

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 15, 2024

Contact: Courtney Fountain
(o) 585-239-9312
courtney_fountain@flpps.org

FLPPS Workforce Investment Organization Chosen to Manage Career Pathways Training Program in 18-County Region

ROCHESTER, NY — New York State Governor Kathy Hochul announced today the Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS) Workforce Investment Organization (WIO) is one of three organizations chosen across New York State to manage the Career Pathways Training (CPT) Program in the Finger Lakes, Western NY, and Southern Tier regions, as part of the New York Health Equity Reform (NYHER) 1115 Waiver.

The CPT Program is designed to build up the allied health and other healthcare workforce by funding training and education that focuses on career advancement and unemployed individuals in order to create a reliable healthcare workforce pipeline to address healthcare workforce shortages throughout NYS.

“We are grateful to be recognized by the State as a trusted partner to deliver on this important work. FLPPS has focused on building the healthcare workforce over the last decade as part of our Medicaid redesign and system transformation efforts, working closely with our partners and stakeholders,” said Carol Tegas, CEO, FLPPS. “The CPT Program will extend and scale our programming across the Finger Lakes, Western NY, and Southern Tier regions, and provide vital educational and training opportunities that are desperately needed throughout New York State. By fostering partnerships, enhancing skills and career laddering, and creating a new pipeline of students, we are building a more resilient and diverse healthcare workforce.”

The CPT Program will support workforce recruitment and retention to promote the increased availability of health care practitioners in two career pipelines—Healthcare Career Advancement for those who are currently in a healthcare profession and looking to move up, and New Careers in Healthcare for those who are seeking a career in healthcare. The program will target workforce shortages in healthcare staffing, support the delivery of health-related social needs, and increase access to culturally appropriate services.

“The 1115 NYHER waiver is a tremendous opportunity for our community to close the workforce gaps that exist throughout our healthcare system,” said Dave Seeley, Executive Director, RochesterWorks; Chair of the Regional Consortium of Health Care Workforce. “I can’t think of a more qualified organization than FLPPS to lead our region’s Career Pathways Training program, which will not only bring hundreds of new workers into the healthcare field, but also provide the necessary supports and pipelines for those workers to advance their careers. It is a win-win for our community: ensuring we have the necessary labor force to provide equity in our healthcare system, while also creating upward mobility for job seekers.”

Program participants will make a three-year commitment of service, in their new professional title, to Medicaid providers that serve at least 30 percent of Medicaid members and/or uninsured individuals. Eligible training and education programs will include Licensed Practical Nurse, Associate Registered Nurse, Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Master

of Social Work, Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor, Certified Pharmacy Technician, Certified Medical Assistant, Respiratory Therapist, Community Health Worker, and Patient Care Manager.

*“FLPPS has provided a tremendous amount of support to Community Action of Orleans and Genesee,” said **Renee Hungerford, Executive Director/CEO of Community Action of Orleans & Genesee.** “I have partnered with FLPPS under two different roles at two different organizations and have always felt confident of their unwavering support. Carol Tegas is an outstanding CEO and would do an incredible job leading the charge of the WIO. Building a strong workforce that transcends all facets of the healthcare continuum is essential to fixing our broken healthcare system.”*

Each WIO will be responsible for participant recruitment, coordination of training, supportive services, and educational case management support of the individuals to assure successful completion of their programs and job placement. Support services to program participants includes case management, pre-training and academic program readiness, academic and training support, enhanced academic support for struggling participants, job readiness and placement, language services, and additional non-academic support.

*“Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center, Inc is pleased to partner with FLPPS under the 1115 Waiver on the Career Pathways Program,” said **Melanie Rhodes, Executive Director, Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center.** “This funding is crucial to address the health workforce shortage in our region and will enable us to continue to improve access to quality healthcare in our rural and underserved communities.”*

WIOs were chosen based on criteria, including their deep connections to their respective regions, demonstrated success in operationalizing workforce training program, and capacity to rapidly and effectively stand up the CPT Program in their region.

*“We applaud Governor Hochul’s foresight in tapping Finger Lakes Performing Provider System to lead our region’s Career Pathways Training program,” said **Wade Norwood, CEO of Common Ground Health.** “FLPPS, as a community partner, has long been a trailblazer in addressing the needs of our region’s health care workforce. Right now, health care in our region is challenged by the need to expand, retain and support our health care workforce. This state investment will ensure that our health care workers are prepared to meet the challenges of today and the future. FLPPS has the experience to expand training opportunities and support those entering the health care field, helping our region keep up with evolving needs.”*

###

Finger Lakes Performing Provider System is a network of clinical and community-based providers working together across the 13-county Finger Lakes region to transform healthcare delivery, advance system transformation and population health, close gaps in care, and support high-risk individuals and populations.

RochesterWorks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit member of the American Job Center Network that provides employment and training services to Monroe County through three local career centers and one specialized youth employment center.

The Regional Consortium on Health Care Workforce brings together decision makers and subject matter experts to address workforce challenges faced by health care providers in the Rochester-Finger Lakes region. Co-convened by Common Ground Health and FLPPS, the consortium is addressing a wide range of issues, such as recruitment, retention, essential skills and competencies, and reducing shortages for key health care positions.

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee is a nonprofit organization that serves low-income and disadvantaged families with anti-poverty programs including emergency lodging and housing, food banks, childcare resources and referrals as well as medicine and personal care.

Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center improves the quality of healthcare in rural and underserved counties in western New York through workforce development, education, and resources, and envision a future in which our community is supported by high quality, accessible health resources and a diverse, educated and compassionate workforce.

Common Ground Health is the health research and planning organization for the nine Finger Lakes counties of Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates. With a team of more than 35 analysts, clinicians, policy experts, community engagement specialists and other staff, Common Ground Health has the capacity needed to support cross-sector collaboration, address health inequities and the social determinants of health, and develop the health care workforce.