

Overview

Lake County Healthcare Education Innovation and Simulation Center

Statement of Need: The Lake County Healthcare Education Innovation and Simulation Center (The Center) aims to address the need for comprehensive healthcare education and workforce development in Lake County. The demand for health-care jobs is strong as Lake County's largest industries are Health Care & Social Assistance which also have the highest earning potential. Nursing-related health care skills are in highest demand, and other health care related skills in-demand include home health care, CPR, medical records, office equipment, rehabilitation, and physical therapy.

Overview

This Center will provide a regionally coordinated workforce education program including advanced simulation facilities, hands-on learning, and community health programs, designed around three main focus areas: the SPARK Program for elementary and middle school students; Healthcare Work-Based Learning & Development Program; and Community Outreach. This project represents a significant investment in the region's health and education, preparing future healthcare professionals and enhancing community wellness.

Impact and Expected Outcomes

The Center will improve training for healthcare careers, resulting in expanded employment across Lake and Mendocino Counties. A well-trained, capable healthcare workforce will meet the region's growing workforce demands. By improving community health knowledge, The Center will foster a culture of health and preparedness across the region, improving the social determinants of health and health outcomes.

Key Features of The Center

1. SPARK Program (Students Promoting Awareness of Real-World Knowledge)

Focused on inspiring students in grades 4-8, the SPARK program introduces healthcare careers through immersive, hands-on experiences during guided, interactive field trips. The program is projected to serve 4,500 – 6,000 LC students annually.

Activities include:

- **Interactive Simulations:** Students engage in realistic medical scenarios in simulation labs.
- **Guided Tours and Demonstrations:** Tours include live demonstrations and interactive stations.
- **Workshops and Mentorship:** Healthcare professionals and high school ambassadors guide students through healthcare-themed activities.

- **High School Student Work-Based Learning:** Students learn through direct work experience and practical experience that develops knowledge and skills necessary for success in careers.

- **Training Programs for Adults:** The initial programs for adults will include Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Medical Assistant (MA) training, with additional patient-facing programs currently in development.

- **Professional Development:** Ongoing training for current practitioners keeps skills updated with industry advancements, as well as educators working with high school pathway students.

2. Healthcare Work-Based Learning & Career Development Pathway Program

This component supports career training for high school students and adults, emphasizing skill development and certifications.

The program is projected to serve up to 1,000 high school and adult education students through healthcare pathway programs and adult certifications.

- **High School Career and Technical Education Integration:** High school students can gain certifications, with pathways such as EMT and Patient Care, creating a steady stream of skilled healthcare workers.

3. Community Outreach Program

The community-focused aspect of the center emphasizes health literacy and life-saving skills for all residents, incorporating culturally relevant programming to effectively reach diverse communities.

We expect to serve at least 500 community members through outreach and health education programs.

- **Health and Safety Training:** Classes on CPR, parenting, and safety skills empower the community.
- **Collaboration Space:** Conference rooms for industry partners, public seminars, and a hub for community health resources support collaboration and information access.

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Stakeholders/Partners

- Adventist Health – Clearlake
- Hospital Council of Northern and Central California
- Lake County High School CTE programs
- Lake County Economic Development Corporation
- Lake County Government
- Lake County Office of Education
- Lake County School District Superintendents
- Lake County Tribal Health Consortium
- MLACE (Mendocino Lake Adult & Career Education)
- Mendocino-Lake Community College District
- Partnership Healthplan of California
- Redwood Coast K16 Educational Collaborative, Sonoma State University
- Sutter Health
- Workforce Alliance of the North Bay

Design and Location

The Center will be a 6,600-square-foot facility on the Sutter Lakeside Hospital campus in Lakeport, CA. Its design emphasizes hands-on learning, medical simulations, and collaborative spaces, and it will be modeled on other similar health care centers in rural communities throughout California and across the country:

- **Simulation and Skills Labs:** Equipped for realistic training experiences.
- **Multipurpose and Collaboration Rooms:** For lectures, debriefs, and group work.
- **Faculty Offices and Common Areas:** Support for instructors and students with relaxing common areas.

The central location at Sutter Lakeside Hospital ensures accessibility across Lake County, addressing transportation needs through partnerships with local transit. The anticipated funding cost for the capital improvements, launch of programs, and first-year operations is 8.7 million dollars.

The Fine Print

Timeline, Funding & Support:

- **Project timeline:** 2-4 years for development and build out of facility
- **Build out of facility and first year of operations:** \$8,700,000

Sutter will be donating the use of the building/land with an estimated value of \$1M annually.

Funding will come from grants, philanthropic donations, and local partnerships. Current commitments include a \$200,000 investment from the Redwood Coast K16 Educational Collaborative at Sonoma State University. Applications have been submitted for the CA Jobs First Catalyst Funding and Sutter Health Community CHNA grant. Congressional support is critical to bring this transformative vision to life.

Conclusion:

The Lake County Healthcare Education Innovation and Simulation Center is a forward-looking initiative designed to support healthcare education, workforce development, and community health in Lake County. With state-of-the-art facilities and committed partners, the Center is well-positioned to make a lasting impact on regional healthcare standards and resilience.