

NCWorks Recognized Career Pathways - Human Services Career Pathway

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The **Future Workforce Alliance** is introducing a new career pathway in *human services* – an approach to address current and future employment concerns and training needs for human services occupations. The alliance represents a collaboration of **North Carolina’s High Country, Western Piedmont and Region C Workforce Development Boards**—serving 15 counties in the

North Carolina’s northwestern corner and its Foothills area, including 10 of the 12 Future Forward Economic Alliance counties.

According to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Labor and Economic Analysis Division’s (LEAD) *North Carolina Employer Projections 2018-2028 summary report*, “Healthcare and social assistance – the largest industry in North Carolina’s economy – is projected to add the most jobs (81,000) and have the second highest percentage growth (13.7%).” The human services talent pipeline is not producing enough qualified workers in this area to fill the growing demand, especially beyond the job openings available with the Departments of Social Services. Human services occupations stretch across several public sector entities such as: Workforce Development Boards (including Title 1 service providers), the Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions, the Department of Health and Human Services Vocational Rehabilitation, Goodwill Industries of Northwest North Carolina, and other workforce partners and nonprofits that have career counseling, advising and career and technical education occupations. Fortunately, the Future Workforce Alliance’s development of the *Human Services Career Pathway* is unique in that the partners and the employers are the same entities.

With support and endorsement from the NCWorks Commission, the alliance and its partners will work to establish this new pathway as a systemwide framework that will enable students and adults with internship assistance, education, and training opportunities to advance into various types of occupations across the human services industry beyond social services.