

**AMBER**  
EASTERN CONNECTICUT WORKFORCE  
INVESTMENT BOARD, INC.



**FRANKLIN, CT**  
Health Careers Advancement  
Project (Health CAP)

## Overcoming the past can shape the future.

Amber was a young mother struggling to raise her two children when she walked into the Danielson American Job Center in east Connecticut. While working with an Employment Advocate (EA), she mentioned an interest in a career in healthcare. Her EA directed her to [Health Careers Advancement Project \(Health CAP\)](#), an HPOG program facilitated by Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board, Inc. Health CAP provides opportunities for TANF recipients and other low-income individuals to obtain occupational training in many healthcare tracks. Amber spoke to an HPOG navigator about how to enter the Health CAP program.

Amber completed a two-week intensive HPOG boot camp where she increased her knowledge in math, reading, and medical terminology. Boot camp provided her with tools to help her effectively complete all class hours and homework for training. Upon completion, Amber enrolled in certified nursing assistant (CNA) training at a local community college.

Right before the clinical rotation component of CNA training, Amber found out she could not complete the program due to an old criminal charge. The HPOG navigator and her EA worked with both Amber and the training coordinator to keep her in the program despite

the charge. However, their efforts were unsuccessful. This setback caused Amber to fall into a depression, and distance herself from HPOG. Amber did not complete her CNA training.

The HPOG navigator kept reaching out to Amber over the next year. Thankfully, Amber returned to the job center. Together, they resolved her transportation barriers and discussed new healthcare employment goals. Amber found a new path with the help of her therapist and HPOG navigator. HPOG staff helped Amber complete labor market research for jobs in recovery services, practiced interview questions, and discussed professional boundaries in the workplace. Her navigator even provided a reference for Amber for the “job of [her] dreams.”

She got that job. Amber accepted a full-time position as a client supervisor for a local recovery services agency. Since being hired, Amber was promoted with a raise in pay to administrative assistant. Amber is earning an income and feels a sense of pride that she no longer needs state benefits.

**Amber is proud to share her story  
and is thankful for the support of  
the American Job Center and HPOG.**

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