



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE GATEWAY-IN PROJECT<sup>®</sup> EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS,  
ADDS 1,200 HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN FIRST YEAR**

*Program created to address the workforce shortage while increasing equity and opportunity*

**Sacramento, Calif-** LeadingAge California and the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) have joined together to mark the one year anniversary of [The Gateway-In Project<sup>®</sup>](#), a recruitment, training and retention program aimed at addressing the ongoing health care workforce shortage in California and increasing equity.

The Gateway-In Project<sup>®</sup> has been tremendously successful within its initial year. To date, the pipeline project has trained over 1,200 Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) and Home Health Aides (HHAs) for California's workforce, nearly halfway to its projected 3-year goal of adding 2,700 skilled health care workers to help alleviate the workforce shortage crisis.

"I am thrilled with the remarkable outcomes made by The Gateway-In Project just one year after its launch," said Jeannee Parker Martin, CEO of LeadingAge California. "This visionary recruitment, training and retention initiative is designed to help tackle California's pressing health care workforce shortage head-on while also creating new opportunities for residents across the state. By incorporating wraparound services, this innovative program heralds a new era of care, well-being and opportunity for more Californians."

California is aging at a rapid rate. Over the next two decades, the [state's population aged 65 and up will nearly double](#). Additionally, California has the largest number of older adults in the country, and it is projected an additional 275,000 direct care workers will be needed by 2026 to meet the growing population. [The Gateway-In Project<sup>®</sup>](#) serves as a crucial intervention measure to create a new workforce pipeline to prepare for this growing population and avoid a crisis in the provision of care.

The Gateway-In Project<sup>®</sup> offers a tangible solution to grow California's health care workforce by offering training and certification programs to become a CNA or HHA at no cost to students and offers additional retention incentives and career development pathways for existing health care professionals.

CNAs and HHAs are a critical part of the health care workforce, especially in older adult care. In California, over 50% of CNAs work in nursing care facilities or community care facilities serving older adults.

“As a department dedicated to expanding equitable access to health care for all Californians, we strive to implement and support programs that benefit the state’s population, of which The Gateway-In Project is a prime example,” said Elizabeth Landsberg, HCAI Director. “The value of this program and its success just one year after launch cannot be understated, as we already see it making a marked difference in growing our health care workforce and generating opportunities for Californians who might not have the resources to pursue this kind of career.”

Equity is central to the program which provides wrap-around support services such as childcare, ESL training, transportation, work wear (scrubs), food and textbooks to those in need to further enable and empower students to overcome barriers, complete their programs successfully, and ultimately graduate. [Sixty-two percent of students](#) make less than \$25,000 annually, and 73% of students attest to high school education or a GED being their highest level of education.

"I had been wanting to register for CNA classes but didn't have the finances to pay tuition. One day, I came across the South Bay CNA school which mentioned a scholarship through The Gateway-In Project. I contacted them, and a document was sent to me to apply for the scholarship. To my greatest surprise, I was approved," said Esther Ejiogu, CNA, from the South Bay and graduate through The Gateway-In Project®. "Today, I am a graduate and was also able to pass both the written and skills section of the state exam. The Gateway-In Project made my dream of being a caregiver a reality, and I am forever grateful for the support and resources that the program provided."

Demand for the program has been high in all corners of the state. The program has a presence in [29 counties](#), rural and urban, across the state and students span ages 19-56+.

The project will continue over the next two years, further expanding California’s CNA and HHA pipeline development training programs.

To learn more about The Gateway-In Project®, visit [LeadingAge California’s website](#).

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[LeadingAge California](#) represents California’s broadest spectrum of nonprofit providers of older adult living and care, serving hundreds of thousands of older adults and nearly 800 providers of care. It launched the [Age On. Rage On.](#) campaign to spotlight the urgent need to develop a Master Plan for Aging in California. [Click here to read the latest news by LeadingAge California.](#)