sponsor
- MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board, Massachusetts – Employer sponsor, workforce intermediary
- Workforce Boards of Lake County, Illinois – Employer sponsor, workforce intermediary

List of Credentials(s) to be awarded:

- Youth Development Practitioner Apprenticeship (YDPA) (21-1093.00)
- Peer Support Specialist (21-1093.00)
- Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Counselor (21-1011.00)

Summary of Program Activities: FHI 360 and consortium partners will collectively reach at least 350 employer sponsors, 620 apprentices and 500 pre-apprenticeship participants. We have convened a strong coalition of public and private partners in workforce, equity, and education, including large national employers, industry associations, workforce boards, and RAP intermediaries, who are committed to scaling RAPs for in-demand occupations within the youth-serving care economy nationally. We will begin by focusing rapid deployment of RAP strategies through established partner networks in three states: California, Illinois, and Massachusetts, followed by continued national expansion. Together, we will establish a multi-partner network (PLACE Hub) to support the needs of employers and industry groups in expanding three RAPs and three new pre-apprenticeship programs for in-demand occupations across the youth services workforce.

Our Hub will focus on harnessing the apprenticeship model to create high-quality career pathways into and through the care economy for underserved communities. Although PLACE Hub will focus on placing apprentices in occupations that work directly with underserved youth, the proposed RAPs will create a pool of credentialed workers with relevant skills and competencies to work within and benefit the broader adult serving care economy (i.e., Substance Use and Mental Health Counselor), if they choose to work in other settings. Our Hub will work with employers to open pathways that don't initially require a postsecondary degree to enter the workforce but lay a good foundation for a future degree/career path in the care economy (e.g., social worker, behavioral therapist, transitional care manager, clinical supervisor, or agency or non-profit director), and allow apprentices to earn postsecondary credit along the way. By expanding high quality pre-apprenticeships and RAPs within the sector, promoting employer practices that prioritize equity and quality for youth, and making apprenticeship the default way for youth-serving workers to enter nonprofit and care economy sector roles, PLACE will create a strong, sustained pipeline for the youth-serving workers that will benefit the workforce system, staff, and the care economy at large.

Public Contact Information

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