

**NIA**  
**THE WORKPLACE**



 **BRIDGEPORT, CT**  
Health CareRx Academy

## Hope is the greatest tool

Living in Bridgeport, CT, Nia, a single mom, found herself facing inadequate housing and very limited income. She trained as a licensed practical nurse (LPN), but had trouble finding a LPN job and struggled to make ends meet working as a certified nursing assistant (CNA). Nia was motivated to provide more for her family, and found the help she needed in The Workplace's **Health CareRx Academy**. The Health CareRx Academy is a partnership of healthcare providers, employers, educators, trainers, and community-based organizations in coastal Connecticut that work together to train and prepare Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals for employment in healthcare occupations.

Through the Academy, Nia received counseling, support services, and was able to complete EKG and Phlebotomy courses to become a patient care technician. "Health CareRx Academy was a God-send to me," says Nia. "I love how I was walked through every step of the process. My career counselor, Pat Hildalgo, was so critical to my success. She was very supportive and invested in helping me succeed." To make sure she never missed a class, Pat provided Nia gas cards through the Academy when money was tight.

The Health CareRx Academy equips participants not just for jobs, but for life. Nia learned how to map out strategic long-term goals and to identify strengths and fortify weaknesses. She received a tablet from the Academy and was able to take online courses on cultural diversity and emotional intelligence.

Despite the overwhelming support from the program, Nia felt discouraged after going on countless interviews without receiving any job offers. Pat directed Nia to a program partner called Dress For Success which donates new or gently worn business clothes to those that need appropriate interview attire. The partnership with Dress For Success was the icing on the cake. "It sparked joy to try on the stylish pieces from Dress for Success and it really gave me a boost of confidence," says Nia. "I thought, wow, this program leaves no room for excuses as to why you cannot be successful. I was prepared for a new job from head to toe. Literally." Nia wore an outfit from Dress For Success when she landed her current job.

**Health CareRx Academy helped Nia increase her self-esteem, giving her opportunities she may not have had otherwise. The Health CareRx Academy gave her hope, the greatest tool anyone can receive. Nia leveraged her training into a career as an LPN with full benefits. She was able to give back to her community by teaching at the school where she completed her patient care technician courses.**

This success story was self-identified by the grantee and information contained in this document was provided by the grantee.