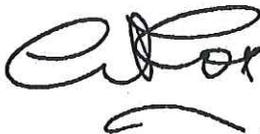


**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: April 18, 2012
From: Chief Academic Affiliations Officer (10A2D) and Director, Office of Rural Health (10P1R)
Subj: Requests for Proposals – Rural Health Training and Education Initiative (RHTI)
To: VISN Directors, VISN CMOs, VISN Academic Affiliations Officers, Facility Directors

1. The Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) and the Office of Rural Health (ORH) are issuing a request for proposals (RFP) for a new Rural Health Training and Education Initiative (RHTI). Up to five sites will be competitively selected and funded (approximately \$250,000 per year plus trainee stipends and benefits) on an ongoing basis for fiscal years 2013 through 2015. For the full RFP, see: <http://www.va.gov/oa/TrainingAnnouncements.asp>.
2. The RHTI RFP will allow VA facilities to expand health professions training (Associated Health, Dental, Nursing, and Physician) in rural or highly rural VA locations. The initiative is intended to develop a clinical educational infrastructure at non-traditional training sites that serve predominantly rural and highly rural Veterans.
3. The RHTI RFP provides a mechanism for funding both health professions training positions and the facility infrastructure costs of locating these positions in rural and highly rural areas. VA rural health care providers, in collaboration with health professions training programs at affiliated academic institutions, will have the opportunity to establish VA training and education experiences for students, residents, fellows, and other trainees.
4. Facilities responding to this solicitation should submit proposals by the **deadline of June 29, 2012** to receive consideration. All application materials must be submitted online through the OAA Support Center via secure log-in by the local facility education office (<http://vaww.oaa.med.va.gov/Login.aspx>) beginning **April 18, 2012**.
5. Please direct questions to Christy Howard, RHTI OAA Project Manager at 804-675-5062 or Christy.Howard@va.gov, or Sonya Starling, RHTI ORH Project Manager at 352-745-8401 or Sonya.Starling@va.gov.



Malcolm Cox, M.D.



Mary Beth Skupien, Ph.D.

cc: ADUSH for Workforce Services (10A2)
Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health (10A)
Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)