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# President's High Growth Job Training Initiative The Contextualized Literacy Pre-LPN Program



**Grant amount:** \$192,500

**Leveraged amount:** At least \$100,000 in matching funds from Service Employees International Union's Training and Upgrading Fund (TUF)

**Grantee:** 1199 SEIU League Grant Corporation – New York City

**Key partners:** NYC Department of Education; the Consortium for Worker Education

**Grant activities** will take place in New York City, Nassau, and Westchester Counties.

## Challenge

Shortages of nursing and affiliated health care workers will have severe impacts upon the availability and quality of services if they are not addressed. One strategy for addressing the need for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) calls for low-level health care workers to complete LPN training programs and secure employment. However, the challenge of the work-family balance, as well as other issues, make it difficult for workers who are new to academic environments to perform well on training programs' entrance exams.

## Addressing the Challenge

SEIU's TUF will expand its Contextualized Literacy Pre-LPN Program, which combines literacy and job training in preparation for LPN programs. This pre-LPN program has been designed for low-level health-care workers who have been out of school for a long period of time and have had difficulty passing entrance exams. TUF will provide 10 classes and train instructors, enabling New York City area health care workers to enter LPN programs and find employment.

## Projected Outcomes

Pre-LPN classes will prepare 250 students to pass entrance exams and enroll in LPN programs. 90 percent of the 250 participants will complete the pre-LPN program and advance to LPN programs within six months. The number of students in pre-LPN classes that successfully complete the LPN program will increase by 80 percent over last year.

## Sustainable Impact

The Contextualized Literacy Pre-LPN Program will have a sustained impact on the LPN shortage because additional instructors will increase the TUF's training capacity. In addition, the pre-LPN program will have a sustained impact because the TUF has demonstrated its commitment to the program, providing at least \$100,000 in matching funds to expand the program. Finally, the program will serve as a replicable model for other entities, with recommendations and best practices disseminated through papers and conferences.

