

GRHF awards nearly \$4M in grants to help seniors

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The Greater Rochester Health Foundation on Monday announced it had awarded nearly \$4 million in three-year Clinical Services for Older Adults grants that will commence in 2015. It is the first year GRHF has offered funding in this area.

Nineteen proposals were received in 2015. Seven were selected to receive the funding aimed at reducing the cost of providing high-quality clinical care to those ages 65 and older.

Projects funded are designed to address challenges faced by older adults, their families, caregivers and health care providers.

The seven organizations awarded grants—totaling more than \$3.96 million—to fund projects from 2015 to 2018 are:

- Jewish Senior Life received \$480,895 to expand the [Center of Excellence for Palliative & End-of-Life Care \(http://www.rbj.net/article.asp?aID=219502\)](http://www.rbj.net/article.asp?aID=219502) and offer advance care planning, physical and mental health assessments, and will include families in the review of care goals.
- Lifetime Care was awarded \$627,338 to build on existing palliative care services to create a comprehensive, interdisciplinary team approach, called Advanced Illness Support Program, for older adults in Monroe County.
- Livingston County Emergency Medical Services was awarded \$599,393 to help transition patients older than 65 who are discharged from emergency departments at Noyes Memorial Hospital and Strong Memorial Hospital back to their homes.
- The University of Rochester Medical Center's Flaum Eye Institute received \$574,903 to implement its Resilience Building Program with the goal of strengthening seniors' capacity to cope with current and future vision loss, preventing new depression symptoms and alleviating current depression due to vision loss.
- URMC's Project ECHO was awarded \$645,787 to grow the program and enhance the capacity of community-based clinicians to provide high-quality palliative care and geriatric mental health services.
- URMC received \$600,095 to create a multi-disciplinary, virtual Parkinson's Disease care center for the Greater Rochester area, known as the Regional Multi-Disciplinary Telemedicine Care Network for Parkinson's Disease.
- St. John's Dementia Quality of Life Program was awarded \$437,317 to recruit and train nursing staff to become Dementia Advocates.

"We're excited to offer this new area of funding to support organizations that work tirelessly to provide quality care to older adults and impact not only patients, but their families and caregivers," said Barbara Zappia, chief learning officer for Greater Rochester Health Foundation. "We are hopeful that these projects will improve the quality of care in addition to reducing the cost it takes to provide quality clinical care to older adults in our community."

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