

Health Care ARRA Project Abstract **Submitted October 5, 2009**

Health Care Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries Grant Program

Funding Opportunity: SGA/DFA PY 09–01 CFDA: 17.275

Applicant: Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

Targeted Industry: Healthcare

Project Title: Washington Health Care Worker Training Coalition:
Health Career Pathways from Long-Term to Acute Care

Communities Served: Washington State (urban, suburban, and rural)

Funding Request: \$5 million

This project will benefit urban, suburban, and rural communities across Washington with the lead applicant, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, working in partnership with labor-management organizations, employers, labor unions, community and technical colleges, and workforce development councils (workforce investment boards) statewide. This partnership is the Washington Health Care Worker Training Coalition.

With more than 328,000 people unemployed in Washington (9.2%, climbing to 10.0% by 2010), the healthcare industry is still providing secure jobs and careers. The state's demand for healthcare workers is growing exponentially; the University of Washington estimates that we will need an additional 25,000 registered nurses by 2025. Specifically, the hospital, ambulatory, and long term care employer partners in this grant project report a need for over 3,000 of the credentialed workers the project will train. Our project strategy is to create a healthcare career lattice in acute/ambulatory care – and between long-term care and acute/ambulatory care – leading to upward mobility for entry-level, low-wage workers, thereby building a system of continuous career advancement.

This grant project will meet our worker and employer needs by:

- Immediately preparing at least 550 low wage healthcare workers for wage progression in high demand healthcare occupations, and creating at least 350 new entry-level healthcare jobs with opportunities for advancement.
- Pioneering career tracks from long-term to acute/ambulatory care by creating educational pathways from home care apprentice to medical assistant in acute care and certified nurse assistant to licensed practical nurse to registered nurse.
- Meeting the educational needs of working adults by building on Washington's innovations in delivering education at the workplace and online.
- Building the state's capacity to deliver healthcare education by training instructors, buying whole cohorts, and laying the groundwork to take educational delivery innovations statewide.
- Meeting industry needs for more culturally diverse and skilled workers.

Altogether, the Coalition includes a total of 36 organizations that are committed to leveraging federal ETA ARRA grant funds by collectively contributing more than \$2.5 million in in-kind funding and resources to the success of this project. Our project will directly address the dreams and aspirations of hundreds of job seekers and incumbent healthcare workers who have the ambition, skills, and motivation to advance. ETA ARRA grant assistance provides the essential funding we need to produce this sea change in educational delivery and capacity expansion.