



# Alliance for Rural Community Health

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## ***Mendocino SHARE Project Abstract***

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The **Mendocino SHARE (Securing Health Access and Records Exchange) Project** will improve the health outcomes and reduce the costs associated with caring for uninsured and underinsured chronic disease patients accessing multiple sites through increased programmatic collaboration and the implementation of a virtual case management system. During Year One of the project period, the Mendocino SHARE Project will focus and refine efforts to specifically reduce costs and improve the quality of care for our diabetic patient population. This will be accomplished through the development of a Health Records Exchange system that can produce an unduplicated Master Patient Index across our vertical network of consortium members.

The Mendocino SHARE Project county-wide consortium is comprised of twelve active members; including four community health centers, one community health center look-alike, one rural health center, one Indian Health Service clinic, three hospitals, one non-profit community clinic consortium organization, and the Mendocino County Department of Public Health. The applicant organization, Alliance for Rural Community Health (ARCH), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is a community clinic consortium that includes six community health center members (all of whom are individual organizational members of the SHARE Project.) ARCH is a recipient of federal Integrated Services Development Initiative funding.

The service area of the Mendocino SHARE Project includes all of Mendocino County, California, and focuses on a target population consisting of 32,411 low-income individuals living under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Mendocino County is a severely economically depressed area. Issues of poverty, low paying jobs, lack of education and geographic isolation with minimal or no public transportation impact all our target population. 48% of this target population is uninsured, and thus their ability to access health care is considerably compromised. The most significant health risk faced by our target population is the increasing prevalence of chronic disease. The people of Mendocino County suffer significantly higher death rates from cancers, stroke, diabetes, and asthma than does the State of California at large.

The Mendocino SHARE Project will accomplish the following three core objectives:

***Objective One:*** Create a county-wide Health Records Exchange (HRE) system that will enable providers and case managers to access a secure, comprehensive health history and record for at least 50% of underinsured and uninsured diabetic patients in Mendocino County.

***Objective Two:*** Increase coordination of chronic disease management services so that 50% of underinsured and uninsured diabetic patients in Mendocino County are treated with a consistent standard of care across the vertical network.

***Objective Three:*** Increase coordination and efficiency of patient advocacy and patient assistance services across network partners such that an additional 850 underinsured and uninsured patients are able to access alternative resources through insurance and patient assistance programs.