

## Working to Scale Quality Healthcare Career Exploration Opportunities for Middle and High School Students across Greater Cincinnati

In 2023, The Health Collaborative awarded micro-grants to six workforce partners to expand and create new programs for healthcare career exploration. These micro-grants enabled the partner organizations to give nearly 500 students an opportunity to learn about interesting careers in healthcare.

The Health Collaborative would like to continue to award micro-grants to more organizations to reach even more students in the Cincinnati region.

With more than 16,000 open positions in healthcare in the Cincinnati region the need for career exploration is great. Additional micro-grants would enable more students to learn about the wide variety of careers in healthcare, and the pathways to get there.

With more grants, we can reach even more students, to help close the critical healthcare jobs gap in Cincinnati.

### How It Works

Registered non-profit organizations, educational institutions, or government entities apply for micro-grants of up to \$5,000 each. They are encouraged to use the grants to develop or expand programs, purchase supplies, or to provide tuition assistance and financial help for students who cannot afford program-related fees.

The programs can be offered in schools and classrooms or in a healthcare setting, where students can get first-hand experience of what it's like to work in healthcare. These opportunities also provide students with the information and resources they need to continue exploring healthcare careers and how to get started.

The Regional Career Exploration Collaborative (RCEC), which consists of more than 20 stakeholders of healthcare workforce development, works to ensure that students of all socio-economic backgrounds, including those from low-income and under-represented populations, know about and have access to exploring careers in healthcare. The awarding of the micro-grants, a very successful initiative, is an outcome of this group and supports the RCEC responsibility to assist our community in starting, enhancing, planning, and organizing healthcare career exploration programs

### 2023 Ohio ISP Micro-grant Awardees By the Numbers

- Six awards of up to \$5000 each
- \$22,300 awarded in total
- Nearly 500 students reached in grades 5-12

### Six New Programs Created in 2023

- Scrubs Camp
- Pharmacy Tech career exploration
- Road to Medicine Program
- Mini Sim Lab experiences
- CPR and Stop the Bleed training
- Half-day Sonography and Nutrition/Dietetics session