# Introducing Healthcare Apprenticeships to Montana

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Creating Access to Rural Education

# HealthCARE Montana: Addressing the rural healthcare workforce crisis

\$15M US Department of Labor TAACCCT Grant

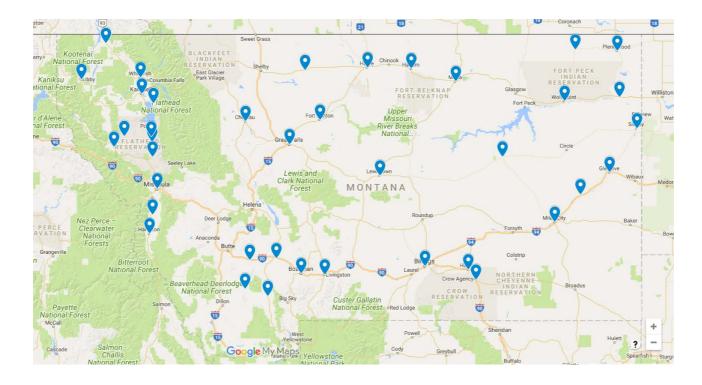
Partners:

- •15 colleges
- •Department of Labor & Industry
- •Regional Area Health Education Centers
- •100+ facilities

Objectives:

- Workforce Coordination
  - Includes apprenticeship
- •Distance Education
- •Update Curriculum
- •Student Support

#### **Scope of Healthcare Apprenticeship Initiative**



- Baseline: 0
  - Significant knowledge gap and apprehension with facilities
- Results after 3 year effort:
  - 200+ individuals registered as apprentices
  - 53 employers (rural, urban, and tribal)
  - 21 occupations
- Blue icons indicate locations that implemented apprenticeships

#### **Breaking the Mold – Rewiring Apprenticeship**

1. Where do workers come from?

Incumbent New employees Cohort Based Cream of the Crop 2. What is the ideal curriculum delivery?

Correspondence Online Classroom Hybrid classroom and online

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3. What's the curriculum source?

#### Textbooks

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In house Community-provided training Industry-provided training 2 year college 4 year college

### 4. How do you structure the program?

Continuous work and curriculum Front loaded curriculum Varies

### 5. How do you pay for it?

Employer covers tuition

 Apprentice covers tuition
 State Workforce
 Programs (WIOA)
 Tax Credit 6. How do you measure success?

Length of time in program Competency assessment Combination of the two

#### **Spotlight on Practical Nurse Apprenticeship**

- Background
  - PNs needed in rural long term cares; rely heavily on travelers
  - Colleges many hours away no way to "grow your own"
- Successes
  - Aligned with curriculum conversion to distance format
  - Apprenticeship did not add significant changes
  - Utilization of "step down" role
- Challenges
  - Faculty concerns over clinical regulations, scope of work and quality of onsite education
  - No educational/promotional materials

#### **Spotlight on Restorative Care Apprenticeship**

- Background
  - Need workforce better skilled to meet patient needs
  - Restorative skills create career progression & wage increase
- Successes
  - On the ground needs assessment not in the initial plan
  - Rural focus
- Challenges
  - Related curriculum not available later developed
  - Supporting sponsors and apprentices –case management, frequent visits, clarity on expectations and timeline

# **Additional Successes & Challenges**

- State level leadership support Governor Steve Bullock
- Transparency with licensing boards, professional organizations, and workforce partners
  - Navigating complex licensing and educational requirements
  - Promotion
- Developing employer partners
  - Patience & persistence hold multiple meetings
  - Explain return on investment and other benefits
  - Share testimonials from early adopters

# What's next?

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- Healthcare Apprenticeship Implementation Toolkit
  <u>https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taaccct/15216</u>
- Webinar: Flexible Apprenticeship Models that work
  <u>https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2017/10/17/15/15/From-Design-to-</u>
  <u>Implementation-Flexible-Apprenticeship-Models-That-Work</u>
- Free Resources for Apprenticeship & Work Based Learning: https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2018/03/12/15/04/Free-Resources-for-Apprenticeship-Work-based-learning
- Apprenticeships on HealthCARE Montana: www.healthcaremontana.org/apprenticeships-2
- Quick start Toolkit for Building Apprenticeship Programs: <u>https://www.doleta.gov/oa/employers/apprenticeship\_toolkit.pdf</u>
- Federal resources: <u>https://www.doleta.gov/oa/federalresources/playbook.pdf</u>