

Worksystems, Inc.

Health Careers NW

Location: Portland, OR

OTHER GRANT INFORMATION

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

Annual Award Amount: \$2,324,768

Type of Organization: Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)

Service Area: Portland, Oregon metropolitan area

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: 1,348

Number of TANF recipients that will be enrolled: 405

Number of individual participants that will begin basic skills education: 670

Number of individual participants that will complete basic skills education: 480

Number of participants that will begin any healthcare occupational training: 1,100

Number of participants that will complete any healthcare occupational training: 880

Number of individual participants that will obtain employment in a healthcare occupation: 680

ABSTRACT

Health Careers NW (HCNW) is a dynamic public/private collaboration that will move TANF recipients and other low-income individuals into family sustaining jobs in healthcare in the Portland Metro Area. The program will prepare participants to enter training for healthcare career pathways, support them through training completion, and place them in careers that offer family-sustaining employment. Participants will explore and choose from among seven career ladders vetted by employers as in-demand, facing shortages, and providing opportunities for advancement. The career ladders are: Nursing, Medical Laboratory, Medical Office, Assistive Technology, Mental Health, Dental, and Allied Health. HCNW will use a proven sequence of programming that includes career planning and exploration, soft skill development, industry contextualized basic skill remediation, and secondary credential completion.

Participants will receive assistance from a Career Coach, as well as academic preparation and post-secondary access from grant-funded Academic Navigators. Following these preparatory activities, participants will enter occupational skills training offered by a network of training partners. Once trained, their employment goals will be supported by an integrated placement effort, supported by partnerships and hiring commitments from local employers. Throughout the program, coaches will provide access to a variety of supportive services, some grant-funded and others leveraged, including transportation, housing, financial wellness, and child care. Worksystems, Inc. (WSI), the Portland Metro Workforce Development Board, has assembled a stakeholder group that includes 21 health care employers, the state and local offices of the Department of Human Services, TANF JOBS contractors, a network of culturally-competent community-based organizations, and two major community colleges in the region to implement this project.