

H-1B Rural Healthcare Grants

Western Colorado Area Health Education Center

Organization Type: Non-Profit

Project Name: *Western Slope of Colorado Hub in Mesa County*

Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Target H-1B Healthcare Occupations: Personal Care and Nurse Aide

Credential(s) Awarded: Nationally recognized credential

Summary of Program Activities: The **Western Colorado Area Health Education Center's** *Western Slope of Colorado Hub in Mesa County* will serve the rural areas of Mesa, Delta, Montrose, and Gunnison Counties, which are designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).

The current and future projected demand for Home Health Aids and Nursing Assistants is great. *Western Slope of Colorado Hub in Mesa County* will enroll individuals in Registered Apprenticeship Programs for personal care aide and certified nurse aides, including specific hours to support COVID-19-related services, for employment placement with employer partners in Home Health, Assisted Living, Long Term Care Facilities, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Group Homes. The employment and training program will increase access to nursing occupations in the rural areas of Mesa, Delta, Montrose and Gunnison Counties of Western Colorado for individuals who are unemployed and underemployed; particularly those who have lost employment due to work disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e. hospitality, service industry & gig economy workers, minimum or low-wage employees displaced by business closures and others living on low income at or below the poverty line). In particular, the project will serve veterans, military spouses, transitioning service members, and underrepresented populations including women, people of color, and other populations with employment barriers that hinder movement into middle-to high-skilled H-1B nursing occupations.

The Rural Healthcare Partnership

Employer Partners: Agape Home Care Agency, Ariel Clinical Services, Aspen Ridge, Beehive, Cappella of Grand Junction, Columbine Caregivers, Commons at Hilltop, Elite Home Care, Family Health West–Willows, FirstLight Home Care, Fountains of Hilltop, Grandview Care Lodge, Hilltop Life Adjustment Program, Homestead of Montrose, La Villa Grande, Retreat at Palisade, MLS Senior Care, Mantey Heights, Nightingale's, PASCO, Retreat at Harbor Cove, Residence at Grand Mesa, STRIVE, SummitWest Care, Vineyard Memory Care; **Education and Training Providers:** Technical College of the Rockies; **WIOA Entities:** Mesa County Workforce Center, Career Center of District 51

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Opportunity Zone: Yes

Service Area: Western Slope of Colorado with hub in Mesa County

Proposed Total Participants Served: 220

Target Population: Unemployed, Underemployed, Incumbent Workers

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