

HPOG Program Summary



The WorkPlace, Inc., Southwestern Connecticut's Regional Workforce Investment Board Health CareRx Academy

Location:

Bridgeport, Connecticut

Program Goals:

- Assess and enroll 500 participants from the Jobs First Employment Service (JFES) program for TANF recipients receiving cash benefits and non-cash benefits; other low income populations including individuals who are homeless, unemployed and 50 years of age and older or facing foreclosure; immigrants; low-wage workers and other disadvantaged individuals.
- Ensure 452 of those enrolled complete core and occupational skills training.
- Assist 300 of those who complete training to obtain employment in a health profession.
- Enable 200 of those who obtain employment in healthcare to take additional training.
- Assist 100 of those employed and taking additional training to advance in their career and compensation.

Health Professions Taught:

Associate degree nursing, respiratory therapist, medical assistant, physical therapy assistant, certified phlebotomist, EKG technician, paramedic, medical billing specialist, medical coder medical records / claims, certified nursing assistant, patient care technician /associate, medical records & HIT.

Approach:

The WorkPlace Inc. has put together the Health CareRx Academy, a broad partnership of hospitals, colleges, businesses, business groups, Labor and numerous community- based organizations that serve 20 discrete communities in lower Fairfield and New Haven Counties in Connecticut. It helps people prepare for careers and strengthens the workforce for employers. As a Health Profession Opportunity Program (HPOG) grantee, the Academy conducts a broad outreach campaign to include all eligible, low-income individuals in the program. It utilizes CTWorks (Connecticut Works), the One-Stop Center for information sessions, assessments, screening and enrollments. Faith-based and community-based organizations, community action agencies and housing authorities also assist with the outreach and recruitment of participants. A web-based portal expands accessibility of information and resources even further.

The Health CareRx Academy assesses participants for their healthcare career interests and aptitudes before beginning training. The training offered starts with core competencies such as employability skills and 21st century competencies required for long-term health career success. Next, skill training is offered in targeted and in-demand healthcare occupations that are credentialed and will earn participants a wage sufficient enough to support themselves and their families. The Academy provides distance learning options to overcome barriers such as childcare needs, transportation issues, and the scheduling of courses. Finally, District 1199 New England Training and Upgrading Fund, a partner in the Health CareRx Academy, is developing an apprenticeship program for employees who are certified nursing assistants (CNA) to apprentice into Licensed Practical Nurses while working in long-term care facilities in southwestern Connecticut.