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Open Door America
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Confronting Poverty.*

Press Release



Open Door America (ODA) Forms Jobs Partnership with Maryland Manufacturing Extension Program (MDMEP)

Entry-level Jobs Initiative to Start in Baltimore in September 2016

Ellicott City, MD, August 19, 2016: Open Door America (ODA), a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to improving the lives of impoverished and working-class families since 2005, has formed a jobs partnership with the Maryland Manufacturing Extension Program (MDMEP) based in Columbia, Maryland. MDMEP, an independent 501(c) nonprofit organization, is one of 60 MEP centers throughout the U.S. dedicated to the advancement and growth of manufacturing.

The ODA-MDMEP partnership will recruit and prepare low-income persons for entry-level employment in Maryland manufacturing firms. Candidates will participate in a preparatory two-week MDMEP “Boot Camp” followed by six months of intensive ODA case management and mentoring once on the job. Partnership jobs start at a “living-wage” or higher pay rate, include health care and retirement benefits, and provide on-the-job manufacturing training. The partnership will initially focus on young adult residents of Baltimore City who meet the rigorous standards of the program.

ODA has worked with over 800 disadvantaged families on life skills development and job readiness since 2005, including ex-offenders and other chronically-underemployed persons. Current focus areas include the Baltimore-Washington corridor and the Gulf Coast region of Florida.

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