

December 1, 2021

Need to Know

Survey: Staffing Agency Use at CHCs

OPCA continues to engage with our state partners to find creative solutions to the health care workforce crisis. We need your help to understand how community health centers engage with staffing agencies. We want to know if your organization has contracted with a staffing agency to provide medical/health care staff (certified/licensed and non-certified/licensed). At this time, administrative, environmental services, and other facilities roles are outside the scope of this effort. Please complete this short [survey](#) to provide your insights.

OPCA Strategic Workforce Planning Program

OPCA wants to offer a Strategic Workforce Planning Program to Oregon FQHCs in early 2022. The program would be based on an industry recognized SWP certification program but tailored to the unique needs of Oregon CHCs. The online program will be delivered in “bite-sized” sessions over the course of several months so CHCs have sufficient time to apply what they learn and get feedback from their faculty advisor and peers. Participants will obtain a professional development opportunity and in-depth knowledge of strategic workforce planning. The program would allow 1-2 representatives from each CHCs to attend. If you are interested in having your CHC participate, please fill out the [survey](#).

HRSA Tidbits

BHW Peer Learning Program 2021-2022

BHW is continuing its peer learning teams for a 5th year in 2021-2022. The purpose of the Peer Learning Teams is to provide a supportive, peer-mentoring environment for grantees focused on important shared topics of high priority to BHW. Through Peer Learning Team interactions, grantees can form partnerships and share their experiences to drive innovation, mobilize resources, and develop strategic partnerships for a greater impact. Each team will meet for six (6) one-hour web-based peer learning conversations and one virtual 2-day meeting between November 2021 and June 2022. Please be on the lookout for a registration announcement. Dates and times for all events will be provided in the registration announcement.

Peer Learning Teams will continue with these topics:

- Behavioral Health Integration specifically as it relates to Opioid Use: Addressing the opioid epidemic through behavioral health integration and a range of other strategies such as community-based partnerships, MAT waiver training, etc.
- Rural Health: Leveraging technology and other strategies to build a skilled and stable health professionals' workforce that increases access to care and addresses important health concerns in rural communities.
- Community Based Training: Building training-related partnerships with community organizations, especially health centers, that expand the reach, capability, and impact of individual BHW grantees with a goal of strengthening the health professionals' workforce.

Staff members from Integrated Work remain the facilitators for this project. If you have any immediate questions, [contact Asra Riaz](#), BHW Peer Learning Teams Co-Lead at Integrated Work.

Application Open: Nurse Faculty Loan Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released this new [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) announcement to increase the number of qualified nursing faculty nationwide. The application deadline is January 13, 2022. The Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) provides funding to accredited schools of nursing to establish and operate a student loan fund and provide loans to students enrolled in advanced education nursing degree programs who are committed to becoming nurse faculty. In exchange for completion of up to four years of post-graduation full-time nurse faculty employment in an accredited school of nursing, the program authorizes cancellation of up to 85 percent of the original student loan amount (plus interest thereon). Visit [Grants.gov](#) to apply.

Training & Learning Opportunities

Webinar: Federal Vaccine Mandates & Responding to Exemption Requests (\$)

FTLF is providing a [two-part webinar series](#), taking place Thursday, December 2 at 3 PM ET and Thursday, December 9 at 3 PM ET, to walk through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Interim Final Rule (IFR) and discuss its applications for health centers. During Part II, the presenters will move to exemptions and accommodations, navigating the process and addressing frequently asked questions from health centers.