The Rural Assistance Center

Presenters:
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2003 NDLA Conference
September 25, 2003

Overview

• RAC’s mission and partners
• Our services
  – Web-based tools
  – Customized assistance
• How we do it
  – RAC database and thesaurus
  – Indexing
  – Information guides
A product of
Department of Health and Human Services’ Rural Initiative….
Established in December, 2002 as a rural health and human services “information portal.”
In Partnership with:

UND Center for Rural Health
Focused on Access, Financing and Quality

- Health services research
- Health policy
- Education
- State and community health services development
- Information Resource
UND’s Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences

Location, Location, Location

- Office space
- Continuing education opportunities
- Access to physical and electronic resources
- Reference support

Who Uses RAC Services?

Anyone seeking to maintain and improve the access, quality, and financial viability of rural health and human service delivery systems.
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<th>Funding</th>
<th>Information Guides</th>
<th>Recent News</th>
<th>Calendar of Events</th>
<th>The Rural Monitor Newsletter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome to the Rural Assistance Center...</td>
<td>New on the RAC Web site...</td>
<td>Questions or Comments?</td>
<td>More &gt;&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Rural Assistance Center (RAC) is a new national resource on rural health and human services information. Our information specialists are available to provide customized assistance, such as web and database searches on rural topics and funding resources, linking users to organizations, and furnishing relevant publications from the RAC resource library.</td>
<td>New information guides on Critical Access Hospitals, Economic Development, Health Professions, Fellowships/Scholarships/Low Repayment, NHRSA, and Housing and Homelessness and the Summer 2003 issue of The Rural Monitor are now available. Please check back often to take advantage of new information resources as they become available!</td>
<td>Rural Assistance Center</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@racfnv.org">info@racfnv.org</a></td>
<td>1-800-270-1930</td>
</tr>
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Funding Opportunities

Information Guides
Recent News

News items include
- Daily Federal Register updates
- Federal press releases
- Announcements
- Other media coverage of rural health and human services issues
Calendar of Events

Health and Human Services Information for Rural America.

In Partnership With

Calendar of Events
Newsletter

The Rural Monitor

Quarterly newsletter
Customized Assistance

Assistance from Information Specialists backed up by:

- The resources and staff of the RAC partner organizations – WIN and CIRC
- The expertise of our funder, the Office of Rural Health Policy

Customized Assistance

- Request comes to RAC via email, 1-800 number, fax, or in person.

- Reference Interview – series of questions to determine how RAC can best serve you. Done by:
  - Questionnaire form – name, zip code, agency, phone, email, how did you hear about RAC
Customized Assistance

– Exactly what is your question?
  • Specific grant?
  • Literature Search?
  • Funding? – capital, starting up, going to school
  • Specific program?
  • Human Services – WIN
  • Data, statistics - CIRC

– What resources have you already tried?

– How would you like your response sent?
  • Email, fax, phone, mail

Customized Assistance

How do we find the answer?
– The Foundation Directory (online)
– RAC website database search
– RAC website Information Guides
– State and Federal contacts
– HRSA, ORHP, WIN, CIRC, Internet
– Database searches on rural health and human services topics
– Literature searches and furnishing relevant publications
Customized Assistance

– Locate statistics, data sources and maps
– Connect users to organizations, experts, and colleagues that can best address the users’ information needs
– Develop customized list of potential funding sources, including local and regional foundations
– Find print and electronic documents to support funding applications
– Locate the right federal or state contact
– Connect you to organizations, experts, and colleagues

Customized Assistance

Rural Human Services Information Specialist
Pamela Friedman

• Handles questions on rural human service issues as they relate to working families and welfare recipients.
• Located at the Welfare Information Network, Washington DC
Customized Assistance

Data/Internet Mapping Specialist

Ann Peton

- Handles requests for data and mapping
- Located at the RUPRI Community Informatics Resource Center, Columbia, MO

Customized Assistance

- Examples of types of questions
  - Capital Funding and Equipment
  - Health Programs
  - AEDs (Automatic Defibrillators)
  - Personal
  - Opening a Clinic
  - Human Services Programs
  - Keeping Clinic Open
Customized Assistance

– Statistics and Research
– Rules and Regulations
  • Rural Definitions
  • Reimbursement
  • Critical Access Hospitals
  • Rural Health Clinics
– Educational Reimbursements
– Recruitment and Retention (Health)
– Economic Development

Users of Customized Assistance

• Healthcare providers (hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, home health agencies, etc.)
• State Offices of Rural Health, State Rural Health Associations and rural health researchers
• Community organizations (domestic violence board, community fund board, economic development council, faith-based groups, etc.)
• State and local departments of health and human services
• National associations
• Individuals
RAC Web Maintenance System

- Web-based data entry system
- MySQL/PHP, using Dreamweaver MX
- Password-protected
- Used to generate dynamic web pages and search features on RAC web site
RAC Thesaurus

- Home-grown controlled vocabulary
- Broader, narrower and related terms
- See references
- Used for document subject searching
Indexing Documents

What is indexed?

• Rural health research center reports
• State Rural Health Association and SORH newsletters
• Federal and state government publications
• Foundation reports and briefs
• Relevant news items, events

Indexing Documents

• How are items indexed?
  – Locate/select document online
    • For example, if indexing the latest newsletter of a state office of rural health, go to their website and locate the newsletter online
  – Enter RAC Web Maintenance System
  – Cut and paste
  – Assign appropriate subject/thesaurus terms
Information Guides – What are they?

