



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPDATED: LeadingAge California Awarded over \$25 Million by CalHHS for The Gateway-In Project[®]

The new Certified Nursing Assistant and Home Health Aide training and development program will make significant headway to bolster the health care workforce pipeline

SACRAMENTO – LeadingAge California announced today that it has been awarded more than \$25 million dollars by the CalHHS Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) over the next three years for The Gateway-In Project[®] to expand on Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) and Home Health Aide (HHA) pipeline development, training and retention programs.

By providing training, wrap-around supports and incentives for career development for those entering or already in the field, the program will make significant headway in turning the tides on the ongoing workforce shortage crisis pervading the health care workforce that supports older adults across the state.

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. CNAs and HHAs are a critical part of this workforce. In California, over 50% of CNAs work in nursing care facilities or community care facilities serving older adults. CNAs and HHAs play an essential role in these facilities and in home and community-based settings, often serving as the principal caregivers and having the most personal contact with residents than any other staff member or family member.

“The importance of The Gateway-In Project[®] cannot be understated,” said Jeannee Parker Martin, President & CEO of LeadingAge California. “Older-adult care facilities and home and community-based settings are facing severe workforce shortages. The Gateway-In Project[®] will begin to change that story by cultivating the next generation of CNAs and HHAs as well as supporting those already in the field.”

Existing pipeline development and training programs are inadequate to fill the growing demand for CNAs and HHAs. Currently, there is a dramatic workforce shortage in health care settings, particularly in skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), adult day health centers, home health, hospice (at home and hospice inpatient facilities), and other settings using CNAs and HHAs.



To meet this need, The Gateway-In Project[®] is expected to add 2,700 new CNAs/HHAs. The Gateway-In Project[®] will provide training and certification at no cost to students, with additional incentives for retention at 1, 6 and 12-month periods and to take career development pathways such as empathy and climate disaster modules, and stipends for transportation, food support, childcare and ESL training.

Program graduates will help mitigate the severe workforce crisis in the next three years; some will become dually certified as CNAs and HHAs, and others will advance to Licensed Practical Nurse and Registered Nurse training programs. The three-year project will launch on June 15, 2022.

To learn more about the Gateway-In Project[®] contact [Soua Vang](#), Chief Education & Marketing Officer of LeadingAge California.

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About LeadingAge California: *Founded in 1961, LeadingAge California is the state's leading advocate for quality, non-profit older adult living and care. The association's advocacy, educational programs and public relations help its members best serve the needs of thousands of the state's older adults. LeadingAge California represents nearly 700 non-profit providers of older adult living and care – including affordable housing, life plan communities (aka continuing care retirement communities), assisted living, skilled nursing, and home and community-based care; as well as our business partners. For more information, visit www.leadingageca.org.*