



Dwyer Workforce Development Expands to Florida, Initiating Strategic Partnerships to Foster the Healthcare Talent Pipeline and Improve the Lives of Seniors

Innovative Programs to Provide Free Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Training and Exams to Individuals Who Lack Opportunity, Empower Floridians with Skills and Support Needed to Embark on Fulfilling Healthcare Careers

West Palm Beach, Fla. (October 19, 2023) – [Dwyer Workforce Development](#) (DWD), an innovative non-profit dedicated to solving the growing healthcare workforce crisis by providing life-changing career pathways in the senior healthcare industry for those lacking opportunity, today announced its initial expansion into Florida and future plans for formalizing strategic partnerships with local workforce development boards and other organizations across the state.

Beginning with a strategic partnership with [CareerSource Brevard](#), DWD and CareerSource Brevard have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with an ambitious goal: to provide scholarships, wraparound services, case management and career coaching to train 50-70 Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) by June 2024.

Moreover, this expansion into Florida is just the beginning of DWD's larger, strategic vision. The organization is actively seeking to establish additional collaborations that will similarly create innovative programs that provide free CNA training, fostering a robust healthcare talent pipeline in Florida and significantly improving the lives of seniors throughout the state. Working with other not-for-profits, partner workforce development organizations and training partners, students – or "Dwyer Scholars" – will complete their training, participate in clinicals and then take the Board of Nursing exam. Once certified, DWD will place Dwyer Scholars into full-time positions through its large network of long-term care industry partners.

"Our entry into Florida marks a significant milestone towards DWD's commitment to cultivate a robust healthcare workforce and improve senior care, and we're only just getting started here in the Sunshine State," said Barb Clapp, CEO of Dwyer Workforce Development. "We look forward to joining forces with other partners in the state to expand the reach of our comprehensive support services and top-notch education and training programs. By empowering individuals who lack opportunity with the skills, resources and support they need to excel in healthcare careers, we can collectively build a stronger, healthier and more vibrant future for the people of Florida."

For the initial partnership, CareerSource Brevard is taking the lead in launching an outreach campaign designed to identify and engage potential trainees and referring partners throughout the region, while DWD is actively securing employment opportunities and delivering crucial wraparound support—such as housing, transportation and childcare—as well as case management for the trainees. These holistic services will ensure that each CNA candidate not only receives quality education but also enjoys a

smooth transition into the workforce, ultimately enhancing the quality of healthcare services available to Florida seniors.

"Brevard's healthcare industry, especially its skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, is growing. Employers are looking to hire CNAs to provide their senior residents with excellent patient care," stated Marci Murphy, President of CareerSource Brevard. "CareerSource Brevard's commitment to fostering economic development in Brevard County aligns perfectly with DWD's mission to bridge the workforce gap in the senior healthcare industry. We are proud to partner with DWD as they pioneer a promising future for Florida's healthcare workforce and aging population."

In addition, DWD has hired two new staff members in Florida to further expand DWD's services in the state. Geri Smith, Service Navigator, and Jodi Jackson, Community Engagement Coordinator, have hit the ground running using their extensive experience in their respective fields. These case managers will work closely with Dwyer Scholars to identify career ladder goals to achieve over several years – keeping them on track for success. After reaching those goals, Dwyer Scholars are awarded a full scholarship to achieve their Registered Nurse license or to pursue additional advanced training for other healthcare careers.

"We are thrilled to announce Dwyer Workforce Development's expansion into the vibrant state of Florida. The healthcare industry has long grappled with a critical shortage of skilled professionals—especially those who care for our seniors—and we are committed to being part of the solution," said Jack Dwyer, founder, owner and president of Capital Funding Group, Inc. "By entering the Florida market, we aim to bridge the workforce gap, enhance senior patient care and contribute to the overall well-being of communities across the state."

Initially launched in Maryland in 2021, Dwyer Workforce Development recruited, trained and placed more than 287 CNAs in Maryland in 2022. With an 84 percent retention rate, Dwyer Scholars fill crucial roles in the senior healthcare industry, an industry hard-hit by employment shortages. DWD is currently accepting applications for Dwyer Scholars across Maryland, Texas and Brevard County, Florida. Learn more about Dwyer Workforce Development at www.dwyerworkforcedev.org, and apply to be a Dwyer Scholar [here](#). Organizations interested in becoming a partner in Florida can contact Lisa Chamness, Director of Partnerships and Programs, at lchamness@dwyerworkforcedev.org.

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About Dwyer Workforce Development (www.dwyerworkforcedev.org)

Dwyer Workforce Development is a unique 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to provide comprehensive support to individuals who lack opportunity and aspire to pursue a career in the healthcare industry, alleviate a severe healthcare workforce shortage, and improve the lives of seniors. DWD was established in 2021 by Jack Dwyer, his wife, Nancy, and their daughters, Emily and Kelsey. A businessman, philanthropist and entrepreneur, Dwyer owns CFG, a full-service provider of comprehensive financing solutions for the national healthcare and multifamily industries, and CFG Bank. With his presence in the industry and commitment to improving lives, Dwyer is redefining what it means to give back by creating career opportunities for those who lack opportunity, reducing healthcare staff shortages, and improving senior care.

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