

A Model for Success

Nursing Career Pathways Program in Southeast Missouri



Heartland Forward and its local partners at Poplar Bluff, Missouri, are leveraging awarded funds from the Department of Labor's Workforce Opportunities in Rural Communities (WORC) grant* (implementation period: September 2023 to September 2026) to build a clear programmatic pathway for secondary students into nursing programs and career apprenticeships, specifically targeting underserved veterans, low-income, first-generation and rural students. Heartland Forward has enlisted the Community Funding Accelerator (CFA) program to help with the application to and management of the DOL WORC grant.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE NURSING PATHWAYS PROGRAM?

The Nursing Career Pathways Program (NCP) aims to:



Improve awareness of and access to the nursing profession



Develop a clear pathway from high school into the nursing profession



Fill job vacancies in the nursing profession in Butler County and surrounding areas



Increase retention in nursing programs and the nursing profession by providing comprehensive, wraparound support

WHAT DOES THE NURSING PATHWAY LOOK LIKE?

The NCP begins with recruitment and training at the high school level, and continues into a comprehensive classroom and field training program in the post-secondary level. Students will graduate with a CNA, LPN or RN certification at the end of the pathway.



BUILD AWARENESS

Recruitment will begin at the high school level, through exposure to and improved awareness of the nursing profession



TECHNICAL TRAINING

The NCP will be delivered through a combination of classroom instruction, online coursework and apprenticeship opportunities.



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Each student will be provided with a mentor (a senior professional in the nursing field) who will provide guidance, support and advice.



WRAPAROUND SUPPORT

The NCP will provide comprehensive supportive services in the form of stipends, provision of supplies and mental health services

WHO ARE OUR LOCAL PARTNERS?

EDUCATION



HEALTH CARE



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



*The DOL WORC Program has awarded Heartland Forward \$1,499,931, which is fully funding the NCP Program.