# Increasing your Pipeline for Nurses in Rural Communities

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## LeadingAge Illinois

- ► Trade Association
- ► All lines of aging services
  - Residential Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living, Independent Living
  - ▶ Community Programs Outside of home services
  - ► In-home Programs Home Health, Home Services
  - ▶ Hospice

#### Macro-Level - Positive Perceptions

- Increase awareness, understanding, and positive perceptions of you/your sector
- ► Messaging in Media, Social Media, Communications
- ► Encourage prospective workers to have an interest
- Careers that love you back grade level
- ► Opening Doors Campaign <a href="https://openingdoors.org/">https://openingdoors.org/</a>

## Pipeline Development

- ► Build from the ground up
- Targeting high school students/International
- ► Legislation: CNA Intern incentivize entry by paying them
- ► Legislation: Medication Aides/Technicians frees up nurses and builds career ladder
- ► Legislation: Nurse Compact Act expand pipeline

#### **Seasoned Professionals**

- ► Targets those looking for a new career and pretirees (pre-retirees) to become CNAs, LPNs, and RNs
- ► Recruit from within your organization pay for the education
- ► Encourage unpaid caregivers to become CNAs, LPNs, and RNs
- ► Consider it part of your marketing costs Promoting your values
- ► Educate staff on how to recruit

## **Attractive Employer**

- ► Reduce barriers to working there
  - ► Transportation
  - ► Child care
  - Housing
- Creative benefits
  - Food pantry cost and convenience
  - Emergency fund
  - Mental health support
  - ► Fitness

#### Success

- ► HR can't be everywhere
- ► It needs to be everyone's job to help recruit and retain
- ► Make sure you are providing them the incentives AND resources to do it