

HPOG Program Summary

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) Work Attributes Toward Careers in Health (WATCH)



Location:

Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

Program Goals:

- Provide education and training to 365 program participants (240 to become registered nurse aides, 95 to become licensed practical nurses, and 30 to become registered nurses)
- Ensure that 292 of those enrolled graduate or complete training
- Enable 263 of those who complete training and education to find employment in the healthcare sector

Health Professions Taught:

Successful WATCH participants will enter the nursing field as registered nurse aides (RNAs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), or registered nurses (RNs).

Approach:

WATCH uses a sustainable regional framework to help low-income participants attain nursing careers. It serves participants who are eligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or who are pregnant or a parenting teen, a high school dropout, transitioning out of foster care or an abusive relationship, a displaced worker, a migrant worker, or from a family with intergenerational dependency on assistance. All participants must have an income below the self-sufficiency wage in their home county as defined by Pathways PA.

Key partners bring expertise in employment and training, developing apprenticeships, adult education, healthcare education, case management, and instructional practices tailored for low-income groups. These partners include the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, the Pennsylvania Apprenticeship Agency, Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers, and the Mifflin-Juniata Career & Technical Center. In addition to the Mifflin-Juniata Career & Technical Center, WATCH maintains close contact with other post-secondary nursing programs, including the Pennsylvania College of Technology, Lewistown Hospital School of Nursing, Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology, and the Thomas Jefferson School of Nursing-Geisinger Medical Center.

The WATCH approach features the creation of cohorts for long-term peer support, the establishment of multi-level certified nursing assistant (CNA) apprenticeships, development of participant resiliency skills, the application of team case management, and the alignment of the nursing education curriculum to create a local Competency Model. Support for participants include assistance in attaining financial aid, childcare, tutoring, transportation, ESL services, and short-term housing assistance.

WATCH is providing professional development resources to Central Susquehanna LPN nursing instructors and the CSIR Adult Education team throughout the project, including instructional best practices. Support is also provided to adult basic literacy instructors in preparing potential RNA, LPN, and RN students for postsecondary nursing programs.