

Frontier VIDA – Community Informed Planning for Economic Health

Presentation to Legislative Economic and Rural Development Interim Committee
November 7, 2017 Carol Miller, Ojo Sarco Community Center
The complete presentation available online through the ERD Committee

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR FRONTIER COMMUNITIES

Frontier Communities: Key Structural Barriers to Federal Programs

1.) Inappropriate Floor

Programs which require a minimum number of participants (ie Headstart) or a minimum number of job created (ie Welfare to Work) often set numbers too high for the smallest communities. As a result many communities are unable to even apply for numerous federal programs.

Recommendation: Prior to establishing regulations and program expectations, conduct a Frontier Community Impact Statement to assure that program eligibility will be national. With very little cost to the agency, appropriate adjustments to eligibility requirements can be made to assure all communities access to funding.

2.) Match and Partial Funding

Many programs require a match or provide only partial funding. The smallest communities and governments often do not have the capacity to raise additional funds and have to turn down partial funding. For example, Community Development Block Grants, which then transfers the funds to larger programs and governments that are able to generate or access additional resources.

Recommendation: Communities below a certain size should be eligible to apply for a waiver of matching fund requirements. If these communities can demonstrate both a need for the program and the inability to raise additional funds, projects should be granted a waiver and receive full funding.

3.) Eligibility Methodologies

Recommendation: Prior to establishing regulations and program expectations, conduct a Frontier Community Impact Statement to assure that program eligibility will be national. With very little cost to the agency, appropriate adjustments to eligibility requirements can be made to assure all communities access to funding.

4.) Capitation

Systems which pay for programs and services based on capitation frequently fail to generate sufficient revenues in the smallest communities. There are just not enough people receiving services to cover the costs of providing even essential, life saving services.

Recommendation: Programs which use capitation methodologies should either provide reasonable cost based reimbursement to frontier programs or they should assure that the capitated reimbursement rate is sufficient to cover the costs of the program.