

Building Pathways to a Brighter Future

Chicago State University

Partnerships to STEP-UP in Health Careers

Location: Chicago, IL

OTHER GRANT INFORMATION

Five Year Project Period: September 30, 2015 - September 29, 2020

Annual Award Amount: \$2,436,636

Type of Organization: Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education

Service Area: Southside of Chicago and Southland suburbs of Cook County in Illinois

Target Population: TANF recipients and other low-income individuals

FIVE-YEAR QUANTIFIABLE PROJECTIONS

Number of individuals that will be enrolled in the overall HPOG program: 700

Number of TANF recipients that will be enrolled: 315

Number of individual participants that will begin basic skills education: 630

Number of individual participants that will complete basic skills education: 567

Number of participants that will begin any healthcare occupational training: 608

Number of participants that will complete any healthcare occupational training: 486

Number of individual participants that will obtain employment in a healthcare occupation: 438

ABSTRACT

The Partnership to STEP-UP in Health Careers program is an evidence-based, multi-institution collaboration that uses a multi-tiered approach to career laddering in the high-demand health professions of community/public health, health information administration, nursing, and occupational therapy. The STEP-UP program involves collaboration between Chicago State University, a 4-year university; South Suburban College, a 2-year community college; and Proactive Community Services and Metropolitan Family Services-Calumet, two community-based organizations servicing the target population. The program is designed to: 1) target competencies and training for health professions in high demand with career ladder options, 2) combine supportive services with educational training services to help participants reach the highest level of their career trajectory, 3) provide clear articulated career pathways from certificate level through the graduate degree level with necessary credentialing, and 4) offer internships and employment support to enable participants to overcome obstacles to employment. Support services will include case management, transportation assistance, tuition and fee assistance, child care, learning resources, training materials, work readiness, school readiness, job placement support, and internships. The STEP-UP program will provide four tiered career pathway options: 1) Occupational training at the non-credit training level, e.g., CNA or occupational therapy rehabilitation aide; 2) certificates and credited coursework, e.g., community health worker, medical assistant and coding; 3) educational training programs that lead to associate degrees that lead to credentials, e.g., registered nurse, occupational therapy assistant; 4) undergraduate degrees that can incorporate the articulation of credits from previous tiers, e.g., pre-occupational therapy, health information administration, nursing and community health.