

ACTT: PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: **Advancing Care Through Technology**

Applicant Name: **Behavioral Health Network of Vermont**

CFDA: **93.912**

Congressional District: **Vermont 1**

Types of HRSA Funding Requested: **HRSA: ORHP:**

Rural Health Network Development Program

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Behavioral Health Network of Vermont (BHN) will serve as the grantee and fiscal agent for the Advancing Care through Technology RHND project, on behalf of its member and the other eight designated agencies in Vermont. The state of Vermont relies on independent, non-profit community mental health centers (CMHCs) and specialized service agencies (SSAs) to provide mental health, substance abuse and developmental services to more than 43,000 people. BHN is a community mental health non-profit membership association comprised of seven (7) of the ten (10) CMHCs and one (1) of the six (6) SSAs. BHN's proposal for "Advancing Care through Technology" will support the expansion of this network to all of the CMHCs and SSAs located throughout the state, inclusive of independent developmental disability agencies.

The purpose of BHN's HRSA Rural Health Network Development (RHND) Grant Program application is to enable Vermont's CMHCs and SSAs to collaborate with local and state partners **to achieve population health goals through the use of technology** through activities conducted by BHN. Leveraging the power of the network and building on previous and current work, BHN is seeking to fund work initiatives that use integrated efforts and technology to enable: data quality, enhanced reporting, population and individual health management and improvement; and connectivity to the state-wide HIE for Vermont's CMHCs/SSAs.

Currently Vermont's ten CMHCs use different electronic health record (EHR) platforms all at different levels of implementation and functionality. Only one SSA has an EHR in place and the others are looking to purchase through the same vendor in an efficient manner. As such, the CMHC/SSAs have been unable to engage with each other in quality improvement and benchmarking activities using real time data. "Advancing Care through Technology" will support consistent reporting from all CMHCs/SSAs, the ability to address population management through integrated services across all regions of the state, and the ability to compare and benchmark within the network to improve the quality of care. It will also enable the CMHC/SSA system of care to demonstrate their value in a rapidly changing health care landscape. This is a statewide application for a grant request totaling \$899,548.

The goals of this project are to: ensure high quality clinical data for population health and quality/outcome reporting; aggregate data for individual agency and network-wide analysis and reporting through the adoption of a unified database system; utilize the network to work with ACOs to improve health outcomes and decrease cost with the primary objective being the development of common protocols and the advancement of patient engagement; and allow for electronic transmission of patient care summaries across multiple settings to inform and enhance care across the continuum.