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Indiana Receives \$2.25 Million to Support Workforce Recovery Efforts

Strada Education Network grant spurs 'Rapid Recovery for a Better Future' initiative, while building sustainable education-workforce system

(INDIANAPOLIS) -- The Indiana Governor's Workforce Cabinet has been awarded a \$2.25 million grant from Strada Education Network to help Hoosiers, especially those displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic, re-train and re-enter the workforce.

The grant supports Governor Eric J. Holcomb's efforts to accelerate the state's economic and workforce recovery through the "Rapid Recovery for a Better Future" initiative that was launched on June 5. The initiative is centered on meeting individual needs by providing comprehensive support for Hoosiers to secure a job, assess and grow their skills, and get the support they need to get back on their feet. Fifty million of federal funding through the CARES Act has been allocated to this effort to scale up short-term education and training opportunities through the Workforce Ready Grant and the Employer Training Grant. Expanded career coaching and navigation is also part of the initiative.

"Strada has been a valuable partner throughout the development of the Rapid Recovery initiative and we appreciate its commitment to ensuring Indiana has the resources necessary to get more Hoosiers on a pathway to meaningful careers," said P.J. McGrew, Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet.

The grant from Strada will allow Indiana to build the infrastructure necessary to support the programs of the Rapid Recovery initiative. Grant funding enables the state to use real-time data to align its education and training offerings to in-demand jobs, and expand professional development and skills-based job training. It will also support efforts to better ensure that all learning counts for credit, regardless of whether it is traditional education, workforce training programs, or on-the-job experience.

"Strada is proud to partner with Gov. Holcomb and our home state to improve the lives of working adults from all backgrounds and experiences, especially those who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic," Strada Education Network President and CEO William D. Hansen said. "At Strada, we believe states are best-positioned and agile enough to rapidly align their postsecondary education and training offerings with high-demand jobs, growing our economy while increasing opportunity for the millions of Americans struggling to learn and earn throughout their careers. Indiana has long been a leader in this work, and we are hopeful that this grant furthers the state's plans to create a better future for Hoosiers."

Strada's grant will let the state fund what works and collaborate with all stakeholders on priorities, resources, and decision-making.

Individuals looking to connect with education, employment, and financial resources available in Indiana are encouraged to visit Indiana's Rapid Recovery Hub, YourNextStepIn.org.

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About Strada Education Network

Strada Education Network is a national social impact organization dedicated to improving lives by forging clearer and more purposeful pathways between education and employment. Our approach combines research, public engagement, strategic philanthropy, mission-aligned investments, and a network of affiliate organizations. Together, we work to create a new learning ecosystem that better serves the millions of Americans seeking to complete postsecondary education and training, gain clear value from those experiences, and build meaningful careers. Learn more at stradaeducation.org.

About the Governor's Workforce Cabinet

The [Governor's Workforce Cabinet](#) (GWC) was formed in 2018 with the mission of addressing current and future education and employment needs for individuals and employers, strengthening Indiana's economy by integrating and aligning state and federal resources, and ensuring a talent-driven education and workforce system. The membership of the GWC includes the business community, K-12 representatives, postsecondary institutions, Indiana lawmakers, and leaders from Indiana state agencies.