

Trillium Health offering \$25,000 System of Care grants

From staff reports

Trillium Health Resources is offering 24 System of Care Community Collaborative Grant opportunities that will be geared toward strengthening and expanding the use of evidence-based practices (EBPs). Trillium will award one \$25,000 grant in each of the 24 counties in its service region. As each county faces unique needs, recipients will be expected to reduce service gaps through enhancing existing partnerships with individuals, com-

munities, and stakeholders and forming new links as needed.

System of Care (SOC) is a coordinated network of community services and supports organized to meet the challenges of serving children with mental health issues and their families. Each county in the Trillium area has a designated System of Care Coordinator. System of Care Coordinators are knowledgeable about their counties and the services and supports available in that particular geographical area.

"The concepts of SOC involve a spectrum of effective, community-based services and supports for children, youth, and families in order to help them to function better at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life," said Dave Peterson, Regional Director of Trillium's Central Region. "We hope these grants will assist our counties with enhancing the promotion, prevention, and interventions required to reduce this population's risk of developing poor mental health and other

challenges."

In the health care field, EBP generally refers to approaches to prevention or treatment that are validated by some form of documented scientific evidence. The general categories in the EBP for these grants include: Mental Health Prevention, Substance Use Prevention, Suicide Prevention, and more.

Further information about this grant is available on the Trillium website at www.TrilliumHealthResources.org under the For Providers page (se-

lect RFP-RFA-RFI Opportunities on the right menu). Submissions must target EBP expansion and be able to assent to ongoing monitoring to ensure the programs are producing the desired outcomes.

Trillium Health Resources is a leading specialty care manager (LME/MCO) for individuals with substance use, mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities in 24 counties in eastern North Carolina. Trillium's mission is to transform the lives of people in need by provid-

ing them with ready access to quality care. We take a person-centered approach to health and wellbeing, coordinating care across multiple health outcomes, quality of care and efficient use of resources. Trillium is investing in innovation to meet the unique needs of the individuals and communities we serve, and remains focused on delivering the right services, in the right amount, at the right time. For more information, visit www.TrilliumHealthResources.org.

White House Rural Council assists small business exports

From staff reports

The White House Rural Council last week announced a workshop series to provide targeted assistance for rural small businesses working to grow demand through international sales. The announcement was made by WHRC Chair Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker and Deputy Postmaster General Ronald A. Stroman.

"Strong rural communities are key to a stronger America," said Vilsack. "USDA continuously seeks opportunities for U.S. agricultural producers to expand overseas markets that contribute to a positive U.S. trade balance,

create jobs, and boost economic growth. Through the Administration's Made in Rural America Export and Investment Initiative, USDA is working to help farmers, ranchers and rural businesses access federal export programs, connect with new customers and markets abroad, and bring new opportunity to rural America."

"Global customers are more accessible than ever to rural American companies and their workers, and these workshops are a critical venue to provide businesses with the practical information they need to capitalize on trade opportunities," said Pritzker. "The Department of Commerce's International Trade Admin-

istration has specialists in more than 105 locations nationwide and in 75 markets around the globe that stand ready to collaborate with export-ready rural businesses of all sizes to increase revenues, expand, innovate, and support well-paying jobs in their communities."

"We are proud to offer international shipping expertise and hands on know-how in support of the Made in Rural America Export and Investment initiative. At sixty workshops around the country, local Postmasters will demonstrate how to use online tools for easier mailing prep and educate attendees on global shipping options. Our goal is to make expanding into

foreign markets easier than ever imagined for rural entrepreneurs and businesses," said Stroman.

The free series includes about 60 Made in Rural America small business export workshops hosted by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) in 24 states July 26 to Aug. 31, 2016. Partners including the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, USDA Rural Business Service, the Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Regional Authority, National Association of Counties and others will also provide local and regional expertise in international shipping and mailing, international marketing assistance, rural business development and

related topics.

To find a Made in Rural American workshop in your area visit usps.com/events and click your state. The site will be updated as details for each workshop becomes available and additional workshops are added.

Online tools designed for rural businesses interested in international exports include www.export.gov/rural and www.business.usa.gov.

Census data from 2009 to 2014 (latest available) shows that the ranks of U.S. goods exporters rose from 277,000 to 304,000 and 98 percent of those companies were small and medium-sized firms. U.S. exports reached \$2.26 trillion in

2015, up by \$678 billion from 2009, and supported 1.9 million more jobs during the period.

U.S. agricultural exports alone supported more than 1 million American jobs both on and off the farm, a substantial part of the estimated 11.5 million jobs supported by exports all across our country. The past seven years have represented the strongest period in history for American agricultural exports, with international sales of U.S. farm and food products totaling \$911.4 billion between fiscal years 2009 and 2015. In fiscal year 2015, American farmers and ranchers exported \$139.7 billion of food and agricultural goods to consumers worldwide.

USDA invests over \$9M to aid small businesses in 12 states

From staff reports

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack last week announced the investment of more than \$9 million in loans and grants to support job growth and economic development in 12 states.

The funding is being provided through USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program, through which USDA provides zero-interest loans and grants to utilities that lend funds to local businesses for projects to create and retain employment.

