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**Action for a Better Community Reports on Early Results of the ROC-HPOG Program Designed to Train and Place over 1,000 Program Participants in Healthcare Jobs, over a 5 – year period.**

**ROCHESTER, N.Y.** – The Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG) was awarded to Action for a Better Community (ABC) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at the beginning of the program’s fiscal year in October 2015. Authorized by the Affordable Care Act, HPOG provides education, training, and career opportunities to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients, other low-income individuals, and incumbent workers. The grant award is for \$1.6 million per year, renewable for 5 years.

The overall objective of ROC-HPOG is to enroll 1,500 participants and to assist at least 1,000 program participants to attain career–ladder employment in the healthcare field over the term of the grant. ABC President/CEO James H. Norman stated that, **“We are very pleased about the opportunities this grant provides the targeted populations to acquire the education and training to either begin or expand their growth in a healthcare career. I want to acknowledge the work of the FR=EE, Facing Race, Embracing Equity community collaborative, (especially the Race and Health Disparities and Race and Jobs workgroups) for playing an important role in helping us to quickly mobilize community support around the development of the HPOG application. Also, I want to recognize the hard work of other community partners who participated in the writing, and helped to defray the cost of grant development. This is truly a community effort that ABC is happy to lead.”**

To date, 108 participants have been accepted for program services, 35 of whom are either registered for, or involved in one of the approved healthcare training tracks or basic skills training; and five are employed in the healthcare field. The remaining enrollees are being prepared to enter healthcare training. Some have tested and not met the minimum requirements to participate in training, and are receiving assistance to make another attempt at success in the near future. Others are working on specific stabilizing challenges such as housing, childcare, or resolving issues with their benefits. The Navigators are providing assistance with all of these and other potential barriers. The Year 1 goal is to enroll 150 participants in training. Twelve program participants have enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant training with Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) that began on August 1<sup>st</sup> at St. Mary’s Hospital, with the next training beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>; seating is limited to 12.

Over a five-year period, we plan to enroll 1,500 participants as follows:

- Year 1: 150 enrolled
- Year 2: 400 enrolled
- Year 3: 400 enrolled
- Year 4: 300 enrolled
- Year 5: 250 enrolled

ROC-HPOG has made significant progress in developing the project collaborative, which currently includes: 27 partners representing community-based organizations, educational/training institutions, and employers. Ongoing attention will be paid to expanding the collaborative network to strengthen ROC-HPOG's ability to achieve its goals. Continuing to develop additional partnerships will further support ROC-HPOG to achieve its goal to enroll, train/educate, and employ its program participants.

**“Our vast amount of educational/training opportunities, along with our employment partners, will provide the catalytic path towards self-sufficiency. The aim of the ROC-HPOG is to meet program participants where they are, create a web of integrated services, and produce skilled and trained healthcare employees who possess the technical expertise that is required to provide high quality care,”** per Donald Hardaway, ROC-HPOG Director

**Marcia Lynch of FLCC said that, "Partnerships such as this between the FLCC CNA Training Program and ROC-HPOG are vital if we want to continue to improve the economic viability of our region. This collaboration provides the necessary opportunity, support, training, and connections for those who want to begin a career and support their families. This field needs trained, caring, and dependable people to fill an increasing number of jobs. It is a win-win.”**

**“ROC-HPOG and its partners create wrap-around services that'll ensure successful transition to a career in healthcare”- Brittany Davis, ROC-HPOG participant.**

Norman said that, **“an important strength of the program is that once a person is enrolled, they are assigned to a Navigator who works with the participant to develop a career development plan, and provides assistance in addressing barriers that could negatively impact their success.”**

For any additional information, contact Mark Wilson at (585) 325-5116 Ext. 3351 or visit us at [www.abcinfo.org/hpog](http://www.abcinfo.org/hpog)

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*“HPOG is a study funded by the federal government which is being conducted to determine how these training opportunities help people improve their skills and find better jobs. During the study, all new eligible applicants will be selected by lottery to participate in these training opportunities. Not all eligible applicants will be selected to participate in these opportunities.”*

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