

RETAIN Grants

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=305566>

<https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/Stay-at-Work-Return-to-Work.htm>

Due July 23rd (Ellie and Meredith in DC on 23rd (a Monday), so need to submit by July 20th)

Start no later than 9/30/18

The RETAIN Demonstration Projects will be funded in two (2) phases.

1. Phase 1 – 18 months, includes planning and start-up activities (9 months) and a small pilot demonstration (9 months)
 - \$2,500,000 total for Phase 1 with no more than \$1,000,000 for planning
2. Phase 2 – 42 months if pilot goes well, opportunity to be awarded supplemental funding
 - Up to \$19,750,000 to implement the demonstration projects.

Purpose: Implement and evaluate promising Stay at Work/Return to Work (SAW/RTW) **early intervention strategies** to support injured or ill workers in remaining at or returning to work by providing coordinated health and employment services for up to six months that support labor force attachment. Goals:

1. Increase employment retention and labor force participation of individuals who acquire, and/or at risk of developing, work disabilities
2. Reduce long-term work disability among project participants, including federal disability benefits.

Applicants Will:

1. Identify a population of workers in their state who experience injuries or medical conditions that put them at risk of developing a work disability
2. Develop a coordinated, comprehensive strategy to connect these workers to participating health care providers and the project's RTW coordinators to ultimately return them to work with employers.

RETAIN Demonstration Project intervention strategies must include:

1. RTW Coordinators coordinating health and employment service delivery
2. Training participating health care providers in occupational health best practices such as those provided in COHE* and **alternatives to opioids for pain management**;
3. **Incentivizing** participating health care providers to utilize the best practices;
4. Early communication to all stakeholders to return the worker to the workplace as soon as possible;
5. Work-place based interventions (including accommodations);
6. Retraining/rehabilitation for workers who can no longer perform their prior job or other available suitable alternate work; and
7. Tracking and monitoring the medical and employment progress of participating workers.

Partners (RETAIN Leadership Team):

1. Lead Agency: State Workforce Agency (DWD) - required
2. State Health Department (DHS) - required
3. Health care systems practicing coordinated care and population health management (Documentation of health care partner's experience in evidence-based strategies and systems of care coordination and population health management) - required
4. State Workforce Board – required

5. Other (non-required partners) could include WIOA core programs, health, mental health, insurance, and substance abuse, workers' compensation; Governor's Office; Business-membership or business intermediary organizations; other Health care systems or provider networks (in addition to the required partner); State VR agencies; Non-profit organizations, state- and privately-funded universities.
6. Local: Lead applicant (DWD) must partner with one or more Local Workforce Development Boards

Eligible Target Worker Participant Population

1. Must be employed, or at minimum in the labor force, at the onset of the injury, illness, or condition (work-related or non-work-related) for which they are participating in RETAIN;
2. May not include individuals who have applications for federal disability benefits pending or who are already receiving such benefits at the onset of the injury or illness.
3. Particularly interested in projects that include workers at risk of **musculoskeletal** (MSK) injuries or with a focus on industries where the incidence of MSK injuries is high. Examples: Low back pain, sprains, or strains resulting from overexertion
4. **Veterans** a priority

Department of Labor (DOL) will contract with a technical assistance provider to support planning and pilot activities in Phase 1 and implementation activities in Phase 2.

Social Security Administration (SSA) will fund an evaluation contractor.

- Projects required to collect data for this evaluation (which will include a cost-benefit analysis)
- State must designate an evaluation liaison to collaborate with the evaluator (minimum of 0.5 full time equivalent)

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI): Awardees are expected to analyze process data as part of continuous quality improvement (CQI) to improve implementation without changing underlying model.

- "Triple Aim" - improve experience of health care and employment services, improve health of populations to facilitate continued employment, and be responsible stewards of public dollars including the reduction of per capita costs to the extent possible.