

Rural Health Forward: Training and Resource Hub

Overview

This initiative will establish Rural Health Forward, a resource and training hub designed to close gaps in education, training, and professional development between urban and rural healthcare providers. Designed for rural use but accessible to all, the hub will serve physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, community health workers, EMS professionals, doulas, and other frontline healthcare staff across South Dakota.

Key Activities

- **Platform Development:** Design and launch a statewide digital platform hosting evidence-based training modules, resources, and best practices.
 - **Training and Education:** Deliver virtual and in-person training opportunities, including simulation experiences and CE/CME-accredited courses.
 - **Stakeholder Engagement:** Partner with universities, health systems, and professional associations to guide content and ensure statewide relevance.
 - **Evaluation and Quality Improvement:** Track utilization, training outcomes, and workforce impacts to guide continuous improvement.
 - **Sustainability Planning:** Develop long-term governance and funding strategies to maintain and grow the hub beyond initial implementation.
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Partners & Stakeholders

Rural and Critical Access Hospitals, Independent and Community Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Long-Term Care and Home Health Agencies, State Universities and Medical Schools, Technical Colleges.

Amount Requested

- \$4,730,000 over five years
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Expected Outcomes

- Expand access to training for healthcare professionals across disciplines.
 - Ensure equitable access to training for providers in rural, frontier, and tribal communities.
 - Increase in participant knowledge or skill confidence based on pre-/post-training assessments.
 - Increase percentage of trained providers remaining in South Dakota's healthcare workforce after 12 months.
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Why This Matters

By expanding access to professional development and supporting collaboration among providers, this initiative will strengthen South Dakota's rural healthcare workforce, improve care quality, and ensure that every community benefits from well-trained, well-supported professionals.