Abstracts Details

SEARCH

SEARCH Program	Idaho Experiences in Community Health: A National Health Service
_	Corps SEARCH Program
Contractor Organization Type	Primary Care Association
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Website	www.idaholiveworkplay.org
Project Service Focus	Rural (population less than 22,000) Urban (population 22,999 – 200,000)
Length of Rotation	4 – 6 weeks
Disciplines eligible for rotation	 Medical Students (first, third and fourth years) Family Medicine Residents (allopathic and osteopathic) Physician Assistant Students Nurse Practitioner Students Dental Students and Residents Dental Hygiene Students Master of Social Work Students
Project Infrastructure Focus	Student/resident participants receive clinical training and exposure to underserved populations and communities primarily in rural settings. Each participant has an assigned preceptor and community mentor. Completion of a community project is required.
Products and Dissemination	 The Idaho SEARCH Program produces materials in the following categories: Marketing Materials: flyers, brochures, presentation and web content to promote the program to potential participants, schools and residencies. Dissemination via email, presentations, exhibit and website. Program Materials: Participant and site applications, FAQ sheets and guidelines, learning plan forms, questionnaires, evaluation and tracking mechanisms. Delivered electronically via web-based system and email. Community Project Summaries: Participants complete a community/clinic project during their rotation and are required to submit a community project report, collected via our web-based system. Selected summaries are featured on our recruitment website, www.idaholiveworkplay.org. Project Deliverables: According to Schedule of Deliverables

outlined in HHSH250200900038C. Dissemination at funder's request.

Stipend/Living Cost

Participants receive \$400 at beginning of their rotation to help with travel and living expenses, plus \$20/day for each day spent in clinic up to 20 days. IPCA also reimburses up to \$30 for expenses incurred in completion of required community project. Participating sites receive \$300 per SEARCH rotation.

General Description of Your Program

The Idaho SEARCH Program provides health professional students and residents with quality training experiences in medically underserved areas throughout Idaho. SEARCH experiences include profession-specific as well as multi-disciplinary clinical activities. Participants are placed in 4-6 week rotations at approved sites and are awarded a travel/living allowance as well as a stipend for days spent in clinic upon completion of their rotation. We have participating sites all over the state. Although there are a few urban sites, most rotations occur in rural areas of Idaho. In addition to receiving quality clinical training, SEARCH participants have an opportunity to experience Idaho's spectacular scenery, amazing outdoor recreation opportunities and diverse cultures.

Goals and Objectives

- Assist the Health Resources and Services Administration HRSA)
 Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Services (BCRS) with its
 recruitment and the retention efforts of health care professionals
 for primary health care service by focusing on family medicine
 students/residents.
- Facilitate and strengthen partnerships between communities and academic institutions by promoting the Idaho SEARCH Program and coordinating activities with identified training programs.
- Provide opportunities for 30 students/residents to implement their classroom experiences in a multi-disciplinary health care setting, i.e. Patient Centered Medical Home clinics.
- Nurture the development of culturally competent, community focused primary and allied health care providers by coordinating activities with NHSC alumni whenever possible.
- Provide preceptor training opportunities.
- Expand statewide partnerships including the State Primary Care Association (PCAs), State Primary Care Office (PCOs), Office of Rural Health (ORHs), professional associations, academic institutions, and Area Health Education Centers (AHECs).
- Collect quantitative and qualitative data from SEARCH participants, sites and preceptors to identify best practices, impact and areas needing improvement.

Activities undertaken by Students/Residents in Program

- Community assessment students/residents meet with their clinical preceptor and community mentor to determine projects and activities that will best benefit the clinic and/or community.
- Research on a specific community health problem the needs and composition of specific patient population groups drive research projects. For example, research projects in some Idaho locations might focus on community health problems specific to migrant farmworkers and their families, while projects in other areas might focus on problems specific to a geriatric or Native American patient population.
- **Health education, promotion and outreach** Participants may

also elect to assess the availability of health education in their rotation community and accordingly plan promotion and outreach activities geared toward the specific needs of the community. Examples: community health fairs, dental carries prevention programs, Spanish/English translation of informational materials delivered to patients.

- Survey of community resources, planning and organization see number 3.
- Coordination of public health interventions

Coordination Application Process

Medical and dental students and residents as well as social work students may apply for the program via submission of an application designed to determine their interest and eligibility for participation in the Idaho SEARCH Program. A resume, personal statement and letters of recommendation from their clinical coordinator and someone who can speak to their community/volunteer involvements will be required as attachments to the application. Preference will be given to NHSC scholars and Idaho affiliated students and residents in their final years of training. Applications are approved by the SEARCH Program Director with input from an advisory committee as needed.

Placement Process

Once approved by the SEARCH Program Director (and as necessary the SEARCH Program Advisory Committee), students are matched with an approved SEARCH site that can best meet their needs and education requirements. Whenever possible, preceptors and community mentors selected are NHSC clinicians or alumni.

Rotation Experience/Requirements

Rotations are generally 4-6 weeks. In addition to their clinical experience, students are matched with a community mentor and along with their preceptor, develop a community project designed to:

- 1. Assess community needs.
- 2. Research specific community health problems.
- 3. Provide community health education, promotion and outreach.
- 4. Survey community resources.
- 5. Coordination of public health interventions, such as health screenings, smoking cessation and immunization programs.

Students are required to submit pre-and post-rotation questionnaires and other evaluation material to aid in tracking the success of the program and in continued program improvement based on best practices.

Impact Assessment

Annual tracking emails are sent to Idaho SEARCH Program alumni to collect information regarding post-graduation practice and participation in NHSC scholarship and loan repayment programs.

List of Sites Students can/will be rotating through

Federally Qualified Community Health Centers. Rural Health Centers. Critical Access Hospitals, and other sites that meet the following criteria:

Provide care to anyone regardless of their ability to pay.

	 Offer a sliding fee scale. Accept Medicare and Medicaid Assignment Are located in a Medically Underserved or Health Professional Shortage Area.
Evaluation	Idaho SEARCH participants are evaluated through pre- and post- rotation questionnaires, community project reports, preceptor evaluations, and alumni surveys.
Are you a former SEARCH Program	Yes – The program was operated by IPCA in Idaho from 1998 – 2008.