

# Healthcare Education and Regional Training Hub

**Statement of Need:** The Health Education and Regional Training (HEART) Hub is a transformative initiative designed to address the growing need for healthcare workforce development in Lake and Mendocino Counties. With healthcare being both the county's largest industry and highest-earning sector, there is a critical demand for skilled professionals across multiple disciplines, including nursing, home health care, medical records, rehabilitation, and physical therapy.

The HEART Hub will serve as a regional hub for healthcare workforce education, providing students and adult learners with the skills and certifications needed for successful careers in the field. By developing a steady pipeline of well-trained professionals, the Hub will bolster the local healthcare system, foster economic growth, and enhance health outcomes across the region.

## Facilities and Location

The HEART Hub will be housed in a 6,600-square-foot facility located on the Sutter Lakeside Hospital campus in Lakeport, CA. The facility will include: advanced simulation and skills labs for hands-on learning, multipurpose collaboration rooms for lectures, debriefs, and group work and faculty offices and common areas to support instructors and students. The central location at Sutter Lakeside Hospital ensures accessibility for students and healthcare professionals throughout Lake and Mendocino Counties. Transportation partnerships and technology will facilitated access for rural learners.

## Benefits of This Project and Why Is It a Priority

The HEART Hub is a transformative initiative designed to:

- **Expand healthcare training opportunities** to meet workforce shortages in rural communities.
- **Improve healthcare access and outcomes** by increasing the number of qualified healthcare professionals.
- **Strengthen community resilience** by providing health education and training in life-saving skills.
- **Foster long-term economic growth** through job creation and workforce development.

## Key Outcomes:

- Provide hands on workforce training for up to 175 high school and adult learners annually.
- Provide health and safety education to at least 500 community members annually.
- Introduce over 2,500 students (grades 5-8) annually to healthcare careers
- Enhance workforce retention by providing ongoing professional development for healthcare practitioners.

This project aligns with state and federal priorities for rural healthcare workforce expansion and represents a critical investment in the health and economic future of Lake and Mendocino Counties.

## Key Features and Programs

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

- Designed for grades 5-8, introducing students to healthcare careers through immersive, hands-on learning experiences.
- Interactive medical simulations, guided tours, and mentorship from students and healthcare professionals.

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

- Provides career training for high school students and adults, focusing on skill-building, certifications, and hands-on experience.
- Initial training programs for adults include Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Medical Assistant (MA) certifications, with future programs in development.
- The Hub experiences will be integrated with Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways.

### 3. Community Outreach and Health Literacy Program

- Designed to improve public health knowledge and preparedness by offering CPR training, parenting classes, and health and safety workshops.
- Features collaboration spaces for industry partners, public seminars, and community health resources to enhance healthcare education access.

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## Amount Requested for the Community Project Funding and Total Project Cost

### Total Project Cost: \$7.5 million

- Pre-development and planning phase: \$1.3 million (partially funded)
- Facility renovation, equipment, and first-year operations: \$6.1 million
- Annual operating budget: \$650,000 to be unded by HEART Hub partners

## Secured and Pending Funding Commitments:

- Redwood K16 Collaborative: \$200,000 (CTE curriculum development)
- Sutter Lakeside Hospital: \$1 million (10-year lease of the facility)
- Redwood Rise Catalyst Funding: \$650,000
- Sutter Health CHNA grants: \$200,000

## Pending Grants:

Additional funding requests are being pursued through federal, state, and local sources, including EDA, USDA Rural Development, and congressional representatives.

## Community Partners

The HEART Hub is being developed in partnership with local and regional stakeholders, including:

### Local Education Agencies & Local Government

- Lake County Chamber of Commerce
- County of Lake
- Lake County Office of Education
- Lake County School District Superintendents
- Mendocino County Office of Education

### Healthcare Industry & Organizations

- Adventist Health – Clearlake
- Hospital Council of Northern and Central California
- Lake County Tribal Health Consortium
- Mother-Wise
- Partnership Healthplan of California
- Sutter Health

### Post-Secondary Education

- Redwood Coast K16 Educational Collaborative
- Sonoma State University
- Woodland Community College
- Mendocino-Lake Community College
- Mendocino-Lake Adult and Career Education Consortium (MLACE)

### Workforce & Economic Development

- Lake County Economic Development Corporation
- Workforce Alliance of the North Bay

## Beneficiaries of the Project

The HEART Hub is designed to serve a broad and diverse population, ensuring equitable access to healthcare education and training across Lake and Mendocino Counties. The key beneficiaries include:

### Elementary & Middle School Students, High School Students & Young Adults

- Gain early exposure to healthcare careers through the SPARK Program.
- Participate in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, obtaining certifications in high-demand fields such as EMT and Patient Care.
- Engage in hands-on learning through work-based training and mentorship.

### Adult Learners & Career Changers

- Access certified training programs such as Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Medical Assistant (MA) certifications.
- Receive continuing education and upskilling to transition into healthcare careers.

### Current Healthcare Professionals & Educators

- Benefit from professional development programs that keep skills up to date.
- Support high school and adult students in healthcare pathway programs.

### Underserved & Rural Communities

- Improve access to trained healthcare professionals, addressing local shortages.
- Participate in community health literacy programs, including CPR training, parenting classes, and health safety workshops.

### Regional Healthcare Employers & Economic Development Initiatives

- Create a steady pipeline of qualified healthcare workers to meet the demand for skilled professionals.
- Strengthen the local healthcare system, reducing workforce gaps and improving patient care.
- Support economic growth by increasing employment and career mobility in the healthcare sector.

## Conclusion:

The Healthcare Education and Regional Training (HEART) Hub is more than just an educational facility—it is a transformational investment in the future of healthcare for Lake and Mendocino Counties. By addressing the urgent need for a well-trained workforce, the HEART Hub will serve as a catalyst for economic growth, healthcare equity, and improved patient outcomes.

With its state-of-the-art training facilities, hands-on learning experiences, and robust community partnerships, the HEART Hub will not only prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals but also strengthen the region's healthcare infrastructure. By expanding career opportunities, reducing workforce shortages, and increasing health literacy, the HEART Hub will create a resilient and sustainable healthcare ecosystem that serves both local residents and the broader medical community.

This initiative is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bridge the healthcare education gap and empower individuals with the skills needed to thrive in high-demand careers. With strong stakeholder support and committed funding efforts, the HEART Hub is positioned to become a model for rural healthcare workforce development—ensuring that quality healthcare education, training, and access remain at the heart of a healthier, stronger Lake County and Mendocino County for years to come.