

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: City of Chicago, especially the south side and southern suburbs

Target Population: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (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 a multitiered approach to career laddering. The program involves collaboration between Chicago State University, South Suburban College, Metropolitan Family Services-Calumet, and Metropolitan Family Services-Southwest, two community-based organizations. 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 clearly articulated career pathways from the certificate level through the undergraduate degree level, with necessary credentialing; and 4) offer internships and employment support to enable participants to overcome obstacles to employment. Occupations that are trained for include: Community Health Worker, Nursing Assistant, Medical Assistant, Medical Insurance Coder, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Registered Nurse, Health Educator, Occupational Therapist, Personal Care Aide, Medical and Health Services Manager, and Occupational Therapy Aide.

The STEP UP program offers basic skills training, case management, transportation assistance, tuition assistance, childcare assistance, tutoring services, academic support workshops, advisement and career counseling, along with peer support, job search assistance, job placement and retention support, work readiness training, digital literacy, and clinical support.

The program instituted an "Adopt a TANF Office Model," in which a staff member serves as a liaison to regularly engage the TANF office on recruitment, potential candidates, and outreach. Staff have weekly appointments at four offices on the south side of Chicago and south suburbs. Three of the offices have held onsite HPOG orientations where individuals can sign up for intake after being oriented. STEP UP is working with neighboring Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act offices and the Illinois Department of Employment Security to undertake staff orientations and general recruitment. STEP UP also continues to share information with the federal Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship.