

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@peedeecog.org, 843-669-3138