The National AHEC Organization represents a network of more than 300 AHEC program offices and centers that serve over 85% of United States counties. The NAO mission is to help its members achieve the AHEC mission through advocacy, education, and research. The AHEC mission is to enhance access to quality health care, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals via strategic partnerships with academic programs, communities, and professional organizations.

American College of Rheumatology --- National AHEC Organization

Funding Opportunity Announcement

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The National AHEC Organization is pleased to release this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for NAO member AHECs to support a second year of the “American College of Rheumatology--National AHEC Organization Lupus Education Project” to engage the AHEC network in Federal FY2017 (October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017.)

FUNDING AND BUDGET

A total of $5,000 is anticipated for each AHEC awardee. Applicants must expend all funds during the project period. Food is not an allowed expense under federal regulations. Allowable expenses include but are not limited to: marketing and recruitment initiatives, application fees, travel stipends for speakers or participants, facility fees, supplies and personnel costs.

PROJECT SCOPE AND AIMS

This initiative will award a minimum of three and a maximum of eight AHEC centers or programs a one-year contract to implement a lupus education and networking event in their region. Successful applicants will be selected by the degree to which their letter of interest can show capacity to match the aims and interests of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) as below.

1) Ability of applicant to connect an area rheumatologist with diagnosing and treating providers for the purpose of future professional connections and appropriate referrals of minority and underserved individuals.

2) Ability of applicant to coordinate details of a networking and education (CME) event.

3) Ability of applicant to recruit a participating rheumatologist and rheumatology patient for the event.
Preference may be given to applicant AHECs with expertise in CME or those that have participated in previous ACR-NAO lupus education initiatives and can demonstrate continuing unmet needs in their region.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Three to eight AHEC centers or programs (contingent upon final funding award) will be selected to implement a lupus networking and education event for front-line providers. The intended audience members for the event are diagnosing and treating providers, that is, MDs, DOs, ARNPs, and PAs in primary care and emergency room environments. Dermatologists and Gynecologists are two specialties of additional interest. The event is intended to provide participants access to a rheumatologist that wouldn’t otherwise be available to them. Because of this, sessions at academic medical centers are discouraged, unless AHEC can provide justification or the ability to recruit and bring in external participants. Awardee AHECs must serve a minimum of 6 – 12 qualifying provider participants in order to receive full payment.

Awardee AHECs will be able to further implement the program as specified here:

- Participate in a project-wide conference call in mid to late January, 2017
- Provide or obtain CME credit for the event
- Recruit a rheumatology specialist to deliver educational PPT and materials as provided by ACR*
- Recruit a person living with lupus to participate in the event and give providers the “patient perspective”*
- Host event for 1.0 – 4.0 hours
- Host event session no later than August 15, 2017
- Submit event records and reports no later than August 16, 2017
- Facilitate pre and post-test data collection at the event, and provide a legible participant contact roster

Remote telenetworking or distance education events are discouraged. Events may be multi-staged or combined/dove-tailed with other planned networking or education events in your area.

*Technical assistance will be provided by NAO. Stipends will be provided to secured rheumatologist and rheumatology patient by NAO.

The anticipated project timeline is as follows:

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DETERMINABLES AND REPORTS

- Participation in a group call in January 2017
- Marketing materials submitted for approval no later than May 15, 2017
- Status report form submitted no later than May 15, 2017
- Program completion and document submission no later than August 16, 2017, including:
  - Pre and post-test participant evaluation data (evaluation template provided)
  - Legible participant roster with participant occupation, agency, and contact information for long-term follow-up by ACR
  - Copy of the final agenda, program or event materials
  - A budget expenditure statement

TO APPLY

NAO anticipates funding a minimum of three and a maximum of eight AHEC centers or programs through this FOA. To apply, send a letter of interest with the following information:

I. Administrative Information
   - Legal organizational name, address and Federal Tax ID #
   - Responsible party’s contact name, title, email address and phone number

II. Capacity
   - Staffing roster for your AHEC
   - Description of key project personnel backgrounds and expertise
   - Continuing education/CME experience within the last 2-3 years

III. Program Plan
   - General population served/statement of need
   - Description of rheumatology contacts or population in catchment area from which you can recruit a qualified speaker
   - Intended provider participants (who, where, in what format, and how many)
   - Marketing plan

Note:

AHECs must be NAO members in good standing as of December 12, 2016 for consideration. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

Send letters of interest to:

Robert Trachtenberg, NAO CEO, via email only at rtrachtenberg@nationalahec.org by COB ET on Monday, December 12, 2016