

## PROJECT ABSTRACT

Arkansas Delta-Rural Health Outreach Program  
**Arkansas Rural Health Partnership, Inc.**  
2729 Highway 65 & 82 South  
Lake Village, Arkansas 71653  
Rural Hospital Alliance 501(c)3  
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**Funding Request:** \$200,000/year, three years

**Target Population & Service Area:** The target population will be adults (age 18-64) at-risk of developing or diagnosed with a mental or behavioral health issue in the southeast Arkansas Delta. The service area includes eight rural counties (Jefferson, Arkansas, Dallas, Bradley, Drew, Desha, Chicot, Ashley) in the southeast Arkansas Delta.

**Focus:** Mental & Behavioral Health (Prevention, Education & Access to Services)

**Description of Proposed Services:** Through Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program (RHCSOP) funds, the Arkansas Rural Health Partnership proposes to reduce morbidity and mortality due to mental or behavioral health conditions in adults (age 18-64) by 15% in rural southeast Arkansas Delta by April 2021. This will be accomplished through the following objectives: 1) share the responsibility of achieving and sustaining outreach program activities, 2) establish the ARHP Behavioral Health Task Force to address ongoing and emerging needs related to mental health service delivery, 3) conduct a public awareness campaign to promote the early detection of mental illness symptoms and how to access services, 4) train 1,900 front line responders in Mental Health First Aid, and 5) establish a mental health crisis service at ten partner Emergency Departments via telemedicine.

**Consortium Description:** The consortium will include 11 partners, including Arkansas Rural Health Partnership (applicant) and 10 member hospitals. Each of the eleven partners have signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

**Evidence-Based Model:** The project will adopt Mental Health First Aid as a population health, evidence-based approach to increase prevention and early intervention to mental health services. The project will also use the telemedicine component of the Madison Outreach & Services through Telehealth (MOST) Network model to provide new mental health crisis services.

**Expected Outcomes:** Short-term outcomes of the project include: 1) increase in patients with access to mental health crisis services, 2) increase in mental health professionals within the service area, 3) increased understanding among providers, patients, and community members related to mental health concerns and how to access resources, and 4) increased mental health literacy among healthcare professionals and law enforcement. Long-term project outcomes include: 1) improved system of care for patients with behavioral/mental health concerns, 2) overall decrease in patients experiencing a mental health crisis in the service area, 3) mental health patients access needed care within local community, 4) decrease in ER admissions for behavioral health issues, and 5) improved mental health outcomes of residents.

The Arkansas Rural Health Partnership is requesting a funding preference based on *Qualification 1: Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)*. Chicot County is in a designated HPSA.