"Small businesses are the cornerstone of the rural economy," Vilsack said. "During the Obama Administration, USDA's investments have directly helped more than 100,000 small business get off the ground or expand, and the projects announced today

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Agriculture Secretary

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One of the organizations se-

lected for funding is the Crawford Electric Cooperative in Bourbon, Mo. It has been approved for a \$1 million loan to help East Central College create a workforce development training facility on its campus in Union, Mo. The facility will provide job training in manufacturing to support workers and businesses in an eight-county region served by the college. The project area includes counties where poverty is persistent as well as areas designated for targeted assistance through USDA's StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity Initiative. This project is expected to create 11 jobs.

Winnebago Cooperative Telecommunications in Lake Mills, Iowa, is being selected for a \$1 million loan to help All States Ag Parts relocate to a larger fa-

cility in Lake Mills. Funds will be used to purchase machinery, equipment and inventory. This project is expected to create 51 jobs.

Under today's announcement, USDA is investing in 15 projects to create jobs and expand economic opportunity in rural communities. Funding of each award announced today is contingent upon the recipient meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement.

USDA Rural Development has a strong track record of strengthening rural businesses and economies through its Rural Business Cooperative Service. For example, in 2015, Four County EMC used a \$2 million REDLG loan to help Acme Smoked Fish Corp. in Pender County, N.C., buy equipment to process and smoke salmon,

herring and other fish. Pender County has struggled since the economic downturn in the late 2000s. The REDLG loan has brought more than 120 full-time jobs to the region. Since 2009, USDA has invested more than \$330 million in loans and grants through the REDLG program.

Since 2009, USDA Rural Development (@USDA RD) has invested \$11 billion to start or expand 103,000 rural businesses; helped 1.1 million rural residents buy homes; funded nearly 7,000 community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care facilities; financed 185,000 units of electric transmission and distribution lines; and helped bring high-speed Internet access to nearly 6 million rural residents and businesses. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/results.

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CATFISH
Continued from 1A
R.N.C., and other members of Congress from North Carolina had been supportive of the effort to revert back to the FDA inspections system.
In an electronic communication reviewed by Chowan officials, Towers Minglehoff,

who is a legislative assist to Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., echoed Nixon's argument that the more costly USDA inspections process for catfish is unnecessary.

"USDA's Office of Congressional Affairs recently trumpeted that they found an unauthorized compound in a shipment of catfish," Minglehoff said. "They suggest that this is 'breaking news' and evidence of how well USDA can protect consumers. The simple fact is that FDA has a testing program to identify these exact same compounds. USDA is doing nothing that FDA has not done for the past 15 years."

Minglehoff added that the FDA system "targets for testing countries and companies that are suspected or have not met U.S. standards. That is a

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Towers Minglehoff
Legislative assist to Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C.

smart use of limited government resources.

"To suggest it would be better for FDA to test every product coming into the country would be analogous to saying the IRS should audit every taxpayer," Minglehoff continued. "It sounds thorough in principle but would grind our economy to a snail's pace."

Senate Bill 28, according to Minglehoff, "would force the

Agriculture Department to go back to the drawing board on recently implemented regulations that transfer the authority of handling catfish inspections from the FDA to USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service, the body that inspects meat for U.S. Consumption."

If the bill passes the House, President Obama is not expected to veto it, said Minglehoff, who indicated the president had "called the change to catfish inspections wasteful and

even threatened to cut it in previous budget proposals."

Minglehoff explained that the change "was designed to create a de facto trade barrier on foreign catfish. Foreign meat products under USDA's jurisdiction are required to establish 'equivalency' with the USDA. An equivalency agreement of this nature typically requires at least 5-7 years of negotiations, during which time foreign producers are banned from exporting to the U.S."

Minglehoff insisted that the FDA process has worked to protect consumer health and safety.

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Town of Edenton Solid Waste Collection Services
The Town of Edenton Solid Waste Collection Services will no longer be collecting televisions or electronics at the curb for pickup with weekly trash collection by Town personnel. Electronics are not allowed to be disposed in the landfill. Residents will need to take these items to one of the Chowan County convenience sites that will accept the electronics. Residents utilizing dumpsters for trash collection should not place TVs or electronics in dumpsters.
Locations for the County Convenience sites that accept TVs and electronics for disposal listed below.
Soundside Road Site - 237 Soundside Road
Evans Church Site - 2035 Virginia Road/Hwy 32 North
Sites are closed on Wednesday
Televisions must be intact (cannot be broken/busted apart, broken glass, salvaged or scavenged parts). We don't want the workers to get hurt and this allows the vendors to have a complete unit. Units can be placed without cardboard boxes right in the 16-foot trailer.

CHOWAN HERALD
(USPS 106-380) Vol. 81, No. 29
Published Every Wednesday
Cooke Communications North Carolina, LLC
Entered as a second-class matter August 30, 1934 at the Post Office of Edenton, North Carolina, under Act of March 3, 1879.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Daily Advance home delivery area \$27*
(Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, parts of Gates)
Elsewhere in continental United States \$46
*Plus applicable sales tax. Activation fee of \$1.99 will be collected with all new subscriptions.
Deactivation fees may apply for early cancellation.
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
The Chowan Herald • P.O. Box 207 • Edenton, NC
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