

Project Abstract

Project Title: UW SOD Educational Technology Expansion for Training in Rural/ Underserved Areas

Applicant Organization Name: **University of Washington School of Dentistry**

Program: Equipment to Enhance Training for Health Professionals (EETHP) – ARRA Training in General, Pediatric, and Public Health Dentistry (HRSA-10-258)

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Type of Equipment to be purchased: Technology for a large capacity classroom for the purpose of distance learning and for providing continuing education to dental partners throughout the Pacific Northwest region (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho).

Projected date for equipment to be purchased: If funding is realized, equipment will be purchased by January 1, 2011.

Number of students expected to be trained: 189

Other HRSA funding for equipment purchases: The UWSOD is listed as a collaborator on a HRSA ARRA EETHP Grant (10-183), for which the WA State Department of health has applied. This funding, if realized, will provide 1 bridge/MCU unit, 1 portable end user unit, 5 end user units for community health center partners throughout Washington, 6 Gendex intraoral video cameras for community health center partners throughout Washington, and 1 Human Patient Portable Simulator. These purchases DO NOT overlap with this funding request.

Brief description of the needs to be addressed and the proposed equipment to be purchased:

The University of Washington School of Dentistry (UWSOD) seeks funding through this HRSA grant to *equip a large lecture hall with synchronous and asynchronous distance learning capabilities* to enhance training of oral health professionals. Distance learning supports the preparation of dental students to practice in rural/underserved dental workforce shortage areas in the Northwest and facilitates collaboration with community partners. Specifically the technological upgrade will: 1) ensure equivalency of education for dental students participating in first, second, and fourth year extended outreach rotations in rural/underserved areas of the Northwest; 2) ensure calibration of affiliate faculty teaching dental students at remote sites; and 3) provide continuing education to rural practitioners; and 4) help increase collaboration with primary care providers including physicians, nurse practitioners, and other staff.

The UWSOD is the only school of dentistry in the five state region of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (WWAMI). As such it is committed to educating a progressive oral health workforce and improving the health and well-being of the people of the region through outreach programs that are especially attentive to minority and underserved populations. In the past five years, UWSOD dental students have participated in outreach rotations at some 40 federally qualified health centers, Indian Health Service (IHS)/ tribal health or other community sites in the WWAMI states (see Table 1 in Narrative). The requested funds will build the technological infrastructure necessary to support and extend this training to increase dental care capacity in workforce shortage areas and improve oral health outcomes for underserved populations. The UWSOD curriculum has a strong emphasis on primary care and pediatric dentistry and includes a robust, nationally-recognized curriculum in the care of special populations. This project addresses Healthy People 2010 Objectives 21.1-8, 10, and 12.