# Summary of North Dakota Rural Health Network Development Grants

*The Rural Health Network Development Grant Program supports projects that expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential health care services, and enhance the delivery of health care, in rural areas. The primary objective of this program is to assist health oriented networks in developing and maintaining sustainable networks with self-generating revenue streams. These grants support rural providers who work in formal networks to integrate administrative, clinical, technological, and financial functions. Networks should have a significant history of organizational collaboration and must have a memorandum of understanding. This program is a three year grant program. More information can be found at:*
[http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/networkprogram.html](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/networkprogram.html).

**Northwood Deaconess Health Center, Northwood, ND (FY 2014-2016)**
The overarching purpose of this proposed project is to address two of the three legislative RHND charges: 1) achieve efficiencies and strengthen rural health care system. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, continued development of meaningful use of electronic health records, and the movement from volume to value, this project puts the patients first by focusing on improved health care services, data collection, and process improvement. The project will focus on: the use of computerized provider order entry (CPOE) and telepharmacy to better facilitate pharmacist review of medication orders, within in 24 hours; improving care coordination related to outpatient emergency department (ED) transfers; and enhancing data collection tools and methodology (e.g. pharmacy reviews and outpatient emergency department transfer communication). The proposed project will be implemented through the ND Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Quality Network of which all (36) CAHs are members. The ND CAH Quality Network, will work with ND Healthcare Review, Inc., ND's quality improvement organization (QIO), to develop a tool and methodology for reporting the following data (e.g. pharmacy medication verification and outpatient emergency department transfer communication). The Network members will also work with Catholic Health Initiatives ePhamacist Direct program to expand the use of telepharmacy (for those CAHs that do not have access to a pharmacist 24/7), which will lend itself to reduction in medication errors and improve efficiencies and patient safety. The grant funds will be used to support the cost of telepharmacy equipment; a portion of a service agreement, identify readiness for using CPOE; and facilitate training and development of quality improvement processes.

**Coal Country Community Health Center, Beulah, ND (FY 2011-2013)**
No abstract available.

**Coal Country Community Health Center, Beulah, ND (FY 2010)**
North Dakota Rural Behavioral Health Network (NDRBH), is a project to improve access to behavioral health care and reduce behavioral health disparities. Five organizations comprise the NDRBH Network and its Governance Committee: Mental Health America North Dakota, Federation of Families, Mental Health America, Coal Country Community Health Center, and Area Health Education Center. To accomplish the goals outlined, the network will, complete periodic ongoing assessment of community needs (the community needs assessments completed in conjunction with AHEC), annual planning with

the updating of the strategic plan, and finally, the development of a business plan which includes the value of the network and how the network will achieve sustainability.

**Presentation Medical Center, Rolla, ND (FY 2008)**
The Northwest Alliance for Information Technology project, a partnership with the goal to provide access to clinical software, especially an electronic health records.  This would minimize the cost for hardware and hardware maintenance and allow greater resources to be devoted to software.  The Northwest Alliance for Information Technology:  A Multi-Hospital Health Information Technology Network Serving Rural Northwestern North Dakota seeks to address two primary focus areas with the purchase and installation clinical software, especially an electronic health record: to improve the quality/safety of care, and to provide cost effective health care. The goal is to develop a fully integrated electronic health record, including modules such as pharmacy, lab, provider access and clinical charting for each member of the Network.  Included would be the ability to interface with the tertiary hospital, Trinity Health. The Northwest Alliance for Information Technology partnership includes 10 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs): Presentation Medical Center, St. Andrew's Health Center Towner County Medical Center, St. Luke's Hospital, St. Aloisius Medical Center, Kenmare Community Hospital, Heart of America Medical Center, Mountrail County Medical Center, Tioga Medical Center, and McKenzie County Healthcare Systems Hospital.

**North Dakota Center for Persons with Disability, Minot, ND (FY 2008)**
The Rural Health Network for Family Support, is a partnership which includes, Family Voices of North Dakota (FVND, University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health (UNDCRH) Family to Family Network, and the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disability. The goals of this project are to: operate the Family Support Rural Health Network (by refining the strategic plan, and developing agreements with new partners), increase collaboration to enhance family support in ND (by developing a plan to move toward creation of a universal application for family support services, and implement an advocacy or educational policy platform for system change), and secure the sustainability of the network (by developing and implementing a sustainability plan). The network will achieve outcomes in collaboration, training, system navigation, leadership and sustainability to strengthen its capacity to help rural families.

**Southwest Healthcare Services- Bowman, ND (FY 2008)**
The RIDS (Rural Information Data Sharing) Project represents 12 other healthcare entities that are members of the Northland Healthcare Alliance, which includes, Ashley Medical Center, St. Alexius Medical Center, St. Andrew's Health Center, Southwest Health Services, St. Benedict's Health Center, Garrison Memorial Hospital, Linton Hospital, Mobridge Regional Hospital & Clinics, Presentation Medical Center, Mercy Medical Center, Wishek Community Hospital & Clinics, and Northland Healthcare Alliance. The six goals of the project are to: address the electronic health information gaps in each location, provide a means of obtaining electronic information internally, simplify the process of gathering patient information, provide a cadre of services that can be accessed by rural facilities at an affordable rate, reduce the costs of billing, administration of claims and methods of capturing data through electronic commerce, and prepare providers to access and use secure HIPAA compliant electronic health information and data.