

## H-1B Rural Healthcare Grants

### Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence

**Organization Type:** Healthcare industry and/or occupation associations

**Project Name:** *Project WINN (Workforce Innovation Nursing Network)* **Award Amount:** \$2,500,000

**Target H-1B Healthcare Occupations:** Nursing

**Credential(s) Awarded:** Residency Completion credential

**Summary of Program Activities:** The **Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence's Project WINN (Workforce Innovation Nursing Network)** aims to make the transition to clinical practice smoother by providing newly graduated/licensed Registered Nurses (RN) with the support they need to quickly get up to speed and serve as invaluable clinical resource for healthcare facilities in underserved rural/frontier areas of Colorado, which require RNs with sufficient real-world training to address the extensive healthcare needs of residents living on the ranches, farms, and small towns that compose the target areas. *Project WINN* will establish a Nurse Residency Apprenticeship Program (NRAP) using the University of Iowa online curriculum and creating a new primary care-focused, rural curriculum not offered currently through the Iowa program, focusing on critical access hospitals and augmented with relevant content on primary care. The project will hybridize academic and industry interests allowing customization for virtual learning in the time of COVID. The program will include the creation of preceptor and mentor training course curriculum to train rural facility staff in working with new NRAP participants as they transition to practice. The goal is to not only get the new nurses fully functioning beyond the novice level, but also retain them following their residency apprenticeship in these healthcare provider shortage areas. The program will provide a one-year nursing residency in rural/frontier areas of Colorado for recently graduated/licensed RNs. Apprentice nurse residents will advance beyond novice levels of clinical competence. The target population is newly graduated/licensed RNs in rural/frontier Colorado, with an emphasis on low-income, unemployed/underemployed, and otherwise disadvantaged persons.

### The Rural Healthcare Partnership

**Employer Partners:** Lincoln Community Hospital, Wray District Community Hospital and Clinic, Yuma District Hospital, Denver Health, Eastern Plains Healthcare Consortium, Colorado Rural Health Centers, Colorado Community Health Network, Colorado Hospital Association - rural arm; **Education and**

**Training Providers:** University of Iowa; **WIOA Entities:** Colorado Workforce Center

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

**Opportunity Zone:** Yes

**Service Area:** Rural areas of Colorado

**Proposed Total Participants Served:** 160

**Target Population:** Unemployed and Underemployed Workers

**Authorized Representative Contact:** Dr. Ingrid Johnson, President and CEO,

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