

H-1B Rural Healthcare Grants

Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc. (CCWI)

Organization Type: Local Workforce Development Board

Project Name: *Maine Rural Healthcare Partnership*

Award Amount: \$2,500,000

Target H-1B Healthcare Occupations: Nursing Assistants, Home Health Aides, Medical Assistants, Pharmacy Technicians, Registered Nurses, and Pharmacists

Credential(s) Awarded: College credit, Associates degrees, and Bachelor's degrees

Summary of Program Activities: Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc. (CCWI)'s *Maine Rural Healthcare Partnership* project will partner with employers that serve predominantly rural areas of the Coastal Counties Workforce Region to train rural workers for high-wage, high-skills career pathways in nursing and pharmacy. Maine is the most rural state in the nation; it is also the oldest, and the pipeline of health worker graduates from Maine's education and training programs is insufficient to address the influx of skilled worker retirement and an aging population. The *Maine Rural Healthcare Partnership* has three goals: to address workforce shortages in rural areas by delivering innovative and virtual models that train workers for in-demand occupations providing direct patient care; to reduce technology barriers that limit participation of students in rural areas; and to increase student retention and completion of healthcare training programs through access to supportive services, career advising, and remedial academic preparation. Facilitated at the frontline by a network of Healthcare Career Advisors, the *Maine Rural Healthcare Partnership* will deliver existing education and training programs at the certificate and associate level through the following strategies: On-The-Job Training; apprenticeship; accelerated learning; online training; stackable credits and credentials; fast track credentials; subsidized training and education; and support services. The targeted populations include unemployed low-income residents, out-of-school youth, persons with disabilities, veterans, dislocated workers, the formerly incarcerated, underemployed new immigrants, and unskilled incumbent workers.

The Rural Healthcare Partnership:

Employer Partners: MaineHealth, Northern Light Health, and CVS Pharmacy; **Education and Training**

Providers: Maine Community College System, State Office of Adult Education; **State Apprenticeship**

Agency: Maine Department of Labor; **WIOA Entities:** Workforce Solutions, operated by Goodwill of

Northern New England, Maine Department of Labor (State Workforce Board); **Optional Partner:** Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Opportunity Zone: Yes

Service Area: The Maine counties of Cumberland, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo, and York

Proposed Total Participants Served: 480

Target Population: Unemployed, Underemployed, Incumbent Workers

Authorized Representative Contact: Antoinette Mancusi, Executive Director,

director@coastalcounties.org, 207-725-5472