

LCCC program gains a stimulus boost

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The state is going to receive \$19 million in federal stimulus funds from the U.S. Department of Labor to give grants for job training, and Lorain County Community College is partnering with a local beneficiary.

The Berea Children's Home is receiving \$4.9 million of \$225 million to given to community colleges, state workforce agencies and community-based organizations in 30 states to train people in health care and other high-growth industries.

This is the sixth and final round of grants through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

About \$25 million of that money is focused on areas hit hard by the struggles of the auto industry, including Lorain County.

LCCC is one of 15 partners in the Berea project, which is designed to improve and expand the Northeast Ohio nurse assistant training program. The goal is to train 1,024 people for nursing assistant jobs.

Nursing assistants work with registered nurses and licensed practical nurses in hospitals, rehab and long-term care, mental health and assisted-living facilities as well as provide in-home care.

Because nursing assistant training is usually six months or less, it is seen as a viable fast-track option for people who cannot afford to go through years of education before starting a new career. Also, nursing assistant jobs can be a stepping stone to further education for LPN and RN positions.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projected a 14 percent growth in the number of nursing assistant jobs between 2006 and 2016, and participants also will get job retention services and will have access to social and counseling services.

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