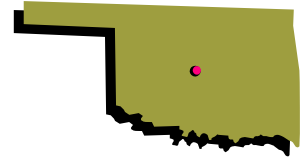


**Southern Region Program Leadership Network
Community Development Committee
2008 State Report
Oklahoma**



Oklahoma – Local Government

1. Report Submitted by:

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2. Program Description and Staffing Plan:

County Government Personnel Training

Conduct regional sessions on 46 topics at regional locations around Oklahoma as part of five certification programs. Each session is one to two days in length. Audience includes eight elected county government officers and their staff from all 77 counties. Session topics range from financial to personnel management to office procedures for specific duties. Staffing is 3 professional FTE.

County Government Technical Assistance

Includes writing and updating detailed county officer handbooks and responding to county questions on a wide variety of legal and procedural issues. Staffing is about 0.5 FTE.

County and Local Government Financial Analysis

County government financial trend reports, cash flow analysis, revenue projections, and other analysis as requested. Staffing is 0.5 professional FTE.

3. Program Highlights for 2007:

County Officer Training

Presented 78 regional short-courses for 1,700 attendees. Awarded 75 certificates to county government personnel for completion of educational program.

County Government Technical Assistance

Updated three county handbooks and put one on the website. Responded to 235+ requests for information and assistance. Added a FAQ section to the website for county officers.

County and Local Government Financial Analysis

About a half dozen individual county reports and three statewide reports regarding county government financial stats and tax information.

4. Plans/New Directions for 2008:

Create the first County Sheriff Handbook for Sheriffs in Oklahoma. Conduct 74 short-course and approximately ten workshops. Expected attendance 1,800. Translate and present some training in electronic media form.

5. Collaborative Activities and Funding Sources:

All county government program activities spring from collaboration partners: all six county government officer associations, State Auditor & Inspector, Oklahoma Tax Commission, and other Extension educators. Funding is primarily legislative appropriation and Extension funding. Also, small grants from the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma.

6. Additional Information:

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Oklahoma – Infrastructure

1. Report Submitted by

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2. Program Description and Staffing Plan

Solid Waste

Provide educational and technical services for city, county and tribal governments as well as citizens concerned with preserving the integrity of their communities through proper solid waste management techniques. Program areas include collection, landfill, illegal dumping, roadside cleanup, recycling and composting. One full-time employee conducts most of the analysis, meets with various groups interested in recycling and waste management and provides educational materials to schools, county extension, civic groups and local governments including posters, fact sheets and displays. Periodic workshops are conducted to provide technical information to local decision makers. Budget studies are completed upon request.

Community Service Budgets/Feasibility

Technical assistance is provided to rural Oklahoma communities as requested for other community services such as EMS, Fire, Transportation and Health. Studies completed include estimated need for the services based on local demographics, revenues, capital and operating expenses and funding alternatives. Three full-time specialists complete studies with the aid of several part-time students to provide assistance in these areas and develop new studies to address new alternatives or regulations changes that community leaders are considering.

National Center for Rural Health Works

The Center for Rural Health Works has become the national focal point for analysis of the economic impact that selected health policies have on rural America. Economic impact analysis measures the total impact of employment and income on the county or medical service area. State teams implement the community health engagement process by which community residents can evaluate their health systems. The process is designed to lead to increased use and/or expansion of health services and to ensure the existence, sustainability and viability of local health services. The process also engages community residents in local health care decision making by showing them the importance of the health care sector to their local economy. The hard facts are illustrated with locally specific numbers and are the key to obtaining local participation.

The goals of the Center for Rural Health Works

- Develop tools that clients (States, counties, communities, hospitals, etc.) can use to measure the economic impact of health care services.
- Develop tools that clients can use to identify new health care services needed by the community.
- Provide Training and technical assistance to help clients understand and use these tools.
- Continue to improve the Rural Health Works Community Engagement Process.
- Promote National Center findings and experience to both health and economic development audiences.

3. Program Highlights for 2007

Solid Waste

Provided technical assistance to communities as they continue to look for more cost effective ways to deliver solid waste services and provide the additional services desired by the local residents such as recycling and composting programs. Along with educational programs at local K-12 schools and activities, presentations and exhibits were done at workshops and conferences such as Oklahoma Recycling Day and the SWANA annual conference to solid waste managers and officials.

