H-1B Rural Healthcare Grants

Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments

**Organization Type:** WIOA Local Workforce Development Board

**Project Name:** Level UP (Upper Savannah and Pee Dee Workforce Areas) Rural Healthcare Grant

**Award Amount:** $2,271,023

**Target H-1B Healthcare Occupations:** Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, Emergency Medical Tech/Paramedic, Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomist, and Nursing Assistant

**Credential(s) Awarded:** Occupational license

**Summary of Program Activities:** The Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments’ will serve participants in Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAP) and pre-apprenticeship programs in healthcare occupations such as Registered Nurses, emergency medical technicians/paramedics, pharmacy technicians and nursing assistants to increase skilled healthcare workers in rural communities. Training providers will offer online/hybrid models and flexible class schedules, in order to accommodate the students’ work schedules. The proposed service areas are rural counties mostly designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and will focus on emergency medical system careers. In partnership with Apprenticeship Carolina, including employer partners, the project will serve the unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers, youth ages 17-24, with employment barriers such as school dropout, pregnancy/parenting, basic skills deficient, offenders, disabilities, and low income. The unemployed and underemployed may include individuals laid off or dislocated from their work due to COVID-19 or other layoffs/closures in the state. Economically-disadvantaged adults, veterans, minorities, individuals with disabilities or receiving unemployment insurance (UI) will be recruited through the 15 American Job Centers and its partners in the service area.

**The Rural Healthcare Partnership**

**Employer Partners:** McLeod Health System; EMS in Greenwood, Laurens, Edgefield, Abbeville, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda Counties; **Education and Training Providers:** Northeastern Technical College (NETC), Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC), Piedmont Technical College

**State Apprenticeship Agency:** Apprenticeship Carolina, SC Technical College System; **WIOA Entities:** Pee Dee Regional Council of Government (Pee Dee Workforce Development Board), Upper Savannah Council of Governments (Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board)

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

**Opportunity Zone:** Yes

**Service Area:** The South Carolina counties of Abbeville, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Edgefield, Florence, Greenwood, Laurens, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda, and Williamsburg

** Proposed Total Participants Served:** 349

**Target Population:** Unemployed, Underemployed, and Incumbent Workers

**Authorized Representative Contact:** Johnny B. Brown, Executive Director, jbrown@peedecog.org, 843-669-3138