

H-1B Rural Healthcare Grants

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

Organization Type: WIOA Local Workforce Development Board

Project Name: *Rural Healthcare Initiative*

Award Amount: \$2,286,892

Target H-1B Healthcare Occupations: Nursing Assistants, Home Health Aides, Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses, Medical Assistants, Pharmacy Technicians, Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics, Physical Therapist Assistants, Radiologic Technologists and Technicians, Surgical Technologists, and Mental Health Counselors

Credential(s) Awarded: College credits

Summary of Program Activities: The **Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area's Rural Healthcare Initiative** will seek to address the shortage of health care workers needed to provide direct patient care in the rural Texas counties of Blanco, Burnet, Lampasas, and Llano, all of which are designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). The *Initiative* will provide educational and instructional training that lead to post-secondary credentials in healthcare occupations along the nursing career pathway, including medical assistants, pharmacy technicians, radiology technologists and technicians, surgical technologists, and mental health counselors. The goal of the project is to provide the Rural Capital Region's healthcare employers with trained workers to meet the projected demand for these occupations. The project will fulfill the immediate needs of employers, supply the region's labor market with the employees needed to fill projected job openings, increase the earnings potential of participants, as well as provide them with careers that offer longevity and advancement opportunities with employer partners such as Baylor Scott and White Health, Ascension, R1 Revenue Cycle Management, and Bluebonnet Trails Community Services. The *Rural Healthcare Initiative* is committed to planning and working collaboratively with all program partners, economic development corporations, chambers of commerce, independent school districts, regional universities and community colleges, training providers, employers, and job seekers to guide efforts toward regional economic growth and family self-sufficiency. The project will assist unemployed individuals seeking entry or reentry into the workforce and underemployed workers in need of new skills and full-time opportunities. The project will also target incumbent workers who need to increase their skills to remain competitive and advance along a career ladder.

The Rural Healthcare Partnership

Employer Partners: Baylor Scott and White Health, R1 Ascension Seton Medical Center; **Education and**

Training Providers: Central Texas College, Central Texas Allied Health Institute, Texas Tech University;

WIOA Entities: Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Opportunity Zone: No

Service Area: The Texas counties of Blanco, Burnet, Lampasas, and Llano

Proposed Total Participants Served: 200

Target Population: Unemployed, Underemployed, and Incumbent Workers

Authorized Representative Contact: Paul Fletcher, Chief Executive Officer,

paul.fletcher@ruralcapital.net, 512-244-7966