Lupus.

Know When It’s Lupus. Know When to Refer.

Lupus Education Is Critical.

Lupus is a devastating autoimmune disease that can be difficult to diagnose. Together, we can work to improve the lives of people with lupus.

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

SUMMARY

The American College of Rheumatology and the National AHEC Organization are pleased to announce this FOA to support a fifth year of the Small Group Provider Sessions on Lupus project. This project engages the AHEC network in facilitated education and networking sessions related to lupus. The project timeframe is from September 29, 2019 – September 30, 2020.

PROJECT GOALS AND WHO SHOULD APPLY

**Small Group Provider Sessions on Lupus** aim to:

1) Raise awareness among providers of the signs and symptoms of lupus, what to do if lupus is suspected, and when to elevate lupus in the differential diagnosis when presented with individuals in groups at high risk for lupus;

2) Build connections between providers and a geographically accessible rheumatologist in areas and communities in which patients are underserved by rheumatologists

Participation in this project is best suited for AHECs that:

- Have a service area that is underserved by rheumatologists
- Work with providers who have difficulty scheduling a consult with geographically accessible rheumatologists
- Work with providers who largely serve patients who are African American, Latino, Asian, and/or American Indian/Alaskan Native, populations disproportionately affected by lupus

FUNDING AND BUDGET

A total of $3,000 is anticipated for each AHEC awardee with an additional $500 for speaker stipends.
PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

To participate, AHEC’s must demonstrate capacity to fulfill the following:

1) Recruit an area rheumatologist who is capable and interested in presenting ACR’s, IRB approved, lupus presentation and in participating in a facilitated Q & A/networking session

2) Recruit an individual living with lupus who is capable and interested in presenting his/her diagnosis or treatment story

3) Obtain Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit for the event

Up to six AHEC centers will be selected to implement a lupus networking and education event for diagnosing and treating providers (MDs, DOs, NPs, and PAs), as well as RNs in primary care and emergency room environments, and Community Health Workers. Dermatologists and Gynecologists are two specialties of additional interest. The event is intended to provide participants access to a rheumatologist that they wouldn’t otherwise have, therefore, sessions planned for academic medical centers are discouraged. Awardee AHECs must recruit a minimum of 15 providers (as defined above) for the learning audience in order to receive full payment. Large events (greater than 40 participating learners) are discouraged. Remote telenetworking or distance education events are possible. Events may be staged in multiple parts or combined and dove-tailed with other planned networking or education events. AHECs that have participated in previous years are eligible to reapply, but should be able to show that there is still interest and need for continued lupus education in their service area.

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

- Participate in train the trainer orientation session no later than February 30, 2020.
- By April 30, 2020, participate in an evaluation procedure call, for specifics required of the session.
- By April 30, 2020 submit complete project plan.
- Between May 1, 2020 and August 15, 2020, host a facilitated education and networking session by serving as an information conduit between the speakers (rheumatologist and person living with lupus) and the learning audience. For example, by gathering and preparing follow-up questions in a panel-type format after the primary presentations, and other networking formats.
- Submit marketing materials for review and approval at least once month prior to session date.
- Host event for 2 – 3.0 hours (in single or multiple parts).
- Facilitate pre and post-test data administration and collection, provide legible records, and work with ACR in obtaining and submitting all necessary research-related paperwork by the established deadline.
- Complete program and submit event documentation no later than August 17, 2020.

TO APPLY

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
   - 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
SEND LETTERS OF INTEREST TO:

Robin Campbell, Sr. Specialist with the American College of Rheumatology. Questions about the project and all letters of interest should be sent via email to rcampbell@rheumatology.org. Letters of interest should be sent by COB ET on Friday, December 31st, 2019.