

Flex/SHIP Grant Program Update

Community Partner Outreach Grants

- At the federal level there is a perception that Critical Access Hospitals have done a good job of networking with each other, however they have put less effort into integrating/collaborating within their own communities.
- Therefore, we proposed the following grant program for Washington State; “Washington Critical Access Hospitals have a long history of being the focal point for community healthcare. To encourage vertical network development and support CAH facilities, the State Office plans to proceed with a unique grant program for year 9. We will encourage facilities to reach out to their community partners (schools, police, health departments, Emergency Medical Systems, Federally Qualified Health Clinics, Veterans groups, or Community Not-For-Profits, etc.) Each Critical Access Hospital will receive a \$3,000 grant to work with at least one community partner. Deliverables will describe the community health need addressed, for example Mental health and Substance abuse, Health Disparities, Language & Culture awareness, Drug Seeking Behaviors, or in one of the Governor’s Goals for Health – Prevention, Managing Chronic Care.”

Improving Emergency Cardiac & Stroke Patient Flow to Referral Hospitals

- This project will involve expansion and replication of work currently occurring at Lincoln Hospital, in Davenport Washington. Lincoln Hospital and Medical staff have developed transfer protocols and communication strategies with Sacred Heart Medical Center, in Spokane which have enabled them to reduce the time from Acute Myocardial Infarction patient arrival in their Emergency Room to catheter insertion and dye injection at Sacred Heart to as little as 93 minutes. We would like to fund a partnership with Lincoln and two other Critical Access Hospitals, along with state and regional EMS representatives, to bring this care improvement to other parts of the state. We will select one hospital from each of the other two regional CAH networks to facilitate further dissemination of what is learned. We will partner with and include representatives from the state’s Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, and Emergency Medicine and Trauma System. (~\$20,361)

High Definition ER video Tele-medicine for CAHs

- For this project the State Office proposes to replicate work funded with 2006-2007 Flex dollars in the community of Chelan, Washington, in up to five addition communities around the state. Lake Chelan Hospital was approached in early 2007 by Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, the state’s only Level I Trauma Center to pilot a unique high-definition web-based Televideo link between Harborview trauma specialists and Chelan Emergency Room staff. Harborview representatives are interested in reducing the number of unnecessary trauma transports to their facility and improving care for rural patients by providing more rapid access to trauma specialist consultation. With the help of Flex dollars Chelan and Harborview have implemented the tele-video link and established a protocol for rapid trauma consults. Chelan reports that trauma consults are now available typically within three minutes, compared to a prior time of up to 45 minutes. Their Emergency Room is staffed by Physician Assistants on weekdays and by physicians on weekends. These clinicians report much greater comfort with critical time-sensitive clinical decisions with the timelier back-up now available. Chelan is also developing the capacity to transmit digital X-ray & CT images, along with patient medical records over the internet to Harborview to enhance the information available to the consulting trauma specialists. The State Office will work with each of the three regional Critical Access Hospital Networks in the state to select facilities ready to develop similar linkages. (~\$41,361)