

2022 Rural Health Outreach Project

SUMMARY

The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and National AHEC Organization (NAO) is pleased to announce this funding opportunity to support **the 2022 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 project timeframe is from March 1, 2022 – September 29, 2022.**

PROJECT GOALS AND WHO SHOULD APPLY

The 2022 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 largely see patients who are African American, Latino, Asian, and/or American Indian/Alaskan Native, populations disproportionately affected by lupus

FUNDING AND BUDGET

A total of \$4,000 is anticipated for each AHEC selected to participate in the 2022 ACR Rural Health Outreach Project. ***Please Note: AHECs will be responsible for all event expenses including a \$500 dollar honorarium payment to the participating rheumatologist for your event.***

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 so appreciative of the great work performed by AHECs that participated in the 2021 cycle! An objective of this program is to broaden our reach into new areas across the country. Therefore, AHECs who participated in this program in 2021 are ineligible to apply for the 2022 ACR Rural Health Outreach Project

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 1.5 hours for the entire session (1 hr. presentation, 30 min. housekeeping and Q&A)*

Awardee AHECs should be able to further implement the project based on the following timeline:

By January 21, 2022	Interest AHECs must complete the online application .
February 4, 2022	ACR will distribute decision notifications to all applicants by COB on Friday, February 4. <i>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</i>
February 15, 2022	Participating AHECs deadline for submission of signed contracts and completed program administrative documents
February 21 – 25, 2022	Mandatory Rural Health Outreach Program AHEC Orientation Meeting <i>All contracted AHECs will be required to attend a virtual orientation session and evaluation procedure meeting (PLEASE NOTE: This meeting will be held between the dates of February 21 – 25, 2022)</i>
At least 8 weeks before scheduled event(s)	Participating AHECs will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete a project plan and submit event approval form 2. Create and submit marketing materials to ACR for review and approval
March 1 – August 19, 2022	Participating AHECs will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schedule, promote, and host a facilitated 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 <p><i>*PLEASE NOTE: At least one session is required, however additional sessions may be necessary to reach the 15-provider minimum requirement.</i></p>

TO APPLY

To apply, AHECs must complete the [online application](#) which ask for 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. Upload Letter of Interest which should include information on:
 - Organizational 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
 - 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 (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

APPLY NOW

Completed applications must be received by 5:00 PM ET on January 21, 2022.

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