

H-1B Rural Healthcare Grants

West River Area Health Education Center

Organization Type: Non-Profit

Project Name: *Rural Health Works South Dakota*

Award Amount: \$2,500,000

Target H-1B Healthcare Occupations: Registered Nurses, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics, Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses, and Nursing Assistants

Credential(s) Awarded: Recognized postsecondary credentials(s)

Summary of Program Activities: The **West River Area Health Education Center's Rural Health Works South Dakota** will endeavor to alleviate healthcare workforce shortages by creating sustainable employment and training programs in healthcare occupations serving rural populations. South Dakota is a large geographic state with a very low population density. 60 of 66 counties are completely designated (59 counties) or partially-designated (1 county) as a primary care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). The project will expand: (1) nursing professions (both East and West River); (2) emergency medical services (EMS) specific to East River; and (3) incumbent healthcare education on behavioral health. The project will provide On-the-Job Training for certified nurse's assistants; classroom training to upskill current nursing professionals; expanded training for EMTs, including expanding EMT participation in associated registered apprenticeship for paramedics; and online behavioral health training with continuing education credits for incumbent professionals. The Rural Healthcare Partnership will serve rural South Dakota, targeting individuals in rural areas who did not complete traditional high school degrees, and will encourage individuals to pursue careers in nursing and emergency medical services. The project will also provide training for incumbent workers to upskill in the nursing career ladder and for current workers to receive continuing education credits to retain their current occupations in H1-B occupations and industries.

The Rural Healthcare Partnership

Employer Partners: Monument Health, Community Health Care Center of the Black Hills, Avantara Redfield, Faulkton Senior Living, Good Samaritan Society in Hand, Redfield Community Memorial Hospital, Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital, Faulkton Area Medical Center; **Education and Training Providers:** Texas A&M, Aberdeen Fire Rescue; **WIOA Entities:** South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation

Geographic Scope: Statewide **Opportunity Zone:** Yes

Service Area: The South Dakota counties of Bennett, Butte, Corson, Custer, Dewey, Fall River, Faulk, Gregory, Haakon, Hand, Harding, Jackson, Jones, Lakota, Lawrence, Lyman, Meade, Mellette, Oglala, Pennington, Perkins, Spink, Stanley, Todd, Tripp, and Ziebach

Proposed Total Participants Served: 1,919

Target Population: Unemployed, Underemployed, and Incumbent Workers

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