

Dear ORHP Grantee:

The Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) plans to continue the Rural Voices Leadership and Policy Workshop exclusively for ORHP grantees. The primary intent of this workshop is to provide a tailored leadership development program for potential rural health leaders and to ensure a greater diversity of leadership for rural communities. The secondary intent of this program is to assist in forging an ongoing relationship between ORHP and its grantees and to tap into their experience and skills in a more meaningful manner.

Each year, ORHP, through its grant programs, comes into contact with a number of talented individuals who are working to improve the health of rural residents. That interaction is often limited to the scope and duration of the grant. ORHP would like to build and expand upon those relationships and encourage its grantees to become more involved in the larger ongoing health care discussion. Your perspective is a valuable untapped resource that is an important part of the national discussion on a variety of health care issues. This program offers a way to identify local rural health leaders, expand their focus to the State and national level and help create a cadre of leaders better prepared to give voice to rural concerns. A second component of this program includes a leadership skills workshop. This day long workshop will focus on ways to enhance your professional development skills so that you have the techniques and strategies needed to manage your programs on a daily basis.

Applicants for the program must be a current grantee and not have any previous national leadership experience or training. There are four slots allocated for Outreach, Network Development, Delta and two slots allocated for Network Planning, Quality, Black Lung Clinic Program, RESEP, State Office and Flex grant programs. All travel, food and hotel accommodations will be paid by the ORHP.

The meeting will be held on March 29 – 31, 2010 in Washington, DC and will be a two ½ day meeting over the course of three days. The first day will cover health policy issues at the national level which will help grantees understand how these issues affect them at the local level, the second day will be the leadership skills workshop and the third day will be lessons learned. This last day will focus on the information, skills and strategies you have learned and ways you will utilize them in your community.

If you are interested in being considered for this noteworthy program, please follow the enclosed guidelines for submitting an application package. Thank you for all the great work you do for rural America!

Enclosure

Application Guidelines:

The guidelines for the application process are listed below. Before applying for the 2010 Rural Voices Leadership and Policy Program Meeting, please read through each section thoroughly to determine eligibility.

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant must be a current Outreach, Network Planning, Delta, Network Development, Black Lung, RESEP, Quality, FLEX, State Office Grantee;
- Applicant has **not** had previous national leadership experience or training;
- Applicant cannot have had previous experience advocating at a national level;
- Applicant **must** be willing to commit sufficient time to the program;
- Applicant must have the ability to travel and be available on meeting dates and listen in on the conference call prior (date TBD) to the meeting date;
- Applicants under State travel restrictions should **not** apply;
- Applicants from all rural areas of the country are encouraged to apply as the program seeks geographic balance.

Items to Submit with Application:

- Cover Letter including the name of the ORHP grant program for which the applicant is a grantee.
- Essay answering the following question: (one page or less)
 - State your interest in attending the program. How does the program fit into the growth and development of your career? How will you use the program to benefit your community?
- Brief resume including work telephone number and e-mail address.
- One letter of recommendation

Dates to Remember:

Application Due Date: Applications should be emailed no later than December 22, 2009.

Selections: Final selections for the 2010 Rural Voices Leadership and Policy Program Meeting will be announced in February 2010.

Please do not mail applications. Applications will only be accepted electronically. Please email applications to:

Subject Line: Rural Voices Leadership Program Application

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