Resources to Address Community Health Needs: Federal Rural Health Outreach Grant Program and its Impact in North Dakota

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Center for Rural Health

• Established in 1980, at The University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Grand Forks, ND
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What are Rural Health Outreach Grants?

- Federal rural health outreach grants support the direct delivery of health care and related services, to expand existing services, and to enhance health service delivery through education, promotion, and prevention programs.

- Emphasis is on the actual delivery of specific services rather than the development of organizational capacity.

- In this way they contrast with ORHP Rural Health Network Development grants where more of the emphasis is place on “building the network.”

- Both grant programs do require a network of three separate legal entities.

What are the Limitations on Funds?

- Grantee cannot use the funds for the purchase, construction, renovation, or improvement of real property.
  - Funds can, however, be used for the purchase/rental of equipment and vehicles up to 40% of the total annual federal share.

- Grantee cannot use funds for the delivery of direct patient care.

- Grantee cannot use funds to reduce or supplant existing levels of institutional and/or other non-federal financial support.

- Network members are expected to use grant funds in a collaborative manner and not to pursue individual projects that benefit only one member organization.
Resources to Address Community Health Needs

- Rural Health Outreach Grants – federal grants from HRSA
  - 3 year grants
  - $200,000 a year starting for 2014 round (had been $150,000; $125,000; and $100,000 prior – significant increase in funding)
  - Requires a network of 3 separate legal organizations
  - Applicant must be rural and non-profit
  - Can have partner that is urban and/or for-profit
  - Common partnerships have been hospitals, public health, education
  - Program started 1991- one of oldest from Office of Rural Health Policy
  - 23 Outreach grants have been funded in ND since 1991 (ND one of leading states)
  - At least 17 rural hospitals involved as applicant or partner
  - 18 grants had a rural hospital
  - Dickinson in 4 Outreach grants; Wishek in 2

ND Outreach Grants have Addressed the Following:
- Community wellness, education, exercise (network from Park River to 8 smaller towns)
- Health screenings, community health education – CAH, public health, community action agency - covered 8 counties (Dickinson)
- Three-share program to increase insurance coverage – multiple hospitals
- Mental health consortium – 4 CAHs (Bottineau, Harvey, Kenmare, and Rolla)
- Behavioral health, telemedicine – CAH and tertiary hospital (Hazen and Bismarck)
- Suicide prevention – CAH, public health, primary care clinic (Valley City)
- Community wellness, education, exercise, chronic disease – CAH, public health, and Job/Economic Development (Langdon)
- Chronic disease management – CAH, public health, multi-county service area
- Prevention, screenings, chronic disease – CAH, public health, pharmacy, tertiary hospital (Wishek)
- Alzheimer’s care, education, training – 2 CAHs and tertiary hospital
- EMS – first responder training, pager system – CAH, tribal health, ambulance units, group home
Contact us for more information!

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