Community Service Budgets/Feasibility

A data fact book entitled “County Data and Information” is completed each year for all 77 counties detailing any and all current relevant sources of data about the county and the county’s health care system. This information includes economic, health/behavioral, education, traffic and crime data. EMS was and has been one of the most requested areas due to critical need for services and limited funding to deliver those services in the rural areas. Studies continue to be completed as a result of requests developing from the communities participating in the health engagement process. These focus areas include: alternative elderly care, physician demand and feasibility of specialty physician services. A small number of requests for assistance with rural fire departments wishing to improve or expand their services were also completed.

National Center for Rural Health Works

Examples of new tools developed are the impact of a physician on a community's economy to show the impact of the direct physician admissions on a rural hospital, the impact of Medicaid on a state's taxes to estimate the effect of a State Medicaid Program on the State's income and sales taxes, estimate the potential loss of Primary Care medical dollars in a rural community when residents seek these services elsewhere and the impact that the new federal pharmacy program has on rural pharmacies.

4. Plans/New Directions for 2008

Solid Waste

Obtained USDA grant to hire employee that will focus on the issues. Highlights of grant include the performance of recycling studies for rural communities (less than 2,500 total population), development of youth curricula and display materials, and bringing entertaining recycling programs to rural schools.

Community Service Budgets/Feasibility

EMS continues to be one of the most important issues along with providing the necessary budget studies to the communities participating in the community health engagement process. Additional studies will be performed as requested regarding fire, transportation and economic impact of local services/activities and any new services that are being investigated by local decision makers. Efforts to continue updating the County Data and Information are also planned.

National Center for Rural Health Works

Tools are continually being developed to measure economic impact and assist local leaders make sound decisions concerning rural health and community development. The Center will continue to provide training to our State partners and to develop the community health engagement process and health service profitability studies. Ultimately, the success of the National Center for Rural Health Works must be measured through the outcomes at the rural community and/or state level. Each state RHW team applies the tools consistent with state and local needs.

5. Collaborative Activities and Funding Sources

Solid Waste

Partner with Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA). Funding comes primarily from USDA Rural Utilities Service grant.

Community Service Budgets/Feasibility

Partner with local government officials, business owners, community leaders, hospital administrators and other medical professionals.

National Center for Rural Health Works

Partner with Oklahoma Office of Rural Health, Oklahoma Center for Health Sciences Rural Health Policy and Research Center, Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine and State Cooperative Extension, Offices of Rural Health in other states and Association

of County Commissioners. Primary Funding comes from the Federal Office of Rural Policy.

Additional Contacts

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Oklahoma – Health Care and Broadband

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2. Program Description and Staffing Plan:

Community Health Engagement Process (CHEP) – Identify health care needs and develop an action plan based on analysis of local situation. One full-time employee who conducts analysis, sets up and holds meetings, and interacts with roughly 4-5 communities at a time. Student workers help complete economic impact analysis and construct tables from survey data.

E-commerce – Help small businesses understand the basics of e-commerce, including options for setting up a website, ways / methods to proceed, how to market your website, and techniques to get ranked highly in search engines.

3. Program Highlights for 2007:

CHEP – Performed in 10 communities. Additional feasibility studies on physicians and kidney dialysis let community know whether or not they can support an additional doctor or a dialysis clinic.

E-commerce – full-day workshops held in 4 communities. (Already held 15 workshops in 2008). 90% of participants indicate that they will make changes to their current website or engage in website marketing after the workshop.

4. Plans/New Directions for 2008:

CHEP – continue with meetings and feasibility analysis, also add telemedicine into list of feasibility studies – what is it and what can it do for my community?

E-commerce – continue with workshops. Additional plans include 1-on-1 interaction with small business owners (multiple meetings for each owner to discuss progress) that will lead to website development for those currently without a website.

5. Collaborative Activities and Funding Sources:

CHEP – working with OSU Office of Rural Health, funding from HRSA.

E-commerce – working with Rural Enterprises, Inc (REI) to hold workshops. Funding from OSU Cooperative Extension and Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) to develop new e-commerce curricula.

6. Additional Information: