

FORHP announces Rural Health Network Development Program funding opportunity

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is pleased to announce the release of the FY 2017 Rural Health Network Development Program. This grant opportunity will assist rural health care providers in acclimating to the evolving health care environment, while simultaneously supporting rural health care networks in addressing the healthcare needs of the targeted rural community. Funded programs support the following statutory charges: achieve efficiencies; expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential health care services; and strengthen the rural health care system as a whole. Networks applying to this funding opportunity will demonstrate that they have positioned themselves for changes in healthcare delivery around delivery system reform, including addressing social determinants of health, population health, and value based payment. This approach calls upon a broad inclusion of diverse network members, including community and social organizations that are essential partners in addressing population health. Programs whose topic areas can be tied to direct clinical quality measures will be required to include measures monitored by FORHP in their evaluation plan.

The Rural Health Network Development Program will provide approximately \$27 million in federal funding to rural communities across the US, awarding up to 30 programs for this funding cycle. The Program will continue to foster innovative solutions to healthcare challenges in rural communities. Programs under this funding opportunity have addressed a variety of healthcare needs that have included: the integration of behavioral and oral health into primary care, creating health information exchanges, developing value based health care systems, and implementing tele health programs. FORHP grant programs place a strong emphasis on sustainability, providing grantees with a variety of tools, resources, and technical assistance to ensure the sustainability of programs and continued impact of federal funding. Programs from the current RHND cohort have reached more than 13,842,000 rural residents, with more than 89 percent of the 54 awarded programs reporting that most to all of their programs would sustain after grant funding.

Further information on this announcement (Opportunity Number: HRSA-17-018) and application materials can be found at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>.

Applicants can request up to \$300,000 per year for each of the three years of the program. Applications must be submitted on [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by November 28, 2016.

FORHP will host a live technical assistance webinar on Wednesday, September 28th from 2:00pm - 3:00pm ET to assist applicants in preparing their applications. To join, go to https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/rural_health_network_development/ and dial-in at 1-800-857-4883, code: 1739744. The webinar will be recorded and the replay is at 1-800-510-9771, code: 92816.

For more information about the Rural Health Network Development Program, please contact Jayne Berube at JBerube@hrsa.gov.