

Preparing For Healthcare Reform:  
A Dialogue on Healthcare Workforce Development  
May 27, 2010

Background

The Federal healthcare reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Healthcare Reform Act), would bring a substantial proportion of California's 8.2 million uninsured persons into the state's healthcare delivery system. In addition to current workforce shortages, serving the previously uninsured will require the providers of healthcare goods and services to hire additional personnel. In anticipation of the workforce needs resulting from healthcare reform, Title V of the Healthcare Reform Act includes a series of provisions – funding and policy – aimed at aiding the healthcare industry's transition into the new system. To focus the implementation of healthcare reform in California, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has created a Healthcare Reform Taskforce, led by Secretary Kim Belshé, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). The Healthcare Reform Taskforce is comprised of Administration officials and agencies tasked with implementing the provisions of the Healthcare Reform Act. Within the taskforce, there is the Healthcare Workforce Workgroup, which will focus on the training and workforce development programs in Title V. Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA), the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), and the California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) are members of the workgroup.

The Healthcare Reform Act includes several funding opportunities to aid states in their health workforce development activities. In order to qualify for larger amounts of funding in the future, California would need to receive a \$150,000 planning grant. In California, CWIB will take the lead in applying for the planning grant. The CWIB will bolster its membership to ensure that it meets the "eligible partnership" definition prescribed in the Healthcare Reform Act.

Objective

HHS, LWDA, OSHPD, and CWIB are convening a broad cross-section of healthcare stakeholders including: employers, workforce developers, advocacy and professional associations, researchers, educators and regional collaborations to begin a dialogue on the workforce development challenges and opportunities presented by healthcare reform.

This event will serve two primary functions:

1. Provide an opportunity for healthcare industry stakeholders to discuss and provide feedback on how California's implementation of the Healthcare Reform Act will affect the state's health workforce. Stakeholders will discuss topics including existing education and training programs and current state and regional collaborations.

2. Provide insight on the healthcare industry's workforce development practices including recruitment, training, placement, and employment and how these practices could change as California implements the Healthcare Reform Act.