

American College of Rheumatology 2021 Rural Health Outreach Project

Call for Letters of Interest

SUMMARY

The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and National AHEC Organization (NAO) is pleased to announce this funding opportunity to support the 2021 ACR Rural Health Outreach Project. This project engages Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) who are NAO members to facilitate education and networking events related to lupus. Ideal applicants are AHECs located in areas that specifically serve rural communities. The full project timeframe is from March 1, 2021 – September 29, 2021.

PROJECT GOALS AND WHO SHOULD APPLY

2021 ACR Rural Health Outreach Project aims to increase exposure of rural healthcare providers to lupus by collaborating with AHECs to conduct virtual or in-person lupus educational and networking events with an ACR member rheumatologist.

Participation in this project is best suited for:

- AHECs located in rural service areas that are underserved by rheumatologists
- AHECs serving rural healthcare providers (i.e., MDs, DOs, PAs and NPs only) who have difficulty scheduling a consult with geographically accessible rheumatologists
- AHECs serving rural healthcare providers who see Black, Latino, Asian, and/or American Indian/Alaska Native patients; as these populations are disproportionately affected by lupus

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

To be selected to participate, AHECs must demonstrate capacity to fulfill the following:

1. Recruit an area ACR-member rheumatologist who is capable of presenting ACR's, IRB approved, lupus educational presentation, and agrees to provide post-event support to attendees
2. Recruit a learning audience of a minimum of 15 diagnosing and treating healthcare providers with MD, DO, NP and PA credentials
3. Manage the implementation of attendee registration, attendee and speaker communication, educational event evaluation and post-event follow-up
4. We are very proud of the great work performed by AHECs that participated in the former ACR Small Groups Projects! PLEASE NOTE: One of the objectives of the new 2021 Rural Health Project is to broaden our reach into new areas across the country. Therefore, **AHECs who participated in ACR Small Groups Projects in 2019-2020 are ineligible to apply for the 2021 ACR Rural Health Outreach Project**

FUNDING AND BUDGET

A total of \$3,500 dollars is anticipated for each AHEC selected to participate in the 2021 ACR Rural Health Outreach Project.*

**Please Note: Participating AHECs will be responsible for all event expenses including a \$500 dollar honorarium payment to the participating rheumatologist.*

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Up to seven (7) AHECs will be selected to implement a lupus education and networking event for diagnosing and treating providers (MDs, DOs, NPs, and PAs) in primary care and emergency room environments. Dermatologists and Gynecologists are two specialties of additional interest. The event is intended to provide participating providers with access to a rheumatologist that they would not otherwise have, therefore, events planned for academic medical centers are discouraged.
- Participating AHECs must recruit a minimum of 15 diagnosing and treating provider participants (as defined above) who complete a pre and post event online evaluation process in order to receive full payment.
- Large events (greater than 40 participating learners) are discouraged.
- Virtual education/networking events are recommended. Events may be combined and dove-tailed with other planned networking or education events.*
- **IMPORTANT:** Please allow at least one (1) hour for delivery of lupus educational presentation.

*Questions? Email Stacey Boyd,
Sr. Communications Manager,
American College of Rheumatology
Collaborative Initiatives Department
at sboyd@rheumatology.org.*

2021 American College of Rheumatology Rural Health Outreach Project

Call for Letters of Interest (continued)

By March 12, 2021: Interest AHECs must complete and submit their letter of interest to Stacey Boyd at sboyd@rheumatology.org by Friday, March 12 at 5:00 PM ET

March 19, 2021: ACR will distribute decision notifications to all applicants by COB on Friday, March 19. **IMPORTANT:** Accepted AHECs will be sent a contract and administrative documents that must be submitted to ACR before attending Rural Health Outreach Program AHEC Orientation Meeting

March 22, 2021: Participating AHECs deadline for submission of signed contracts and completed program administrative documents

March 26-31, 2021: Mandatory Rural Health Outreach Program AHEC Orientation Meeting All contracted AHECs will be required to attend a virtual two (2) hour orientation session and evaluation procedure meeting (PLEASE NOTE: This meeting will be held between the dates of March 26 – 31)

By April 12, 2021: Participating AHECs must complete a project plan and submit event approval form by COB - Full details will be discussed during orientation meeting

At least 3 weeks before scheduled event:

Participating AHECs will create and submit marketing materials to ACR for review and approval

April 19 – July 31, 2021:
Participating AHECs will -

- schedule, promote, and host a facilitated 1-1.5 hour virtual or in-person lupus education and networking event
- facilitate pre-test, post-test and follow-up evaluation data administration and collection, provide legible records, and
- work with ACR in obtaining and submitting all necessary evaluation-related documents by an established deadline

TO APPLY

To apply, AHECs must submit a letter of interest with the following information:

- I. Administrative Information
 - Legal organizational name, address, and Federal Tax ID #
 - Responsible party's contact name, title, email address and phone number
- II. Capacity
 - Description of key project personnel backgrounds and expertise
 - Continuing education/CME experience within the last 2-3 years
 - Description of virtual education event implementation capabilities
- III. Program Plan
 - General population served/statement of need
 - Description of rheumatology contacts or population in catchment area from which you can recruit a qualified speaker
 - Prospective provider learning audience (i.e., who, where, and how many), and how you plan to recruit
 - Intended format and structure of learning event and networking plan
 - Event promotion/marketing plan

Submit Letters of Interest to:

Stacey Boyd, Sr. Communications Manager, Collaborative Initiatives at sboyd@rheumatology.org.

IMPORTANT: Letters of interest must be received no later than 5:00 PM ET on Friday, March 12, 2021.

This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$7 million dollars with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.