

HPOG Program Summary



Edmonds Community College Creating Access to Careers in Healthcare (CATCH)

Location:

Lynnwood, Washington

Program Goals:

- Assess 635 participants in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Washington State's Basic Food, Employment and Training (BFET) program and other low-income individuals for possible enrollment as students in the CATCH program
- Enroll 415 of those assessed into CATCH training and education programs
- Ensure that 311 of those enrolled complete training
- Enable 210 of those who complete training to find employment in healthcare
- Assist 169 of those employed in beginning work toward an advanced certificate or degree

Health Professions Taught:

Successful CATCH participants earn certifications qualifying them to be an initial nursing assistant, restorative aide, phlebotomy technician, or EKG/monitor technician. Participants are also academically prepared to pursue credentials needed for patient care technician, health unit coordinator, clinical laboratory assistant, medical assistant, or pharmacy technician. CATCH assists participants who are seeking further study in obtaining additional financial aid.

Approach:

CATCH implements a communitywide recruitment and assessment process for prospective students. This effort engages 13 community partners representing colleges, healthcare employers, Snohomish County, and the State of Washington that refer potential students to the program. CATCH follows up partner recruitment efforts with a WorkFirst Life Skills course at Edmonds Community College that provides an opportunity for an intense assessment of referred TANF and BFET participants for CATCH program suitability. As a result of these recruitment and assessment efforts, CATCH secures up to three times more applications than available pilot phase training slots. Community partners play key and enthusiastic roles in the recruitment process, providing input into the application design, disseminating application forms, receiving completed applications, and conducting initial vetting and screening of potential program participants. The program's partners also form a foundation for the coordinated provision of social and education resources that reveal a range of other degree programs, work, and community resources for those applicants who are not accepted into CATCH.

Viable program candidates are sent to CATCH for income verification, criminal background checks, a barrier assessment, a healthcare career assessment, and a reading and math assessment. Final candidates are interviewed, and those who succeed are enrolled and are participating in class within days of the interview. CATCH is committed to recruiting and enrolling up to 100 new students each year during the HPOG program.