

ADvancing States Announces the Launch of ConnectToCareJobs.com

April 21, 2020

I am pleased to share some exciting news about a new COVID-19 resource ADvancing States is launching. **ConnectToCareJobs.com** is a website that facilitates job matches between long-term services and supports providers and people who have the appropriate skills and are available to work.

ConnectToCareJobs.com provides states with near real-time actionable data about the workforce needs of their long-term services and supports facilities. The website also allows states to direct resources to facilities most at risk and in need of staff.

ConnectToCareJobs.com will provide facilities with an easy-to-use portal to manage their workforce needs.

ConnectToCareJobs.com will provide individuals looking for jobs and volunteers in long term care a one-stop shop to connect with employers in whatever area of the country they are willing to serve.

ConnectToCareJobs.com will provide ADvancing States with regional and national data on workforce shortages. ADvancing States will be able to provide that data to FEMA, CMS, ACL and other federal agencies. ADvancing States will also be able to provide the data to states so that they can compare their needs to other states. And post COVID-19, ADvancing States will be able to share the data with researchers interested in studying workforce issues.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlights how severe our LTSS workforce shortage is across the nation. States have reported that nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other group homes are facing massive staffing shortages in some of the hardest hit facilities.

To deal with the crisis, Massachusetts partnered with Northeastern University to stand up a website that would allow the facilities to enter information about their workforce needs into a database and allow workers looking to either volunteer or be paid to go to institutions to look for opportunities. The state is also able to access the information and to easily assess where the highest need for staffing support across the state is. I was impressed by the model and wanted to be able to provide it to all states and territories as part of ADvancing States COVID-19 response.

On April 15, I approached the Centene Corporation to see if they would assist ADvancing States financially so that we could build the websites for all the states and they agreed to do so immediately.

Ultimately in order to expedite the development of this resource, we decided to use Centene's amazing IT team to develop the website. In the past week, Centene's IT department has worked 24/7 to develop this tool so that we can get it out to the states as quickly as possible. We are extremely grateful for the time and effort that they have lent to our association.

ConnecttoCareJobs.com will begin to roll out to states the week of April 27, 2020 with a select group of states followed by a full launch shortly thereafter.

The initial list of facilities listed on **ConnectToCareJobs.com** will be limited to the following:

- Assisted Living Community (aka Supportive Living Facility)
- Intermediate Care Facility
- Independent Living
- Individual/Family Home
- LTAC - Long Term Acute Care Hospital
- Memory Care - usually part of AL but sometimes separated out
- Pediatric Skilled Nursing Facility
- Residential Home (Adult) - (aka group home)
- Residential Home (Children) - (aka group home)
- Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)

The positions we will be matching include:

- Activity Aide
- Recreational Therapist
- Environmental Service Aide (laundry or housekeeping)
- Maintenance
- Transportation
- Certified Nursing Assistant/Patient Care Technician
- Licensed Professional Nurse (LPN)/Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
- Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Temporary Nurse Aide
- Cook
- Dietary Aide/Food Server
- Dietician/Nutritionist
- Feeding Assistant
- Admissions/Marketing
- Minimal Data Set (MDS) Coordinator
- Social Worker
- Occupational Therapist/Aide

- Physical Therapist/Aide
- Respiratory Therapist
- Speech Therapist

What can you do now to prepare?

1. Meet with your state nursing home associations and provider networks and share the news that soon the state will be urging adoption of this tool.
2. Share this resource with your Governor's COVID-19 Emergency Task Force so that they can also use the data for planning.
3. Develop a marketing campaign so that workers know that it is the way that they should be applying for jobs in long term services and supports.
4. Have meetings with the associations and unions representing the various health care workers to highlight the website and encourage adoption.
5. Partner with your workforce boards to get the messages out to displaced workers who may be able to fill some of the necessary positions and ask them to direct traffic to the website.
6. Consider offering sign-up "bonuses" for health care workers who use the portal and are successfully placed in a position. (Massachusetts paid each worker \$1000 to adopt the portal)
7. If your state has already stood up a website to match individuals to jobs, please consider redirecting your website to the new website so that your state can take advantage of the sophisticated matching algorithms developed for this website.

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