



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth - Communications Office

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SUBJECT: Duluth Receives Pathways to Prosperity Grant for New Healthcare Certificate Program

BY: Pakou Ly, Communications Office

Duluth Receives Pathways to Prosperity Grant for New Healthcare Certificate Program

[Duluth, MN] – The City of Duluth has been awarded a \$72,760 grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment Economic Development, Pathways to Prosperity program. This program helps low-wage and low-skill adults, with multiple barriers to employment, obtain credentials and skills that will prepare them for jobs in growing fields. In Duluth, healthcare is a growing and thriving industry.

The City of Duluth Workforce Development Division, in partnership with Essentia Health, St. Luke's and Lake Superior College, has developed the *Healthcare Careers Pathway* program, a 150-hour certificate program for entry-level health services occupations. With the *Health Services Certificate*, participants will be qualified to enter into the healthcare field as Patient Access Representatives, Pre-Registration Representatives, Patient Services Assistants, Patient Account Representatives, or Registration Services Representatives, all with starting wages of \$13+/hour.

The City and its partners – SOAR Career Solutions and Community Action Duluth – will work together to serve 24 individuals who are low-income and/or may have barriers to employment. The project will assist individuals with significant barriers and underrepresented populations gain employment in the healthcare field.

The *Healthcare Careers Pathway* project is a collaborative between City of Duluth Workforce Development, Lake Superior College, Adult Basic Education, Community Action Duluth, SOAR Career Solutions, MN Workforce Center – Duluth (DEED Job Services, Business Services), and employers – St. Luke's and Essentia Health.

To learn more about this program or other workshops and services of the Duluth Workforce Center, visit the webpage at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/workforce-development/> or call (218) 302-8400.

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