

Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) to Serve TANF Recipients and Other Low-Income Individuals

Funding Agency: Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance

Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2015-ACF-OFA-FX-0951

Amount Requested: \$12,536,165 for 5 years

Project Lead: Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), Workforce Development Division

Project Title: Hawaii Health Occupation Preparation and Education System (HiHOPES)

Project Duration: September 30, 2015 to September 29, 2020

Project Partners: Hawaii State Department of Human Services – TANF Division, Area Health Education Center (Evaluator), University of Hawaii Community Colleges (LCC, KCC, and Maui College), City and County of Honolulu, Oahu Workforce Investment Board, USDOL Veterans Employment and Training Service, and Healthcare Employers

Target Population: First-to-Work (TANF) participants, other TANF recipients and low-income individuals

Target Occupations: Nursing Assistants, Medical Assistants, Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses, Pharmacy Technicians, Surgical Technicians, Community Health Worker, Emergency Medical Technician, and Student Health Aide

Target Goal: 650 participants over 5 years; 130 participants per year

Training Type: Career exploration and assessment, iCan (job coaching, remedial education, Healthcare Foundations, softskills, and Compass prep), vocational training (leading to an industry-recognized credential), paid or unpaid internship, and on-the-job training

Project Summary: The goal of the Hawaii Health Occupation Preparation and Education System (HiHOPES) program is to recruit 650 TANF and low income individuals, train 500 of these individuals and ultimately place 300 participants into well-paying jobs in healthcare. The project will partner with the Hawaii State Department of Human Services and the City and County of Honolulu to provide recruitment activities for students interested in health careers. HiHOPES participants will receive one to two weeks of career exploration, including shadowing in worksites, followed by three months of academic and career preparation (iCAN), a certificate or degree program at one of the local community colleges, and unpaid internships and on-the-job training experiences to maximize their chance of career success. Support will be provided for travel to the training locations and for childcare (supportive services), for all the preparatory training leading to a certificate or degree in one of the following disciplines that have been demonstrated to be in high demand in Hawaii: Nursing Assistant, Medical Assistant, Licensed Practical & Vocational Nurse, Pharmacy Technician, Surgical Technician, Student Health Aide, Community Health Worker, Patient Services Representative, and EMT/Paramedic. Traditional job seeking TANF and other low income individuals will be used as the control group and will be directed to the existing First to Work and American Job Center programs for vocational training. The progress of all students will be analyzed for significant differences by the project evaluator. HiHOPES graduates are expected to demonstrate a 40% higher employment success rate than the current 21% employment rate for Hawaii TANF recipients, plus evaluation will demonstrate that over 50% of participants will increase their knowledge of health careers and resources, confidence in academic aptitude, competence to pursue health careers and ability to find a career mentor.