



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 7, 1990

CONTACT: STEVE SPINA

PHONE: (202) 225-3452

RAHALL ASSISTS IN SECURING MEDICAL GRANT

WASHINGTON D.C. -- U.S. Rep., Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced today that the Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a grant of \$125,000 for a Health Education and Training Center for southern West Virginia.

This proposed community-based, community-controlled health center will service five of the most medically underserved and economically distressed counties in West Virginia. The targeted counties, located in the southern coalfields, include: Boone, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, and Wyoming.

Rep. Nick Rahall, who played a beneficial role in obtaining this much needed funding, declared "Considering that the overall physician-population ratio for these five counties is 1:2000, this funding is not only necessary, but long overdue. The development of this Health education and training center will unequivocally facilitate the recruitment and retention of health care professionals."

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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Health Resources and Services
Administration
Rockville MD 20857

*Attn:
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BECKLEY OFFICE

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Member, United States House
of Representatives
110 1/2 Main Street
Beckley, West Virginia 25801

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Dear Mr. Rahall:

Thank you for your letter of July 2 in support of an application for a Health Education and Training Center grant submitted by West Virginia University.

The application has been received and is being processed for competitive review by the National Advisory Council on Health Professions Education. Notification of final action on the proposal is expected in approximately one month.

We will ensure that the application receives full and equitable consideration.

Sincerely,

for *John H. Kels*
Robert G. Harmon, M.D., M.P.H.
Administrator
Assistant Surgeon General

II. Summary of Project

The University of West Virginia proposes to establish a community-based community-controlled Health Education and Training Center in five of the most isolated, medically underserved and economically distressed counties in West Virginia. The targeted counties are located in the southern coalfields and include: Boone, Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming. The overall goal of this proposal is to increase the number of health care providers in the service area.

A consortium of the three State-supported medical schools in West Virginia support a seven-component program which includes: coordination of services, interdisciplinary training, health promotion, role enhancement, early intervention recruitment of students, retention and management. These programs developed by the HETC Steering Committee with representation from the five counties have been used to construct the framework for the proposed program.

The demographics for the State show that people from ages 0-17 have continued to decline; those above 65 show a steady rise. The population is 96 percent white, the remainder Afro-American, Hispanics, migrants and other minorities. ~~The overall physician-population ratio for these five counties is 1:2000; 11 percent of West Virginia's population lives in these counties.~~ While most parts of the country are experiencing a population increase, these counties are experiencing a continued decrease. All are designated medically underserved areas. There appears to be one community health clinic per county. However, it is stated that roads and mountains make access poor. Problems in these counties are unemployment, geographic isolation, poor transportation and out-migration.

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Page 3
University of West Virginia
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The health problems for these counties are problems seen in our society's older age group: coronary artery disease, cancer. Other problems and their incidence were not addressed.

Attn:
Steve

July 2, 1990

Mr. Robert G. Harmon, Administrator
Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
Parklawn Building
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Mr. Harmon:

Dr. William McMillion, Associate Vice President for Health Sciences with West Virginia University, Charleston Division, recently contacted me concerning a grant application submitted to your office on June 16, 1990 for \$518,147 to be used to develop a Health education training center for southern West Virginia. I would like to take this opportunity to express my full and strong support of this funding request.

" Rural counties in southern West Virginia presently are greatly medically underserved, and the situation is expected to worsen in the next decade unless measures are taken now to address the problem. Funding this project will aid in the recruitment and retention of health care professionals to the area, and insure quality patient care delivery which is sorely needed. "

Your consideration and advisement in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Please reply to my Backley district office at the address listed above.

Thanking you in advance for your interest and attention, and with warm regard, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

NJR/pec