

**Katrina at Kansas Department of Commerce  
Kansas Health Professions Opportunity Program (KHPOP)**

Katrina, a single mother with one child, came to the Workforce Center in the spring of 2011, seeking assistance with training expenses. She did not receive public assistance when she enrolled in KHPOP, but did receive FAFSA grant money. She came in as a certified Paramedic employed with Sedgwick County EMS, but she was underemployed in that capacity.

Katrina determined that she would like to pursue training to become an RN. She had enrolled in the EMT to Nursing Bridge program with Pratt Community College when she came to KHPOP requesting assistance. She was approved for KHPOP eligibility, attended the training program with Pratt, completed her training in May 2012, and took and passed her NCLEX exam on June 4, 2012. Within a week of passing her NCLEX exam, she was employed full time as a Registered Nurse with Conmed Healthcare Management, which provides medical care to incarcerated individuals.

KHPOP gave her assistance for gas, books, and supplies that she said would not have been purchased or would have created a huge burden for herself and her son without this support. Further, she said, "I am very thankful for the financial and emotional support that this program provided me." While Katrina was responsible for the hard work and dedication required to improve her situation for herself and her family, the assistance offered by the KHPOP program gave her the resources to overcome obstacles that may have otherwise halted her progress toward her long-term career goals.