



2025 Rural Health Symposium

Innovations Session: Environmental Health

Innovation Instructions & Submission Guidelines

Deadline: Monday, October 21, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

Email the Innovation Synopsis and Submission Form to: warrensa22@ecu.edu

Call for Innovations:

During the 2024 Rural Health Symposium, we explored various projects being carried out in eastern NC that brought care to the people who needed it most. We showcased topics related to nutrition, workforce development, health risks, and behavioral health. Rural areas can present challenges in terms of healthcare resources and workforce. Communities have rallied during this unprecedented time to work in innovative ways to address healthcare gaps that can be found in rural environments.

The 2025 Rural Health Symposium will highlight a session on innovative projects focused on environmental health and its impact on communities in rural North Carolina. Areas can focus on any of the following environmental concerns: heat exposure; air quality, water quality; occupational exposure: agricultural; extreme weather events; food and water-borne illness; and other topics related to the impact of the environment on health.

Changes in the environment and climate along with natural and human-made health stressors, influences health and disease in numerous ways. Some existing health threats will intensify, and new health threats will emerge. Addressing these health concerns is paramount to the health and mental health of the citizens of rural North Carolina. Please refer to this article for more information. ([Effects of Climate Change on Health](#) | [Climate and Health](#) | [CDC](#)).

This session will offer a prerecorded synopsis of each selected innovation, followed by a panel Q&A session with the project leaders. **Applicants must be available to attend this session on Thursday, February 20, 2025.**

Innovation Synopsis Formatting Guidelines:

Project submissions must not exceed one page and must adhere to the following format:

- Size: 8.5 x 11-inch document size

- Margins: 1-inch
- Font: 12-point Times New Roman
- Spacing: Single-Spaced
- Document Submission Type: Microsoft Word or PDF

Title & Project Team Members:

- The title should be brief, clearly indicating the nature of the project.
- List only the key team members associated with the innovative project.
- Underline the one project lead/team member who plans to attend the 2025 Rural Health Symposium during the Innovations Session on Thursday, February 20th, 2025.

Project Description:

- Please include these five components in your synopsis:
 1. County(s) served by the project
 2. Target audience for the project
 3. Key community stakeholders involved
 4. An overall summary of the project
 5. Examples of initial outcomes or evidence from the project
- The summary of the project should be brief yet display the necessity of the innovation in addressing barriers to pediatric patient care in rural areas.

Innovation Submission:

- Innovations can be in the planning stages, or in progress. However, priority will be given to projects that are already underway.
- Two documents must be submitted by the deadline (**Monday October 21 @5:00 p.m.**) for the project to be considered for acceptance:
 - Innovation Submission Form (submitted as a PDF document)
 - The presenting team member will need to sign and send this form as a PDF document. Typed/E-signatures are accepted.
 - Innovation Synopsis (submitted as a Microsoft Word document or PDF)
 - Please follow all formatting guidelines outlined above to be considered for acceptance.
- Email completed documents to the Brody School of Medicine Office of Continuing Medical Education at warrensa22@ecu.edu. You will receive an email confirming the receipt of your submission within two business days. If you do not, please call (252) 744 – 5209 to inquire about the status of your application.
- All future communication regarding the program (i.e., innovation acceptance, confirmations, presentation times, etc.) will be directed to the presenting team member. Please ensure that the contact information on the Innovation Submission Form is accurate and up to date.

- Applicants may submit more than one project for consideration. However, a unique Innovation Submission Form and an Innovation Synopsis must be completed for each project.
- Applicants will be notified by Friday, November 1, 2024, regarding the acceptance or denial of their innovative project submission(s).
- Accepted project applicants will be awarded one free registration for Thursday, February 20th of the 2025 Rural Health Symposium. The lead team member on the project will be expected to attend the symposium on that date to represent the project during the panel Q&A session.
- Accepted applicants will prerecord a 5-minute “snapshot” of the innovative project. This recording will be played for conference attendees before the panel Q&A session. For strong audio quality, accepted presenters will be invited to record their presentations at Eastern AHEC with AV/IT assistance. All recordings must be completed before Monday December 16, 2024.