i. Project Abstract

Project Title: Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship Program
Applicant Name: The Pennsylvania State University, College of Nursing
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The purpose of this project is to provide student funding to 14 full-time and 8 part-time primary care nurse practitioner students (in their final year of study) at the masters and post-masters level to assume roles as primary care providers in rural, medically underserved communities, and/or HPSAs areas of Pennsylvania. The program prepares Advanced Practice Nurses for direct patient care as Family Nurse Practitioners Across the Lifespan (FNP) and Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioners (AGPCNP). Clinical practice, research, and teaching experiences are supervised by graduate faculty at University Park and Hershey Medical Center and are delivered online and by live interactive television to three additional Penn State campuses, Fayette, Mont Alto, and Worthington Scranton. The students will spend at least 50% of their clinical experiences (4 month intervals) in these areas.

The targeted student population will be RNs with baccalaureate degrees in nursing or an M.S.N. in nursing who want a post-M.S.N. NP certificate that reside or work in the counties served by the 5 campuses where the graduate program is offered. Students will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Students who request financial assistance by completing a scholarship application form
- Financial need based on the FAFSA criteria
- Students from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Students from HPSAs and/or medically underserved communities and or rural areas
- Students who plan to work in rural, HPSAs, or with medically underserved populations

To evaluate the impact of the funding, the following activities will be assessed:

- Enrollment of primary care NP students enrolled in Penn State’s AGPCNP and FNP programs, particularly disadvantaged students from rural and MUCs.
- Number of part-time students switching to full-time enrollment, based on funding.
- Clinical experiences in rural/MUC for at least 50% (4 month intervals) of the clinical hours.
- Increase the number of AGPCNP and FNPs who are employed in the rural and MUCs
- Maintain quality education for AGPCNP and FNP students at Penn State.

The College of Nursing has successfully administered HRSA grants including AENT grants in the past. There is the appropriate infrastructure for dispersing funds and reporting to HRSA.

We request statutory funding preferences based on the number of our graduates who are employed in rural and/or medically underserved communities.