

Project Abstract

Project Title: Rural Residency Planning and Development (RRPD) Program

Applicant Organization Name: Colquitt Regional Medical Center

Address: 3131 Sth Main Street, Moultrie, GA 31768

Type of Entity: Hospital (applicant)

Project Director Name: Kristoff Cohran

Contact Phone Numbers: 229-890-3532

E-Mail Address: Kcohran@colquittregional.com

Project Focus Area: Establish a new Psychiatric Rural Residency Program in Southwest Georgia that will be able to effectively train physicians to practice in and meet the clinical needs of rural populations.

Colquitt Regional Medical Center is applying for this grant. Colquitt Regional is a growing 151-bed facility with over 65 physicians in over 23 specialty areas. The Health System serves a rural area in South Georgia. Colquitt Regional Medical Center is a founding member of the South Georgia Medical Education and Research Consortium, focused on enhancing the medical education pipeline in South Georgia. The hospital has built capacity in teaching medical students and other health learners. **Colquitt Regional will partner with Turning Point Hospital.** Turning Point is a 69-bed psychiatric hospital treating a range of psychiatric and addiction disorders in Moultrie Georgia. Turning Point has a national market, and is part of the University Health Services, Inc. family.

Serving Colquitt County, Georgia, the county has demographics similar to many poor, rural and underserved areas of the nation. Colquitt County's poverty and other socioeconomic statistics are among the worst in the nation. Therefore, it is not surprising that more than 1 out of every 4 county residents currently do not have health insurance coverage. As a result of having no insurance or an inadequate amount of insurance, primary care visits, mental health services and prevention activities are often not accessible by our most vulnerable residents. Establishing a residency program will reinforce the health system's safety net, and will provide health care access to the County's most vulnerable.

Training in a rural area is a proven strategy to improving physician workforce. Colquitt Regional and Turning Point will expand opportunities to train in rural South Georgia as one approach to recruiting and retaining physicians to practice. Developing a Psychiatric Program means greater exposure to the depth and breadth of practice in a rural community. A psychiatry program in South Georgia Program will support an integrated approach to mental health, allowing support for both primary care and mental health in the region.

Funding from the Rural Residency Planning Development Program will empower us to create a strong residency program, building a foundation that will support the hospital's accreditation, recruitment and sustainability. We will accomplish this by:

Objectives/Strategies:

1. Convening a coalition of key stakeholders that will utilize feasibility study data and residency development strategies to identify and prioritize the accreditation and recruitment process.
2. Developing a comprehensive residency development timeline and plan (strategic plan) that articulates what the hospital wants to accomplish.
3. Expanding the understanding of medical education and residency impact to hospital and community stakeholders, targeting the need for mental health and improved access to and delivery of healthcare.
4. Achieve Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education accreditation.
5. Recruit a diverse and dedicated class of residents to train.
6. Establish and support a data mechanism for tracking the program's success.

We are requesting \$750,000 in funding from the Residency Planning Program. Our staffing includes Kristoff Cohran, project director; Dr. George Fredrick and Savannah McGowan, clinical informatics subject matter expert; and Carol Norris, evaluation consultant.