

Project Abstract

Project Title: Educating Nurse Practitioners to Serve Rural and Underserved Populations Through Clinical and Community Partnerships

Applicant Organization Name: Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University

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Grant program funds requested: \$2,800,000

Funding preferences requested: -Funding Preference
-Special Consideration

The goal of this project is to prepare nurse practitioner (NP) students enrolled at Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) at Illinois State University (ISU) to provide comprehensive, collaborative primary care for rural and underserved populations through academic and clinical training and partnerships. Project objectives are to:

- 1) Prepare NP students to optimize primary care and mental health management and combat the opioid crisis in rural and underserved settings.
- 2) Prepare preceptors to enhance clinical and didactic education of FNP students.
- 3) Provide financial support to FNP students through traineeships to be used for tuition and fees and reasonable living expenses (via stipends), to increase access to and successful completion of graduate nursing education to become primary care NPs.
- 4) Increase the number of primary care NPs seeking employment in practices serving rural and underserved populations, including HPSAs and MUA/Ps.
- 5) Improve coordination of resources and services for older adults in the surrounding community, including rural and underserved areas, to help improve the physical and mental health outcomes of seniors, allowing them to safely age at home for as long as possible.

The goal will be accomplished in several ways: 1) *preparation of students* through diversity recruitment, curricular enhancement/expansion, participation in immersive clinical experiences, and use of high-fidelity simulation scenarios; 2) *preparation of preceptors* through recruitment, training, development, support, and evaluation; 3) *student financial support* through provision of traineeship funds for eligible FNP students; 4) *employment connections* through establishment of an employment database and the bringing together of FNP students and graduates with potential employers from rural and underserved areas, and 5) *development of a resource clearinghouse* for older adults to help improve their physical and mental health outcomes.

This application requests **Funding Preference** Qualification 2: Underserved Preference due to the academic-practice partner being located in a primary care and mental health HPSA. **Special Consideration** is also being requested due to agreement to expend the award to train advanced education nurses who will practice in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).