

Project Abstract

Project Period: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018

Collaborating Partners: San Ysidro Health Center, PACE, Veterans Affairs SD Health System

Trainee Types: Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists and other allied health providers

The San Diego GWEP Collaborative

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HRSA-15-057

Statutory Funding Priority Request for Medically Underserved Communities

The San Diego GWEP Collaborative will respond to workforce needs outlined in the Institute of Medicine's (2008) report, "Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Healthcare Workforce" by creating an interprofessional "Geriatrics Scholars" training program designed to increase the number of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists in geriatrics through an interdisciplinary, geriatrics clinical training experience. The program will be one year in length, with twelve trainees selected per year, including three clinical medicine faculty, three health professions students, three community practitioners in health and social services, and three geriatrics fellows. Additionally, a new geriatrics fellowship position, based at the participating Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) sites, will be created and continuing education programs will be available to hundreds of interprofessional providers regionally/nationally.

Scholars will provide evidence-based geriatrics care to the elderly and complete 120 hours of training through a curriculum including a combination of lectures, workshops, and train-the-trainer formats. To maximize cultural competency, a focus on Latinos and vulnerable underserved populations will be included within their training, including substantial clinical experience with medically underserved populations. Three of the institutional partners have special designations, including both San Ysidro Health Care (SYHC) and St. Paul's Chula Vista **PACE**, which are Latino serving institutions working to reduce health disparities among older **Latinos**; and the Veteran Affairs San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS), which cares for underserved vulnerable **homeless** veteran populations and **rural health** areas using telemedicine.

As part of the San Diego GWEP Collaborative, an evidence-based geriatrics curriculum will be developed and disseminated, in conjunction with existing educational forums, focused on the treatment of important health problems in the elderly, with areas of excellence including homeless mental health care, dementia care, wound care, Latino geriatrics cultural competency, and falls-based community prevention programs. New distance learning technologies will be used to support the training/re-training of faculty to provide geriatrics education, into rural areas including Southern Nevada. In addition, increased continuing education will be offered to health professionals providing geriatrics care, with a specific focus on teaching learners how to create and deliver community-based programs to improve health outcomes and quality of care for older adults.

An *Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) education and training component* will also be incorporated into the San Diego GWEP Collaborative the PACE program serving the South Region of San Diego through the use of Promotoras/Health Educators.