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Workforce Board Seeks Matching Funds to Solve LPN Shortage

The demand for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) is one of the most pressing workforce challenges in the Lynchburg region. To address this, the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board (CVWDB) is pursuing a \$100,000 grant initiative to upskill Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) into Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). We are requesting a \$50,000 match from the Central Virginia Planning District Commission to meet the grant's non-federal match requirement.

Why this project is needed:

- There are over 300 active LPN job postings throughout our region.
- Centra College, the region's primary LPN training provider, graduates fewer than 30 LPNs per year.
- At least 38 new LPNs are needed annually to account for retirements, turnover, and the expansion of care services.
- More than 1,300 CNAs are currently employed in the region, many in low-wage positions with limited advancement opportunities.
- Financial barriers—including tuition, supplies, and lack of supportive services—prevent most CNAs from advancing without assistance.

What the project will do:

- Provide financial support for up to 15 CNAs to complete the first semester of the LPN pathway at Central Virginia Community College.
- Enable participants to earn a Health Sciences Career Studies Certificate, which fully stacks into the LPN program at Centra College.
- Strengthen the region's healthcare workforce by developing a sustainable pipeline of qualified LPNs.

We respectfully request your support for this vital initiative to improve career mobility for local workers and meet the staffing needs of our healthcare system.