

## HPOG Program Summary



### Temple University Health Information Career Pathways for TANF Recipients and Other Low-Income Individuals

#### Location:

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

#### Program Goals:

- 320 enroll; 260 complete training as administrative health assistant or medical secretary
- 210 enroll; 160 complete training as medical billing and coding specialist
- 75 enroll in an associate's degree program; 60 complete degree
- 15 enroll in a bachelor's degree program; 10 complete degree
- 10 enroll in a master's degree program; 5 complete degree
- 240 individuals receive or retain employment

#### Health Professions Taught:

Participants receive training and certifications necessary to work as administrative health assistants, medical secretaries, medical billing/coding specialists, health information technicians (HITs), coding managers, health administrators, coding instructors, health data analysts, health information management directors, or directors of training /education for hospital coding/compliance services.

#### Approach:

This program provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals with an opportunity to study at different levels of training and education, leading to national certifications and employment in the health information field. Other eligibility criteria include a satisfactory criminal record check, 9th grade reading/math scores, and high motivation and interest in the field. Students who qualify for an internship undergo physical exams and drug testing.

The program's five tiers provide the foundation for a career pathways model. Tier 1 has minimum qualifications, whereas Tier 5 requirements enable entry into a master's degree program at Temple. Students can enter the program on any tier, depending on their educational qualifications and readiness. The program offers training in a traditional classroom environment, with much of the instruction in a computer lab setting. Students work in virtual labs with software appropriate for experiential learning. Distance-learning options are integrated into the curriculum. Students who successfully complete one tier in the training have the opportunity to engage in a field practicum.

Temple enables students to successfully navigate and complete training by providing regularly scheduled case management and career coaching, self-assessments, personal effectiveness training (workplace competency skills), academic enrichment (adult literacy services and technology-based learning), supportive services (childcare, transportation, help with financial aid forms and applications to post-secondary educational institutions and for scholarships or tuition help), job and career placement services, incentives, and achievement and graduation ceremonies.