

HPOG Program Summary

Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC) Treasured Elders ("O'Tanka Tewicahidapi") “Next Steps” Project of the Spirit Lake Nation



Location:

Fort Totten, North Dakota

Program Goals:

- Enroll 120 participants into training and education programs
- Train 102 enrolled participants
- Place 64 trained participants into the healthcare sector

Health Professions Taught:

Participants receive training qualifying them for employment as certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses, quality service providers, registered nurses, certified medical assistants, registered dietitians, community health workers, licensed social workers, health information technician, and licensed addiction counselors.

Approach:

The program provides opportunities for Native Americans residing in North Dakota to successfully access an educational pathway to health careers. The program provides multiple entry points into the healthcare workforce. Continuing education and mentoring components enable participants to set, meet, or raise their professional goals.

The target population includes Native American TANF recipients or low income individuals at Tribal Nations in North Dakota who are interested in becoming a health care professional. Recruitment occurs at the three Tribal Nation sites: Spirit Lake Nation, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation. Recruitment occurs at the United Tribes Technical College for the urban Native American population. Screening is conducted by the “Next Steps” project at Cankdeska Cikana Community College in coordination with local colleges at each target site.

Training leads to industry standard certificates and/or professional licensure in healthcare occupations. The University of North Dakota, the College of Nursing RAIN program, the Lake Region State College, and three Tribal Colleges are major training partners. Participant services include initial assessment, educational planning, skill training, mentoring, financial assessment and support. Additional key partners include the North Dakota Department of Commerce, Department of Labor, North Dakota TANF program and the Spirit Lake Tribal Employment and Training program. Potential employers include nursing homes, tribal health programs, Indian Health Services, county based home and community services, and local health care providers.