

CENTER FOR RURAL AND PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

from Evidence to Impact

Strategic Workforce & Training Program Request for Applications

RFA Release Date: February 5, 2024

Letter of Intent Due Date: March 1, 2024

Full Proposal Invitation: Late March 2024

Selected applicants will receive initial recommendations (if applicable) and be invited to submit a full proposal.

Full Proposal Due Date: May 1, 2024

For selected applicants only.

Award Notice: Late May 2024

Project Start Date: July 1, 2024

Purpose of the Strategic Workforce & Training Program:

The Strategic Workforce & Training Cooperative Agreement Program seeks to increase the supply and distribution of health professionals serving rural communities. Initiatives should aim to improve the quality and availability of care provided, support the development of career pathways, and aid in forming new workforce types to meet the needs of 21st-century healthcare delivery and public health. CRPH is interested in programs that adopt best practices or evidence-based models, expand existing work into rural communities, or develop new programs or initiatives while coordinating with rural communities and populations in the state.

Funded projects can include:

- Providing continuing education to rural healthcare practitioners
- Exposing graduate or undergraduate students to rural communities and their healthcare needs
- Implementing a new degree or certificate program to address rural healthcare worker shortages

Strong applications will also include the following elements:

- Located in a rural population (Rurality determined using the CRPH definition on the [SC Rural Healthcare Resource Dashboard](#)) *OR* serves a rural population by direct interaction, placing trainees in rural areas, or placing graduates in rural areas
- Description of needs that will be met or otherwise addressed by the project (e.g., needs assessment or other data)
- Demonstrate clear and established partnerships
- Clear and direct connection between program activities and positive outcomes

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Key areas of emphasis for this funding opportunity include, but are not limited to:

Healthcare Workforce Development

- Programs that expand efforts to improve the distribution of the health workforce and/or work to reduce shortages in underserved and rural communities.
- Programs that address issues of recruitment, retention, and burnout among the healthcare workforce.
- Programs that impact the disparity between skills that employees possess, and the skills needed by their roles in delivering rural health care services.
- Programs that encompass the entire healthcare delivery care continuum, from community, public health, allied health, health administration, and clinical providers of services.

Career Pathway Training in Healthcare

- Programs/models that connect rural health employers to develop sustainable pipelines of talent across the state.
- Programs that focus on innovative strategies for curricular development, enhancement of medical learning, and/or patient education.
- Programs to bridge the gaps between student aspirations and eventual health careers.

Addressing the future needs of the healthcare workforce

- Programs that identify what future training needs will be for existing providers, and work to meet those needs.
- Programs that provide the skills the current workforce needs to integrate new modalities of care into existing systems (e.g. telehealth, mobile units).
- Efforts to define the workforce roles of the future, anticipating the delivery needs of our rural communities.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Public or not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations with an emphasis on health or rural health
- State government agencies
- Community based or human service organizations
- Any institution of higher education in South Carolina (public or private)
- South Carolina Rural Health Networks
- AccessHealth SC networks

Awards This funding opportunity will fund multiple cooperative agreements in amounts up to \$200,000 for periods of up to 2 years.

What we fund:

We fund direct costs only to include:

- Staff salary and fringe
- Supplies and a limited amount of equipment vital to the project (equipment must be specifically requested and justified)
- Project-related travel
- Advertising and outreach related to grant-supported services

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What we do not fund:

- Projects centered on one-touch events (health fairs, conferences, etc.)
- Programs or activities that target non-rural populations
- Capital projects or funds for facilities
- Indirect costs
- Medical care costs (i.e. food, transportation, and rental assistance)
- Formation or staffing of committees or task forces
- This funding opportunity excludes research projects

If you are uncertain if you are eligible, please contact us at SCRuralHealthcare@uscmed.sc.edu so we can assist you in determining your eligibility.

***Currently funded programs should not apply to this funding opportunity and should look to receive information about the renewal process.**

