

**641—110.11(135) Purpose.** The purpose of the PRIMECARRE community grant program is to support community efforts which are part of the community's long-term community health services assessment and developmental plan. A community or region applying for assistance must complete a community health services assessment and adopt a long-term developmental plan. The community may request assistance with the assessment from the center for rural health and primary care. The long-term developmental plan shall include a clear commitment to informing high school students of the health care opportunities which may be available to such students. The grant assistance may be in the form of a forgivable loan, grant, or other nonfinancial assistance as deemed appropriate by the center for rural health and primary care. Grants or other assistance provided by the center are intended to promote and accommodate local creativity in efforts to recruit and retain health care professionals to provide services in the locality. Notice of the availability of these public funds shall be published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin in accordance with 641—Chapter 176.

**110.11(1) Eligibility.** The following requirements must be met in order to be eligible for the program:

- a. The applicant must be a single community with a population of 10,000 or less, or a region consisting of communities with populations of 10,000 or less, respectively.
- b. The community or region must have illustrated efforts to meet the health care provider needs of the locality and surrounding area.
- c. The community or region must have completed a community health services assessment and adopted a long-term developmental plan as established herein.
- d. A letter of intent must be submitted by January 1 preceding the year for which application for assistance is to be made.

**110.11(2) Funding limitations.** Grants awarded under the program shall be subject to the following limitations:

- a. An award of no more than \$10,000 for a single community or region with a population of 10,000 or less.
- b. An award of no more than \$1 per capita for a region in which the population exceeds 10,000.

**110.11(3) Use of funds.** Funds may be used for the following:

- a. The procurement of clinical equipment, clinical facilities, and telecommunications facilities.
- b. Support for locum tenens arrangements and primary care provider mentor programs.
- c. Other capacity-building activities as they relate to recruitment and retention of primary health care providers.

**110.11(4) Matching requirements.** Applications submitted shall contain a commitment of at least a dollar-for-dollar match of the grant assistance.

**110.11(5) Application process.** Applicants for grant funds must complete application forms provided by the department. Application materials shall be made available by the department at least 45 days prior to the application due date. Grant applications will be issued in accordance with 641—Chapter 176.

**110.11(6) Selection criteria and review process.** Selection criteria will be based on illustrated efforts to meet the health care provider needs of the locality and surrounding area. Selection criteria and the process for evaluation of applications shall be described in the application materials provided by the department. A competitive grant application review committee shall be appointed by the administrative head of the center for rural health and primary care. Grants will be awarded according to review criteria developed by the center, in accordance with 641—Chapter 176.

**110.11(7) Notice of grant award.** The director of public health shall notify all applicants in writing of the decision of grant awards.

**110.11(8) Appeals.** Applicants with a denied request for funding may appeal the decision of grant awards. The appeal shall be made in writing to the director, Iowa department of public health, within 10 days of the notification date of the grant awards decision. The appeal shall be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered by personal service. The decision of the director of public health becomes the department's final action and shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered by personal service within 14 days of the receipt of the appeal.

**110.11(9)** *Grantee oversight.* The department shall monitor the use of funds granted to communities to ensure accountability and conformance with legislative intent. Oversight processes shall be described in the application materials provided by the department.