

Avera Rural Health Institute

Vision

The **Avera Rural Health Institute's** focus is to collaborate with community leaders and other agencies to find solutions to challenges that affect rural health care:

- Educational programs
- Community health planning
- Consulting
- Economic development
- Leadership development
- Grant writing
- Resource identification

We serve communities throughout the Avera five-state service area. We strive to increase access to health services and to promote health and safety for rural residents.



The **Avera Rural Health Institute** is an expression of a century-old commitment by the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters to see that quality health services are available and accessible in rural communities.

Avera

Mission

Avera is a health ministry rooted in the Gospel. Our mission is to make a positive impact in the lives and health of persons and communities by providing quality services guided by Christian values.

Avera Health

Vision

Working with its partners, Avera Health shall provide a quality, cost-effective health ministry which reflects Gospel values. We shall improve the health care of the people we serve through a regionally integrated network of persons and institutions.

Avera

Values

The Avera community is guided by the Gospel values of compassion, hospitality and stewardship.

We welcome your questions about the **Avera Rural Health Institute**.



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www.Avera.org/RuralHealth

Promoting
Community and
Rural Health
Development



Look no further.

*Sponsored by the Benedictine
and Presentation Sisters*

The **Avera Rural Health Institute** strives to increase access to quality health services and to promote safety for rural residents. Services include advocacy, education, community assessments, planning, grant writing and more.

Programs and Services

Advocacy

Through membership in the National Rural Health Association and in cooperation with the Avera Center for Public Policy, the **Avera Rural Health Institute** monitors rural health policy developments and promotes legislation that benefits rural communities.

Education and Conferences

Programs on a wide variety of topics are available through the **Avera Rural Health Institute**. The institute can assist community leaders to find the appropriate speaker or facilitator to address specific topics or needs. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Economic development
- Technology innovations
- Health care trends
- Local leadership development
- New government health care programs
- Governing board responsibilities

Avera Rural Health Conference

The **Avera Rural Health Institute** sponsors a conference every other year where national speakers discuss the role certain influences play in the vitality of rural communities, including:

- Health care quality improvement
- Human and financial resources
- Technology
- Public policy
- Community and economic development

Community Assessments, Planning and Development

The **Avera Rural Health Institute** staff assists local leaders with community health assessments that identify needs, strengths and resources — information that is critical for effective community planning. Community assessments help:

- Determine data gaps
- Set community priorities
- Determine the feasibility and possible impact of various community strategies or programs

The community assessment can also be used for grant writing or other resource-seeking activities including:

- Development of measurable goals
- Development of a plan for achieving goals

Avera joined agencies in sponsoring LeadershipPlenty®, a project of the national Pew Partnership for Civic Change. LeadershipPlenty® strengthens communities by mobilizing untapped leadership assets. Our understanding of what makes healthy communities includes:

- Medical services offered at our hospitals and clinics
- The ways we foster health and wellness in communities by keeping them vibrant and viable for generations to come

Grant Writing

The **Avera Rural Health Institute** staff provides assistance to health care facilities and communities by identifying possible grant opportunities and developing competitive grant proposals. We aid communities' needs for grant funding by:

- Providing extensive experience with federal, state and private funding agencies and foundations
- Evaluating community assessment data to achieve positive outcomes
- Assisting communities in program management or evaluation needs after a grant has been awarded

Farm Safety Day Camps

The **Avera Rural Health Institute**, in cooperation with South Dakota Cares, Inc. and the South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Services, annually sponsors dozens of farm safety day camps in communities throughout the region. More than 25,000 children ages 5 to 15 have attended the Save Our Farm Youth (SOFY) day camps since the program began in 1995.

