



Workforce
Development Board
Contra Costa County

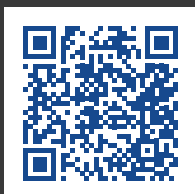
Community Fact Sheet



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East Bay Health Equity Initiative

This program models the success of the EMT 4 Equity (E4E) and the EMT to Paramedic Apprenticeship projects to create opportunities in 15 other in-demand health careers targeting underserved populations and elevating their success in employment pathways.

What are the specifics of the program?

The East Bay Health Equity Initiative (EBHEI) features four East Bay Workforce Boards and the Bay Area Health Workforce Partnership to collaborate with targeted local school programs providing career training in 15 health fields, along with resources to enhance financial, academic and career support. EBHEI and their training providers will train and place 200 members of the target population in quality entry-level jobs in one of the health fields. This will improve career opportunities for advancement from entry-level Allied Health jobs through apprenticeship programs developed with employer partners to make advancement realistic for participants who are working and cannot quit to go back to school.

This project will serve English Language Learners, homeless and housing insecure, justice-involved individuals, people with disabilities, veterans, youth, immigrants/refugees, low income workers, and other under-resourced communities.

Why is the program important?

Healthcare as an industry is already growing at a fast pace. According to the Health Research Center at UCSF, the pandemic and the aging population are two major factors that have led to high vacancy rates and a projected increase in vacancy rates in healthcare jobs. Because of these factors, our healthcare delivery system has changed rapidly in the last three years as hard-to-fill high qualification and performance jobs have remained unfilled. Healthcare providers have increased the scope of practice for allied health jobs to close the deficit and have dramatically raised the wages within these positions to attract quality candidates. This has produced tremendous opportunities in the East Bay for our community members. Namely, to train participants where they live and offers target populations secure jobs with income mobility through career paths.

Who are the community partners?

In addition to the (4) East Bay Workforce Boards, the EBHEI was spearheaded by some of the biggest and best public and private healthcare employers such as Kaiser and Contra Costa Health Services Department, and also includes significant input from the best training providers from community colleges, adult schools and private programs from throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. For specific expertise in reaching and serving our target populations, many community-based organizations are part of the initiative, including the SEIU-UHW Joint Ed Fund to ensure the program benefits from the latest and most innovative worker voice and engagement techniques and programs.