

Community-Based Job Training Grants

City of Peoria Workforce Development Department

Grantee: City of Peoria Workforce Development Department

Industry Focus: Healthcare

Key Partners: Illinois Central College, Heartland Community College, Workforce Network and Career Link (One-Stops for Local Workforce Areas 15 and 16), OSF Medical Center and Methodist Medical Center, Peoria Public School District 150

Grant Amount: \$2,000,000

Leveraged Amount: \$2,810,974

Location of Grant Activities: Bureau, Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Logan, McDonough, McLean, Marshall, Mason, Mercer, Peoria, Putnam, Schuyler, Stark, Tazewell, Warren and Woodford counties, Illinois.

Challenge: Healthcare is projected to add more than 4,000 new jobs from 2004-2014 in the Peoria Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The demand for surgical technicians, radiologists and medical assistants is increasing, and LPN-to-RN Bridge programs are becoming very important to smaller MSAs. As local hospitals seek to expand, the worker shortage in the healthcare industry is expected to worsen due to increased consumer demand for services, high turnover rate among RNs, and an aging workforce. Challenges include a decreasing number of healthcare graduates, a shortage of masters-level Registered Nurses to teach classes (due to low pay) a lack of available clinical preceptors, and inadequately trained, overburdened supervisors.

Addressing the Challenge: A pipeline of highly educated healthcare workers will be established through the Central Illinois Health Care Community Job Training Grant, Illinois Central College (ICC) and Heartland Community College (HCC) will address their capacity building needs by converting courses to distance learning and hiring new faculty. The colleges will also build an updated and enlarged Smart Classroom Surgical technology lab and a new surgical suite. ICC will focus on reducing skills shortages among RNs, surgical technicians and medical assistants. HCC will reduce the shortage of imaging professionals by acquiring equipment for its new School of Radiology. Partners will reach out to middle and high school students, including those enrolled in dual credit healthcare courses, with information on training and employment opportunities in the industry.

Projected Outcomes:

- 120 individuals will be trained
- 102 (85%) will enter employment, and 80% will be retained for more than six months
- 108 participants will receive credentials including associate's or masters degrees or will become RNs by bridging from LPN degrees
- 60% of enrolled high school youth will gain at least one level in literacy and numeracy