



**UNMC Rural Health 2030:
2020-2021 Action Plan**

GOAL A: Support rural health care providers to address disruptive change and thrive in their practices.

2020-2021 Action Items:

- 1) Develop and make available a portfolio of training resources that meet day-to-day office and overall practice needs of rural practitioners and their support teams.
- 2) Expand use of UNMC's mentoring toolkit for rural clinical preceptors.
- 3) Collaborate with rural hospitals and practices to develop and evaluate innovative practice models including but not limited to health care cooperatives or community care teams.

GOAL B: Enhance education and training programs that improve rural health care workforce preparation, distribution, and retention.

2020-2021 Action Items:

- 1) Collaboratively enhance UNMC's rural guaranteed admissions pathway programs by addressing system requirements; eligibility, enrollment and retention; inclusivity and diversity; student connections to UNMC; and, data collection and reporting.
- 2) Deploy a centralized online tracking tool to capture UNMC rural student rotation information, enhance interprofessional service learning opportunities and collect related structured educational programming data to inform current and future educational needs and opportunities.
- 3) Collaborate with the Behavioral Health Education Center (BHECN) to address shortages in behavioral health providers by creating a virtual training program for Primary Care Physicians on advanced behavioral health practices.
- 4) Develop new programming and specialty focused educational opportunities for students to address the health workforce and health care needs of rural Nebraska.

GOAL C: Expand the accessibility of health education, outreach, care and research by supporting utilization of emerging technologies in rural Nebraska.

2020-2021 Action Items:

- 1) Develop and offer a training for those faculty from the Nebraska State College System, UNK and UNO that advise and instruct UNMC pathway program students on the use interactive technology (e.g., iWall, VR) and how to incorporate into curriculum.
- 2) [Continue to] Expand access to specialty clinical services across Nebraska via telehealth: a) add specialty outreach locations and services; b) maintain specialty services direct to patient post pandemic; c) implement provider to provider specialty eConsults.
- 3) [Continue to] expand the use of patient facing applications and home (including wearable) monitoring devices with Nebraska Medicine.
- 4) Position UNMC as a leader in rural health research by establishing metrics to track rural health research initiatives and developing strategies to improve clinical trial awareness in rural communities.

GOAL D: Maximize UNMC's organizational structure to facilitate open communication, coordination, and collaboration with rural Nebraska.

2020-2021 Action Items:

- 1) Establish the UNMC Rural Health Collaborative to integrate its rural health strategy, with the support of rural communities, into broader community efforts to address health workforce needs, health disparities, increase access to health care and improve rural quality of life, beginning with a pilot project in northeast Nebraska.
- 2) Regularly engage the Rural Health Advisory Committee to provide advice to UNMC that is representative of the views of multiple constituencies to improve rural health in Nebraska.
- 3) Inform and support policy efforts targeted at increasing the engagement of UNMC in rural Nebraska as well as initiatives that focus on improving health equity by reducing health disparities and increasing access to care.
- 4) Collaborate with BHECN on conducting a Behavioral Health Policy Forum, highlighting rural behavioral health issues and workforce shortages in rural Nebraska.
- 5) Influence policy and support advocacy efforts where appropriate at the local, state, and federal levels related to rural health.