

Michigan Community Health Center Medical & Dental Assistant Training Program

SUMMARY

Michigan Community Health Centers, like other Healthcare providers, have seen unprecedented workforce labor shortages over the COVID-19 Pandemic. The most critical labor shortages Health Centers have experienced have been in unlicensed health care professional roles, mainly Medical and Dental Assistants. To transcend this period of critical workforce shortages, MPCA has actively engaged with State and Regional workforce development agencies and training partners to develop a collaborative training model which pairs an online training program with an on-the-job training experience to produce qualified medical and dental assistants to fill existing vacancies and sustain a stable workforce to meet the growing need for healthcare access in some of Michigan's most underserved communities.

TRAINING SOLUTION

Through a 7.6 Million Dollar workforce investment through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Health Centers will train and employ up to 300 new Medical and Dental assistants between June 2022 through September 2024. Health Centers that participate in the funding program receive funding to cover employer costs, including tuition and student wages, training equipment, and supplies such as practice models, laptops, and extra supplies for lab-based learning. Funds also support mentor and supervising staff costs.

MPCA has partnered with Career Step to provide a low-cost, high-quality training option to health centers and support the collective success of students and participating Health Centers. Students will earn as they learn online and on-the-job free from student debt or prohibitive tuition costs. Health Centers establish service-term agreements with their sponsored trainees to retain the return on investment in building the Health Center workforce.

IMPACT

This will significantly impact current acute workforce shortages and meet expanding needs. Health Centers will immediately benefit from the relief of additional trainees while building their internal capacity for sustaining their role in training healthcare professionals beyond the end of this funding. This investment will bolster Health Centers' capacity to provide access to critical primary care and oral health services, reduce health disparities, and prevent costly care from preventable conditions.

For more information
on this program, contact:

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