



Health Profession Opportunity Grant program and Two- Generation Approaches

The federal government's current approach to poverty is not effective enough. Although we have data demonstrating what works, many of the federally funded programs intended to help families are disjointed and difficult to navigate for both families in need and for organizations trying to provide help. While multiple federal programs exist to help low-income parents and children, they have separate funding streams causing silos and fragmentation. Addressing the needs of children and parents separately and without a comprehensive strategy often leaves children or parents behind and diminishes a whole family's chance of success.

The Two-Generation Economic Empowerment Act, introduced by U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), seeks to increase opportunities for families living in poverty through programs targeting both parents and children with support aimed at increasing economic security, educational success, social capital, and health and wellbeing. By aligning and linking existing systems and funding streams, our bill will lead to improved outcomes for parents and children together while improving the effectiveness of service delivery.

In order to build on Senator Martin Heinrich's two-generation approach, he has introduced the Senate companion to Congressman Danny K. Davis's *Pathways to Health Careers Act*, which passed the House of Representatives last fall, and which builds on the success of the Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program. The Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program combines job training with critical family supports that low-income parents need to succeed in achieving their health care career goals.

Pathways to Health Careers Act

The Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program demonstration grants support a "career pathway" approach, which bundles education and training with key support services like child care, transportation, and career coaching to provide a supportive pathway to a career (not just an entry-level job) in a well-paid and in-demand health profession.

Created by the Affordable Care Act in 2010, the Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program stands out among other job training approaches because of the mix of support services, career coaching, job placement, and post-employment training provided as part of the program. The Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program approach increases the number of qualified health professionals in both rural and urban areas in need of more workers.

To date, the Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program has served over 60,000 participants in 23 states. The *Pathways to Health Careers Act* would authorize new grants from 2021 to 2025, with increased annual funding of \$425 million, to conduct additional research and to make the proven Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program model available across the country.

The Pathways to Health Careers Act opens the door for Americans struggling to get ahead

- Extends current Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program demonstrations to finish the 2015 – 2020 grant cycle, authorizes two new targeted demonstration grants, and begins providing regular Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program competitive grants in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, in tribal communities, and in the U.S. territories, in order to build on Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program success in getting disadvantaged people good jobs while addressing the health care workforce shortage.
- Invests in rural America; it provides granting preference to applicants that are located in rural areas, are training participants who commute from rural areas, and/or who are placing Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program graduates in jobs in rural communities.
- Invests in tribal communities; the bill drastically increases the funding set aside for tribal communities, and ensures that Tribal Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program applicants are only competing amongst each other for funding (rather than competing amongst the entire country).