

## **1. Project Need**

Lake County, located in Central Florida, currently has a successful Health Science Nursing Assistant Academy located at East Ridge High School (ERHS), which is located in the southern end of the district. Last year, this school graduated 57 Nursing Assistant Students, 56 of whom passed the Florida nursing assistant licensure test and qualified as Certified Nursing Assistants.

Both Wildwood High School (WHS), located in Sumter County, and Leesburg High School (LHS) in North Lake County have fledgling Health Science programs and dropped to Correct II levels under Differential Accountability. These schools are not able to initiate a Nursing Assistant Academy because they lack required personnel and CNA supplemental equipment.

Wildwood High School in Sumter County is located in an economically depressed rural area, with a 66% free or reduced lunch population. Leesburg High School has a 42% free or reduced lunch population, with an unemployment rate over 12% (higher than the state and region at large). Students at both schools desperately need the opportunities available through a School Choice Nursing Assistant Academy.

Lake County is the 23rd fastest-growing county in the United States and is logistically a long, narrow district, which makes it unfeasible for students in the northern section of the district to request a zone waiver to attend the CNA Academy at ERHS. Since there is no Nursing Assistant Academy available in North Lake County, those students are unable to receive the educational choice options of those students in the southern part of the district. The population of Lake County has more than doubled in the past six years and over 50% of the population in Lake County is 45 or older. In addition, over 26% are 65 or older, a population which statistically has the most health-care related needs. These statistics indicate that high school

students who can attend a Nursing Assistant program will be able to find employment in the growing health care field in Central Florida.

**2. Proposal**

The Health Science Academy at ERHS, which we propose to replicate in Sumter County and North Lake County, serves students taking the foundation core health care courses as well as the Nursing Assistant capstone class. These classes qualify students to sit for the State Board of Nursing licensure exam. Below is a chart indicating the baseline capacity and projected growth of Nursing Assistant graduates.

<b>Capacity Chart – Nursing Assistant Completers</b>			
	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Projected</b>	
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>
East Ridge High School	42	58	72
Leesburg High School	0	14	42
Wildwood High School	0	14	28

For WHS and LHS to replicate the program currently in place at ERHS, both schools would need qualified registered nursing instructors for the 2010-2011 school year. These instructors would allow the schools to each earn an allocation for the following year. In addition, in order to grow the program, LHS would need a second instructor funded for 2011-2012. The projected cost of this project is as follows:

<b>Projected Needs for CNA Programs</b>				
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Leesburg High School	1 RN instructor for initial cohort of 30 students (salary and benefits)	\$70,000	1 RN instructor for second cohort, to add 30 more students	\$70,000
	Equipment needs (CPR mannequins, etc.)	\$25,000	N/A	0
Wildwood High School	1 RN instructor for initial cohort of 30 students (salary and benefits)	\$70,000	N/A student population will not support 60 CNAs at this time.	0
	Equipment needs (CPR mannequins, etc.)	\$25,000	N/A	0

Requested funding for the first year amounts to \$190,000, with \$70,000 requested the second year. Total requested funding to replicate the ERHS Health Academy Choice Academy cross district and geographic location over two years totals \$260,000.

### **3. Required Reporting**

Lake County School District agrees to provide Polk County School District all quarterly and annual reporting information as requested by the Florida Department of Education under the guidelines of this Voluntary Public School Choice Grant opportunity awarded to Polk County School District. Reporting includes, but is not limited to, uploading student information using the FDOE upload database, financial documentation necessary for audit purposes, and progress towards reaching project goals.