

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative Pueblo Project HEALTH



Grant amount: \$715,402

Leveraged amount: \$595,062 from grantee and state and local governments

Grantee: Pueblo Community College, Pueblo, Colorado

Key partners: Pueblo Work Link (One-Stop Career Center), Trinidad State Junior College, Parkview Episcopal Medical Center

Grant activities will take place in Colorado's Pueblo, Costilla, Conejos, and Alamosa Counties.

Challenge

A shortage of medical personnel in rural Colorado, communities is compounded by two key challenges. First, many rural communities have Emergency Medical Services comprised of volunteer personnel, who often leave to pursue paid employment elsewhere. In addition, there are no training programs in rural Colorado to prepare health care practitioners.

Addressing the Challenge

With its \$715,402 grant, Pueblo Project HEALTH addresses this shortage by bringing training opportunities to outlying areas, and helps volunteer medical personnel secure paid employment. Pueblo Project HEALTH combines the Emergency Medical and Respiratory Care positions into one hybrid curriculum, and administers their training through traditional classroom instruction, distance learning technology, and mobile clinical experiences. Graduates will be able to secure employment in Respiratory Care and serve as volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians. This project will assist counties that have been designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas, and will target minority/disadvantaged individuals.

Projected Outcomes

The hybrid curriculum will prepare individuals for both the Intermediate Emergency Medical Technician and the Respiratory Care Practitioner positions. The number of minority/disadvantaged individuals enrolled in the program will increase significantly during the second and third years of the project.

Sustainable Impact

Pueblo Project HEALTH will result in an innovative curriculum that can be used by community colleges throughout the state. Further, local WIA funds can continue to be a source of funding after ETA demonstration funds expire. Third, Pueblo Project HEALTH is committed to expanding the program throughout the state using the community college system.

