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Health-care jobs boosted with \$11 million for training

SEATTLE—Through a grant announced today by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the WDC of Seattle-King County will receive more than \$2.2 million a year for 5 years to provide job training in health care.

At least 970 people—economically disadvantaged adults and youth—will be trained and supported through a partnership of agencies that uses the most effective models and strategies of each.

“This is a significant investment in jobs for our community,” said Marléna Sessions, CEO of the Workforce Development Council. “Over the next five years, this grant will have a huge impact on the number of people getting jobs in health care, helping both jobseekers and employers.”

Health Careers for All is an ambitious project that addresses gaps in the social-service and training systems that have held back local people who are on public assistance or who are otherwise economically disadvantaged. It is based on several successful models, including the WDC’s award-winning [Health Careers for Youth](#) program and the state’s [IBEST model](#) of integrating basic reading and math skills with occupational training.

Each participant in HCA will receive career exploration and planning and individual support as he or she moves through training, starting at the most basic level through advanced. At each level, participants will have multiple entry and exit points so they can learn, earn and advance through well-paying and in-demand healthcare occupations.

To accomplish this, the WDC is leading a partnership that includes:

- The state departments of Social and Health Services and Employment Security, which oversee the Temporary Aid to Needy Families program and its employment-focused arm, WorkFirst;
- Ten community/technical colleges in King County;
- Health-care employers, represented by the Health Work Force Institute;
- Workforce and economic development partners at the state and local levels;
- The Wash. State Apprenticeship & Training Council; and
- Community-based and government programs that provide employment and training services.

The funding is the result of a nationwide competition for \$67 million in Health Profession Opportunity Grants released by Health and Human Services last summer under the [Affordable Care Act](#). [\[HHS press release\]](#) The WDC led the grant partners in developing a complex and far-reaching proposal that competed against other states and areas to bring this funding to Seattle-King County.

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The **Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County** (www.seakingwdc.org) is a nonprofit workforce “think tank” and grant-making organization that oversees employment-related programs for youth, the adult workforce and employers in King County, with the goal of a strong economy and self-sufficiency for every resident.