

## Why participate in RITT?

- **Demographic Need:** Over 43% of Veterans are aged 65+ and this group accounts for over half of all primary care visits annually. It is important that healthcare providers and staff be equipped to meet the needs of rural elderly Veterans.
- **Practice Outcomes:** Now entering the 7th year of implementation, past participants cite changes in their practice as a result of the RITT such as:
  - monitoring/assessing for red flags and geriatric syndromes
  - enhancing active listening skills
  - screening for fall risks
  - increasing sensitivity when communicating about culture and learning impairments.
- **Advantageous:** On-site, 1-day training and technical resources at no cost to the CBOC site

## Coordinating Site

VISN 2 GRECC at James J. Peters VAMC  
130 West Kingsbridge Road  
Bronx, NY 10468  
Judith L. Howe, PhD, RITT Project Director

## **Continuing to improve care for older rural Veterans through geriatrics team training**

Funded by the Office of Rural Health, U.S.  
Department of Veterans Affairs

For more information about the  
Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training  
Program, please contact:

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## Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training



A Component of the  
Geriatric Scholars Program  
Hubsite: GRECC, Greater Los  
Angeles VA Health Care System

Josea Kramer, PhD, Director



 Veterans Health Administration  
Employee Education System



## Program Details

Participants: all members of a rural CBOC team—physicians, nurse practitioners (NPs), registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), social workers, pharmacists, occupational therapists, program support assistants, and other professional and paraprofessional staff.

RITT co-facilitated by a clinician and an educator in the GRECC network.

Workshop learning methods used:

- Case Studies
- Mini-lectures
- Discussion
- Interactive Video
- Brainstorming
- Role Playing
- Action Planning

## Topics

Managing Team Dynamics & Team-based Care for Older Veterans

Geriatrics Syndromes: How are older patients different from all other patients and why does it matter?

Dementia, ADLs/IADLs and Depression: Screening and Brief Tools

Resources for Primary Care Providers in Geriatrics

Developing Team Action Plans

Evaluation: All training participants complete a team self-assessment prior to the training, an end-of-day evaluation, a 3, 6 & 12 month post-assessment survey, and create an action plan to practice change.

RITT is accredited by the VA Employee Education System and the TRAIN platform for 6.5 CE credits for:

Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Psychology, Social Work and Dietetics

## Goals

- ◇ Educate primary care providers and staff in common geriatric conditions
- ◇ Increases geriatrics team-based expertise in rural CBOCs
- ◇ Incorporates team-based geriatrics knowledge and skills into CBOC providers' and staff practice

RITT is a nationwide program. Since its inception in FY 2011, RITT has been conducted at almost 90 rural CBOCs, serving over 1300 primary care providers and staff.

In FY 2016, RITT expanded to include Indian Health Services (IHS) clinics and was offered at six IHS/Tribal Health clinics in New York, New Mexico and Washington.

**If you are interested in sponsoring a RITT program at your CBOC, contact [Eve.Gottesman@va.gov](mailto:Eve.Gottesman@va.gov) to discuss opportunities in FY2017**