

PROJECT BRIEF



Project Name: Mid Star Lab Workforce Training and Development

Grant Program: DRAW

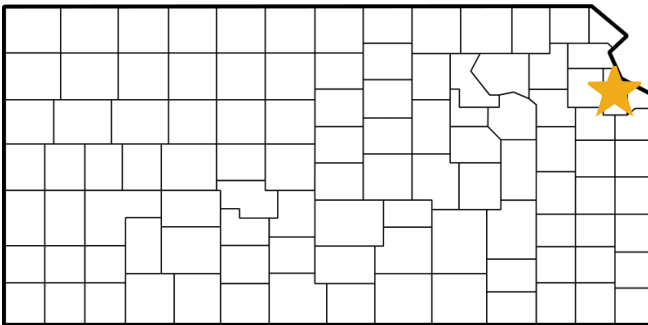
Project Date: June 2023 - June 2025

Project Summary

Mid Star Lab's project under the DRAW grant focused on workforce development in the orthotics and prosthetics manufacturing sector across Kansas. Mid Star Lab enhanced their training programs for new hires and existing staff, including certified pedorthists, orthotic fitters, and technician training initiatives through education, cross-training, and process improvements.

Location

Tonganoxie, Kansas



Target Population

The project focused on training staff and expanding services to better support underserved and high-need populations (e.g., diabetics, veterans, children, athletes, elderly individuals), especially those with mobility challenges or chronic conditions.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: To expand and strengthen the orthotics and prosthetics workforce in Kansas by providing specialized training and creating sustainable employment opportunities in the medical device manufacturing sector.

Objective: Upskill new and existing staff through vendor-led and in-house training programs.

Budget Overview

- **Grant:** \$185,000
- **Match:** \$61,667
- **Total Budget:** \$246,667

Expense Categories:

- Training Salaries: \$166,074.91
- Vendor/Third-Party Training: \$49,855.79
- Travel: \$29,406.97
- Supplies: \$1,329.33

Grantee Information

Mid Star Lab Inc is a family-owned and operated medical equipment manufacturer specializing in custom orthotics and orthopedic footwear. Founded in 1998, the company began as a wholesaler of orthotic inserts to podiatrists and foot care providers across the Midwest. Over time, it expanded to include direct patient services, diabetic and therapeutic shoes, and custom orthotic refurbishing.

Sustainability

The project serves high-demand populations (e.g., diabetics, veterans, children), ensuring a steady need for services that can sustain operations through revenue and partnerships.

Outcomes

By investing in education and cross-functional training, Mid Star Lab strengthened the local economy by creating skilled jobs and retaining talent in Kansas.

Five employees attended training to become Certified Pedorthists. One of the five has successfully completed the program, passed the certification exam, and is now actively seeing patients. The remaining four are continuing to make progress toward certification.

Activities and Timeline

•Q3 2023:

- Training Strategic Plan completed and implemented

•Q4 2023:

- Orthotic lab new hire training & Shoe Fitter Residency implemented

•Q2 2025:

- Training and certification program fully integrated into a cross-functional organizational teams

Contact Information

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