



COMMUNITY OFFSHORE WIND'S C.A.R.E. PROGRAM

Providing Childcare Affordability and Resource Equity to the offshore wind workforce



Community Offshore Wind knows that access to affordable childcare is a critical part of the success of the renewable energy industry and continues to be an essential need category in every New York community. In partnership with United Way of New York State, we are introducing the C.A.R.E. program (Childcare Affordability and Resource Equity), which offers \$10 million for childcare programs to support people working and training in offshore wind in the state.

HOW IT WORKS

- In early 2024, New York offshore wind workers and trainees can apply for the program by calling 211 to connect with a resource specialist from United Way.
- Once approved, a dedicated program manager will earmark funds for recipients based on gross income and household size. Participants in the program will select a childcare facility that is convenient for their families and partners with United Way. Selected childcare facilities will then receive stipends for each recipient.
- The funding for C.A.R.E. is contingent on Community Offshore Wind entering into an agreement with NYSERDA in connection with the development of its offshore wind project. Childcare will be a part of all the joint venture's future offshore wind proposals.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Offshore wind workers including, but not limited to laborers, electricians, ironworkers, welders, dockbuilders, steel workers, line workers, administrative staff, engineers, and trainees are eligible for the program.
- We will work with local United Ways in communities where offshore wind workers are located to identify childcare providers.
- We will prioritize families who are from disadvantaged communities or identified ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). ALICE earns just above the federal poverty level, but less than what it costs to make ends meet. Households of color are disproportionately ALICE.

WHAT THE PROGRAM WILL DO

- This groundbreaking initiative will create a more equitable offshore wind workforce in local communities and remove barriers for workers who want to enter the offshore wind workforce and pre-apprenticeship union programs, but need affordable childcare resources.
- The program will not only benefit families that need childcare resources, but provide a stabilizing revenue stream to childcare providers who are already serving the most economically disadvantaged children.
- United Way New York will provide a dedicated 211 New York Community Resource Specialist to work with individuals actively training or working in the offshore wind industry to identify needs and barriers they are facing, and connect them to programs and services in the community to address those needs. These could include solving for a loss of transportation or finding a mental health resource.
- This program would also provide mini-grants to program participants to address life challenges that low and moderate income households typically don't have emergency funds to address and could lead to job loss or training program drop-out (car repair/insurance, security deposit, etc.)

“Access to affordable childcare is an essential part of the success of the renewable energy industry and the creation of good-paying opportunities that drive families into the middle class. We are excited to launch this trailblazing initiative in collaboration with United Way, and we look forward to seeing this program increase access to jobs for so many New York families and create a more equitable workforce.”

Will Hazelip, President of National Grid Ventures, US Northeast

“As a mother of three kids, I understand the important role childcare plays in supporting working parents and increasing diversity in the workforce. Community Offshore Wind's recognition of this challenge, even more prevalent in disadvantaged communities, provides the resources that enable families to enter new industries like offshore wind and pave the way to a cleaner future for the next generation.”

Katie Theoharides, RWE Renewables Offshore (East)

“We are proud to partner with Community Offshore Wind on this groundbreaking initiative to provide affordable childcare resources for offshore wind workers and trainees in New York. This program will remove barriers for workers who want to enter the clean energy workforce, but need affordable childcare to do so. We look forward to working with community partners to ensure that families in New York State have access to the resources they need to succeed.”

Hugh Parry, President of United Way, New York State