Detailed guides on key rural health and human services topics

Current Information Guides

• Child Care (8/27/03)
• Education and Training (8/19/03)
• Job Creation and Microenterprise (8/18/03)
• Grantwriting (8/18/03)
• Critical Access Hospitals (8/13/03)
• Health Professions Fellowships, Scholarships, Loans and Loan Repayment Programs (8/13/03)
Current Information Guides

- Housing and Homelessness (8/13/03)
- Economic Development (8/8/03)
- HIPAA (7/23/03)
- Rural Health Clinics (5/8/03)
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (5/8/03)
- Capital Funding (5/8/03)
- J-1 Visa (5/8/03)

Information Guides

- How are guides put together?
  - Topic is selected based on demand, interest, current issue
  - Gather items on topic through internet searching for documents, national associations, contacts, organizations
  - Template is made
  - Using Contribute software, cut and paste
  - Rough draft emailed to reviewers/contacts
  - Reviewed in detail yearly
Information Guides

The Rural Assistance Center Information Guides

Welcome to the Rural Assistance Center Information Guides. To enter the guides, please choose a topic or search those listed at left.

New Guides: Four new Information Guides are now available on:
- Rural Health Clinics
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Capital Funding
- Liabilities

In addition to the information guides, the Rural Assistance Center website allows you to search for documents, events, and funding opportunities. Search Options

The Rural Assistance Center also maintains a physical resource library. Our information specialists would be happy to assist you in your search for information relating to rural health and human services. Please visit our Contact Us page to submit an information request.
Capital Funding Tools

**Tools**

**Capital Funding Options for Rural Community Health Centers**
A resource developed to assist rural community health centers in the effort to identify and obtain funding resources for building and equipment projects.
Sponsoring organization: National Rural Health Association

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Database**
Database of all federal programs available to State and local governments; federally recognized Indian tribal governments; Territories of the United States; domestic public, quasi-public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; specialized groups; and individuals. Contains information on grant eligibility, application procedures, selection criteria, and program deadlines.
Sponsoring organization: U.S. General Services Administration

**Grantwatch Database**
A searchable database that covers information about training programs and training schedules; federal, state, and community; funding; grant sources; publications; and new grant announcements from the Federal Register.

**GrantSmart Database**
An informational database and interactive research center for and about the nonprofit community. Allows searching for private foundations with

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Capital Funding Opportunities

**Funding**

**Disposal of Federal Surplus Real Property**
Disposal of surplus real property by lease, permit, sale, exchange, or donation.

**Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant**
Grants to encourage and improve the use of telemedicine, telecommunication, computer networks, and related advanced technologies in rural areas.

**Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property**
Program donates Federal property no longer required for Federal use to public agencies and qualifying nonprofit entities.

**HUD 242 - Helping Hospitals Get Capital Financing**
Program offers financial assistance to hospitals and other nonprofit institutions.

**Rural Health Outreach Grant Program**
The emphasis of this grant program is on service delivery through creative strategies involving the grantee to form a network with at least two additional partners.

**SBA Certified Development Company (SBA) Loan Program**
Provides growing businesses with financing.

**SBA Business and Industry Development Loans**
Capital Funding Documents

Reproduced Forms & Other Useful Documents

Access to Capital: NID Funding: The PDA-242 Program
Sponsoring organization: National Rural Health Association

Capital Assistance: A Rural Health Resource Guide
A guide to help hospitals, clinics, and community health centers learn about capital funding options, including examples of federal grants, direct loans, loan guarantee programs, and foundations.
Sponsoring organization: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Federal Government Resources for Health Care Capital and Infrastructure in Rural Areas
An overview of various federal programs and agencies that provide capital funding.
Sponsoring organization: Office of Rural Health Policy

Financing Rural Hospital Capital Improvements
Contains information on financing capital improvements, including sources of funding, capital programs, private foundations.
Sponsoring organization: Office of Rural Health Policy

Foundations Providing Grants: Applicable for Health Care Capital and Infrastructure in Rural Areas
An overview of foundations that provide grants for rural health care capital and infrastructure.
Sponsoring organization: Office of Rural Health Policy

RFPA Overview: Grant Funding Opportunities
Contact: State Public Health Association, Rural Health Lab

Related Journals

Journals

Federal Register
The Federal Register is the official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of Federal agencies and organizations, as well as Executive Orders and other Presidential Documents. Among its numerous notices are notices of funding availability. Sponsoring organization: U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts
Each issue contains notices for new grant announcements, availability of Requests for Proposals (RFPs), and Requests for Applications (RFAs), as well as ongoing program announcements. Sponsoring organization: National Institute of Health
Related Organizations

Organizations

Foundation Center
Private nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the development of philanthropy and to provide information to help philanthropists around the world.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Federal government agency responsible for improving the health of individuals and communities through access to quality public health and health care services.

Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
Private foundation that supports public health and health care organizations in North Carolina.

Kaiser Permanente Foundation
Private foundation that supports health and health care organizations in the United States.

Rural Assistance Center
Private foundation that supports rural health and health care organizations in the United States.

Terms and Acronyms

Terms & Acronyms

Application Procedures: Set of instructions issued by funders, listing the minimum steps required for proposal review. These include submission of specific documents, information, and required information.

Black Grants: Grants administered by the federal government to provide financial and technical assistance to organizations and initiatives that are not qualified as charities.

Building/Rehabilitation: Money raised for construction, renovation, remodeling, or rehabilitation of buildings. May be part of an organization's capital campaign.

Capital Campaign: Campaign, usually extending over a period of years, to raise substantial funds for enduring purpose, such as building or endowments.

Community Foundations: Private funding from foundations involved in charitable giving within a specific community, state or region, for example, the NorthWest Area Foundation.

Community Groups: Local organizations which focus on supporting programs within their communities, for example, the Junior League and the Lions Club.

Contract: A binding agreement used to procure specified services.

Cooperative Agreement: Agreement between a funding agency and a group which allows the funding agency to control the project's execution. These are often used by the government to conduct extramural clinical trials.
Contacts and Credits

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