

Grant No: U1QHP28737
Project Title: RI-Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (RI-GWEP)
Organization: Rhode Island Geriatric Education Center
University of Rhode Island
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Project Director: Phillip G. Clark, ScD
Phone: (401) 874-2689; Email: aging@uri.edu
Academic Partners: University of Rhode Island, Brown University, Rhode Island College
Clinical partners: Care New England Health System, Care Transformation
Collaborative (CTC-RI), Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians
Corporation (RIPCPC), CareLink
Community Partners: Healthcentric Advisors (QIO), Alzheimer's Association
Trainee Types: Health professions providers; students, residents, fellows; patients
and families

RI-GWEP's overarching mission is to transform the healthcare system in Rhode Island by making it more Age-Friendly. To achieve this goal, we will (1) expand our collaboration with clinical providers, community-based organizations, and governmental departments; (2) work with clinical and academic partners to develop 4 M-based models and methods to educate healthcare professionals in primary care and health professions trainees; expand our interprofessional programs into primary care with specialized Project ECHO - Geriatrics initiatives; and recruit primary care teams to achieve age-friendly health system recognition; (3) partner with community-based organizations to provide evidence-based health promotion programs to older adults and their families, including managing multiple chronic conditions and pain and preventing falls; and (4) develop specialized training for both providers and patients/families in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD).

RI-GWEP has designed and refined effective evaluation methods over the past nine years, and we have developed a comprehensive outcome assessment plan for students/medical residents, providers, and patients/families. Targeted outcomes include MIPs and other measures: (1) dementia caregiver education and support, (2) evaluation or interview for risk of opioid misuse, (3) care planning, (4) screening for future fall risk, and (5) controlling high blood pressure. We also work with key primary care providers in underserved communities, and have received Section 805 Rural and Underserved Populations funding preference.

This collaboration draws on the strong academic foundation of the state's major health professions educational institutions: University of Rhode Island (Colleges of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Health Sciences, including allied health and gerontology); Rhode Island College (nursing); and Brown University (Alpert School of Medicine, incorporating a comprehensive network of Care New England-affiliated residency training programs).

In addition to its educational partners, RI-GWEP collaborates with primary care clinical networks, community-based organizations, and governmental departments: (1) Care Transformation Collaborative (CTC-RI), promoting transformation of primary care practices using the Patient-Centered Medical Home model; (2) Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation (RIPCPC), a primary care physicians network; (3) Rhode Island Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), Healthcentric Advisors, focusing on improving the quality of geriatric care; (4) CareLink, a collaborative of non-profit long-term, home, and community-based care providers; (5) the RI Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association for provider and patient/family education on ADRD.

Supplementally funded projects include: (1) collaboration with Region 1 GWEPs to develop and deliver COVID-related information and support using Project ECHO to regional nursing homes and their staff, residents, and families; and (2) partnership with St. Elizabeth nursing home to provide didactic and clinical education for CNAs and senior-level nursing students in Age Friendly 4M care.