Since 1995, MultiPlan grants have helped member hospitals in rural areas educate, screen or otherwise serve their communities.

MultiPlan knows that a hospital’s relationship with its community is integral to its ability to serve its residents. That’s why we’ve offered grants to rural hospitals for the last ten years. Now in its tenth year, MultiPlan’s Rural Health Outreach Grant Program has awarded nearly $150,000 to help rural hospitals reach out to their area’s residents with services designed to improve their access to healthcare.

If your hospital serves a rural area and you would like to introduce a new service, expand an existing service, or reach out to a new population in your community, submit an application today. You may be one of ten hospitals to receive a grant this year.

2004 Rural Health Outreach Grant Winners

**Lavaca Medical Center**
**Breast Cancer Awareness, Early Detection, & Prevention**
MultiPlan’s grant is helping Lavaca Medical Center to expand breast cancer awareness educational programs, stressing the importance of early detection, as part of an overall plan to improve the healthcare and educational needs of both staff and the community.

**Crete Area Medical Center**
**Personal Power of Wellness Outreach**
Saline County has been federally designated as a Medically Underserved Area according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. With the help of MultiPlan’s grant, Crete Area Medical Center is offering wellness check-ups, exercise programs, cooking classes, education sessions, motivational speakers and the integration of a healthy lifestyle curriculum into area schools and businesses.

**Clarke County Hospital**
**Computer System**
A MultiPlan grant is contributing to a new computer system for Clarke County Hospital that will help improve quality, increase efficiency and promote healthcare within the community. The system will also deliver an electronic patient record that physicians will be able to view offsite, allowing additional providers to access the database to insure accurate diagnoses.

**Carthage Area Hospital**
**School Age Children and Diabetes**
CAH’s Nutrition Services Manager is relying on a MultiPlan grant to help acquire and utilize age-appropriate videos on diabetes and to develop storyboards similar to TV game shows. The goal is to promote interaction among students, educating them on the disease and addressing concerns. This program will be available at CAH-operated, school-based health clinics.
Fairfield Memorial Hospital  
**Critical Access**

Fairfield Memorial will use its grant to offset the start-up costs for a Speech-Language Pathology Service including Human Communication, Behaviors/Disorders, swallowing and other upper aero digestive functions/disorders, to help optimize individuals' abilities in natural environments. The grant will also allow the hospital to purchase the tools and equipment to perform complete and thorough assessments, along with prolonged treatment options.

Bear Lake Memorial Hospital  
**Reaching Out to the Medically Underserved**

Bear Lake Memorial recently completed a patient information facility and hired a healthcare librarian to implement an outreach program. The grant is helping the hospital execute an outreach program that provides patient information on healthcare procedures and assistance in securing discounted prescription drugs. The program will also help seniors access the Medicare Prescription Drug Card Program and provide access to quality healthcare through government and the hospital's charitable care program.

Cottage Grove Community Hospital  
**Health Services to Latino/Hispanic Community**

MultiPlan's grant will help Cottage Grove Community Hospital combat the recently growing problem of a nearly 50 percent increase in the incidence of late-stages of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among the local Latino/Hispanic community. The hospital plans to create a Spanish-language brochure to educate and inform, and will also host training sessions on how to identify/prevent STDs and advise on available treatment resources with the goal of reducing infected community by 30 percent.

Hills & Dales Healthcare  
**Diabetes Education Program**

This program is the first of its kind in Tuscola County, Michigan, providing learning opportunities to people with diabetes in order to help them develop the self-management necessary to manage their disease on a daily basis. The grant will be used to supplement current resources for curriculum and participant materials, specialized training required for program instructors and costs for the certification program.

To receive an application, contact us by email at Rural@multiplan.com or download an application from www.multiplan.com. Completed applications must be received by MultiPlan by October 15, 2005. Grants will be awarded in December 2005.

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About MultiPlan

For more than 30 years, MultiPlan has helped healthcare payers and providers partner together to combat rising healthcare costs. Based on The MultiPlan Network®, the nation’s leading independent network of over 4,600 acute-care hospitals, 90,000 ancillary facilities and 750,000 individual practitioner locations, MultiPlan serves as a single gateway to a host of primary, complementary and out-of-network strategies for managing the financial risks associated with healthcare claims. Clients include large and mid-sized insurers, third-party administrators, self-funded plans, HMOs and other entities that pay claims on behalf of health plans. For more information, visit www.multiplan.com.