

H-1B Rural Healthcare Grants

Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP)

Organization Type: Workforce Development System Agency

Project Name: *Healthcare Pathways Partnership Program (H3P)*

Award Amount: \$2,500,000

Target H-1B Healthcare Occupations: Nursing Assistants, Medical Assistants, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Registered Nurses

Credential(s) Awarded: Credentials in nursing career pathway

Summary of Program Activities: Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP)'s *Healthcare Pathways Partnership Program (H3P)* will help healthcare employers, education and training providers, the regional workforce development agency and Kentucky Chamber Talent Pipeline Management collaborate to develop an employer-driven healthcare pathway program that will serve the 23 rural Appalachian counties in eastern Kentucky. Most counties in EKCEP's region have an unemployment rate more than double the national average. The region also has a drastic imbalance with more sick people and fewer primary care professionals per capita than most counties in America. This healthcare pathway program will reshape the region's current nursing infrastructure to meet the demands of future workforce needs using a four-prong approach: (1) Develop Regional Healthcare "Career Navigator" Positions; (2) Adjust Advanced Skills Training Programs to Include Employer-Driven Skillsets; (3) Develop Regional Healthcare Career Ladder Advancement Partnerships between Employers, Training Programs, and EKCEP; and (4) Create a Regional Healthcare Virtual Career Fair Platform. During this project, Career Navigators will help employer and training provider partners work together to update training activities to confirm the skills taught are appropriate for the region's workforce and ensure new graduates are floor-ready. *H3P* is designed to help unemployed and underemployed individuals in the region take advantage of this opportunity, and to help a small number of incumbent workers move up the career ladder while mentoring and encouraging upward mobility of others.

The Rural Healthcare Partnership

Employer Partners: Appalachian Regional Healthcare, Highlands Regional Medical Center, Rockcastle Regional Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation, Pikeville Medical Center, Primary Care Centers of Eastern Kentucky, Juniper Health; **Education and Training**

Providers: University of Pikeville, Hazard Community and Technical College, Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Galen Hazard, Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College; **WIOA Entities:** The Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP) Workforce Investment Area;

Optional Partners: Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center's Talent Pipeline Management Team

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Opportunity Zone: Yes

Service Area: 23 rural Appalachian counties in eastern Kentucky

Proposed Total Participants Served: 500

Target Population: Unemployed, Underemployed, Incumbent Workers

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