



# News Release

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## **U.S. Labor Department Awards Nearly \$2 Million to Council for Adult and Experiential Learning** ***Funding Will Develop Healthcare Career Ladder***

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration has awarded a \$1,998,000 grant to the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) to build an education and training model addressing the current national nursing and healthcare worker shortage. The grant, which runs through September 2004, will fund a program to increase the number of Certified Nurses Aides (CNA), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) and Registered Nurses (RN).

"Getting people back to work is one of the Labor Department's top priorities," said Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. "This grant will help unemployed workers climb a healthcare career ladder that leads to better pay and a promising future."

The Employment and Training Administration grant will allow CAEL to build upon a model initially created for the Healthcare Career Advancement Program (H-CAP) – which prepares LPNs to become RNs through a blend of on-line and lab-based education that meets state and local educational requirements for a clinical practicum.

With the help of the federal grant, CAEL will add a groundbreaking apprenticeship component for CNAs and LPNs to ensure a continuous healthcare career ladder. "Apprenticeship is an industry-driven concept, which uses on-the-job training and classroom instruction to produce well-trained workers," said Emily Stover DeRocco, assistant secretary of labor for employment and training. "We want to be sure that, at completion of training, workers have advancement opportunity and employers have the skilled workers they need to succeed."

To ensure training success and provide needed services, CAEL will partner with healthcare providers, two and four-year colleges and the public workforce system One Stop Centers. The Labor Department grant will be leveraged by about \$482,000 in cash and in-kind support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the project advisory committee and participating employers.

CAEL is a national, non-profit organization that provides adults better access to education through partnership with business, government, labor and higher education.

The Employment and Training Administration seeks to build a strong workforce by matching job training and employment services with current employer needs through a strong, responsive public employment service and private sector partnerships.

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