



Colorado Rural Health Center

"Enhancing healthcare services in Colorado by providing information, education, linkages, tools & energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues."

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Marva Jean Jackson Rural Community Health Scholarships

Many rural areas of Colorado, and nationally, face a chronic shortage of healthcare providers. Evidence has shown that one of the factors that will influence a provider's choice of practice location is his/her "roots." People from a rural area are more likely to practice in a rural area. Programs that support healthcare training and education for people from rural areas have proven to be an effective tool in helping address the rural workforce shortage. For this reason, the Colorado Rural Health Center has created the Marva Jean Jackson Rural Community Health Scholarships Program to support rural "grow your own" efforts. This Fact Sheet describes how this program works.

What will this program support?

These small grants are intended to match rural community or facility programs that support healthcare training and education for people from their community. For example, if your community or facility is supporting a new medical, pharmacy, or dental school student; a nurse seeking advanced training from a licensed practical to registered nurse; a medical assistant training to become a lab technician; or an EMT-B continuing their training to become an EMT-Intermediate or Paramedic, then your organization might be eligible to receive a scholarship on behalf of this student. The scholarship recipient must currently be enrolled in classes or start training within three months of the application date.

How much are the grants?

Rural communities can apply for up to \$1,000 per year. Awards are only made for one year, although applicants can reapply for subsequent years. CRHC will match, *two-to-one*, a community's or facility's own scholarship program up to \$1,000 a year. Evidence must be provided that the community/facility contribution was made.

What do you mean by a "rural" community?

These grants are limited to communities in non-metropolitan counties of Colorado. This would exclude communities in the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, and Weld. The Grants Review Committee may occasionally consider compelling applications from smaller, isolated communities (within the metro counties) with health workforce shortages.

Who can apply for these grants?

Public or private entities in eligible rural areas can apply for these grants. The applicant must be the entity not an individual.

What kind of reporting is required?

An application is available by contacting CRHC. Applicants must provide a description of the local scholarship program - its history, selection process, amount, and if there are any requirements or expectations of practice commitment following completion. Before payment is made, applicants must provide evidence that their portion of the match was made. Also, recipients of grants must agree to participate in program evaluation reporting, which would involve tracking of their recipients to help determine the effectiveness of these kinds of programs.

When and how are applications reviewed?

CRHC accepts applications throughout the year. Staff will conduct an initial assessment to determine if the application meets funding criteria and if the necessary information is included. If the application is incomplete or does not meet criteria, the applicant will be notified that the grant is ineligible.

A Grants Review Committee (GRC) consisting of board members, staff, and community representatives will review applications that meet funding criteria, this usually occurs within two weeks of the receipt of the application by CRHC. The GRC can approve applications as submitted or attach restrictions or limitations.

CRHC staff will notify applicant right away of the award decision. If a grant is not approved, CRHC will provide the rationale of the GRC.

Where do I get more information?

For more information, please contact us at:

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So who is Marva Jean Jackson?

Marva Jean Jackson began her career as a federal employee with the Department of Labor in 1961 and retired in July 2002 as the Regional Program Consultant for the National Health Service Corps in Region VIII, which includes Colorado. Marva worked with the National Health Service Corps virtually since its inception in 1972, placing healthcare providers in communities where they were most needed. She has been nationally recognized for her leadership and innovation in the field of recruitment, with many of her ideas becoming national policy. Her interest in rural health is both personal and professional since Marva is originally from Rock Springs, Wyoming, but luckily for us, Colorado is now her home. Even though she's retired now, Marva continues to work as a Public Health Consultant with a variety of Public Health Service grant programs, primarily serving underserved populations. For forty-one years of service to Colorado and the rest of the country, we thought that creating a program that helps rural communities with their provider shortages and naming it after her was a nice way to say thank you.

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