

HPOG Program Summary



Central Community College (CCC) Health Education Laddering Program (HELP)

Location:

Grand Island, Nebraska

Program Goals:

- Enroll 1,175 participants
- Train 1,075 participants
- Place 632 participants in employment

Health Professions Taught:

Participants receive training enabling them to work as central sterilization technicians, emergency medical technicians, health information managers, medical assistants, medical interpreters, medical laboratory technicians, medication aides, nurses (both practical nurse [PN] and associate-degree nurse [ADN]), nursing assistants, and occupational therapy assistants.

Approach:

HELP addresses needs identified by the Nebraska Health Care Task Force, which include increasing access to education and training in the rural expanse of the CCC service area, as well as dealing with critical healthcare workforce shortages caused by a shrinking central Nebraska labor pool. The project serves TANF recipients and other low-income individuals identified as having incomes less than 200 percent of the poverty level. To implement its program, CCC works closely with its four required and additional partners, including the Trio program. Trio provides services to first-generation, low-income, or disabled students, many of whom are interested or enrolled in healthcare fields. CCC also has a unique and beneficial program for high school students hoping to start careers in the healthcare field. This program provides an additional pool of applicants, because many parents, students, and guidance counselors have expressed interest in the possibilities of HELP.

Participants are assigned case managers who will determine their program eligibility, set up additional funding and services, and help determine the best study programs for each participant. Participants will also benefit from testing services to determine their level of reading, writing, and math abilities. This assessment will ensure that participants are enrolled in appropriate study programs. In addition, participants will have access to tutoring services and will receive assistance in purchasing course materials and uniforms. HELP will refer participants to other agencies for help with childcare, transportation, and housing.

The program also enables participants to access support services during the training, increasing success in attaining credentials, certification, and degrees and equipping them with the skills and competencies demanded by the healthcare industry. CCC's partnership with the state TANF agency (ResCare) also provides students with job shadowing and internship opportunities that are included in the laddering process.