

ORH Rural Provider Training and Education

Program Planning Award FAQ – April 2013

1. How does the just released Planning Award for the Development of a Rural Provider Training and Education Program RFP relate to the upcoming Rural Provider and Health Care Support Staff Training and Education Initiative (RPSTI) RFP?

The planning award is a short term, 3 month planning award to provide salary support for a VAMC based employee(s):

- a. *to assess the critical educational and training needs of providers, nurses and clinical staff working in rural VA facilities that fall under the jurisdiction of that VAMC*
- b. *to develop an innovative operational framework for organizing, delivering and scheduling training*
- c. *to research existing VA resources for training and educational content (DVDs, webinars, etc)*
- d. *to partner with other VA entities to develop content*
- e. *to develop proposal in response to RPSTI RFP*

2. When will the RPSTI RFP be released?

The estimated date of release for the RPSTI RFP is June 1, 2013. The proposals will not be due until August 12, 2013.

3. Does a Planning Award Proposal have to be submitted and accepted in order to be eligible to submit a proposal for the RPSTI RFP?

Yes, but it is not required that you request or accept ORH funds for the planning award; this could be more like a letter of intent with the required elements of the proposal completed as outlined in the RFP.

4. What is the model for the rural health provider training and education as requested in the upcoming RPSTI RFP?

The ideal program should provide training and education for rural providers, nurses, and other health care professionals and rural clinic staff based on local needs. The clinical training needs may be based on the prevalence of various clinical diagnoses of rural Veterans in the catchment area or by polling providers and staff working in rural VA facilities. Further the training and education should be delivered and scheduled in an innovative manner that precludes the need for travel and is convenient for the rural provider end user. Finally, existing VA training resources should be utilized where possible and every effort should be made to partner with other VA entities (i.e., GRECCS, MIRECCs, Office of Women’s Health Services, Office of Patient Care Services) or local non VA educational (Area Health Education Centers, State Offices of Rural Health, etc) to develop and/or deliver content relevant to the rural clinical training needs.

5. How many years will ORH support this initiative? What is the maximum level of support? What will ORH funding support? Contracts? Equipment? Salaries?

Final decisions have not been made on how long ORH will support the pilot training programs, but most likely 3 years at a minimum, if funds are available. However, each awardee must quarterly report on progress, accomplishments, and provider satisfaction so ORH can evaluate whether to continue support each year. ORH funding will support educational infrastructure development such as renovation of existing space (this category of funding is limited to \$100,000 of NON-recurring funding in the first year of the proposal), equipment directly related to training at remote sites, educational resources (DVDs, manuals, etc), and salary support for administrative and/or professional staff. Contract support will be considered if a reasonable justification can be made for not utilizing existing VA staff.

6. What VA sites are eligible for funding?

VAMCs located in rural or highly rural areas or “Parent” VA facilities (which do not need to be in rural areas) that have Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) or Telehealth Clinics in designated rural or highly-rural areas wishing to expand their role in rural provider and/or clinical staff training.

7. What entity/job function from the parent facility should be the project lead?

Most VAMCs have a Designated Learning Officer (DLO) or equivalent that oversees training and educational programs for that facility; they, in consultation with the facility Chief of Staff, would probably be the most appropriate staff member to initiate and submit a proposal.

8. Can contract CBOCS participate?

This is a local facility / VISN decision as the proposal must be submitted by the parent facility with the approval of the Medical Center Director and the VISN Director.

9. Who can I consult to help develop my proposal for the planning award?

The Veterans Rural Health Resource Centers have experienced staff available to provide guidance and support in the development of your proposals for the planning award. They can all be found in Outlook.

Western Region – Director, Dr. Byron Bair; Deputy Director, Nancy Dailey

Eastern Region – Director, Dr. Paul Hoffman; Associate Director, Penelope Markle; Associate Director, Kristen Wing

Central Region – Director, Dr. Peter Kaboli; Deputy Director, Dr. Bryant Howren

10. How can I find a list of existing VA educational resources?

ORH will be releasing a list of existing VA educational resources and how to access them as an addendum to the upcoming RFP.

If you have any additional questions about this planning award RFP, please contact Nancy Maher at 202 461-1774.