

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2015

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Arizona Chosen to Receive Grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to Help Transform Health Care Through Nursing

PHOENIX – The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) announced today that the Arizona Action Coalition will be part of the *Future of Nursing State Implementation Program* (SIP). The \$7.65 million initiative is helping states prepare the nursing profession to address our nation's most pressing health care challenges—access, quality, and cost. Along with Maine and West Virginia, Arizona is joining the program this month. RWJF's SIP now supports 33 state Action Coalitions.

SIP bolsters efforts already underway in 50 states and the District of Columbia—through the [Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action](#)—to improve health and health care through nursing. A joint initiative of AARP and RWJF, the *Campaign* is working to implement the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) [evidence-based recommendations on the future of nursing](#). It provides a vehicle for nurses at all levels to lead system change to improve care for all through collaboration with business, consumer, and other health professional organizations. The Arizona Action Coalition is receiving a two-year grant from RWJF of up to \$150,000.

“These grants have proven a wise investment and we are confident that this additional support will lead to even more advances,” said Susan B. Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, RWJF senior adviser for nursing and director of the Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action*. “We are immensely proud of the work our Action Coalitions are doing to transform nursing education and practice, support nurse leadership, and diversify the nursing workforce. RWJF is committed to building a Culture of Health so that everyone in America can live a healthier life, supported by a system in which nurses are essential partners in providing care and promoting health.”

In addition to the announcement that three new states are joining SIP, RWJF announced that 18 state Action Coalitions that are already part of the program will receive their second two-year grants of up to \$150,000: Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. SIP grants go to state-based Action Coalitions that are making substantial progress toward implementing the IOM recommendations.

All SIP grantees must obtain matching funds and to date, states with SIP grants have raised more than \$8.9 million beyond their RWJF funding. Locally, Arizona raised matching funds that total \$94,200. This money came from 20 entities representing schools, hospitals, Health Education Centers (AHECs), foundations, associations and private donations. In addition, in-kind donors include the Arizona Commerce Authority, The City of Phoenix, and Maricopa County Human Services Department.

“We are tremendously proud to be part of this program and look forward to continuing to implement the IOM's future of nursing recommendations here in Arizona,” said Robin Schaeffer, RN, co-leader of the Arizona Action Coalition and executive director of the Arizona Nurses Foundation. “The work we are doing to transform nursing improves health care for everyone. We are grateful to RWJF for this support.”

Schaeffer said the Arizona Action Coalition will focus on improving collection and analysis of data on the interprofessional health care workforce in Arizona as well as preparing a diverse RN workforce by providing mentorship opportunities for nursing students from diverse backgrounds.

The Center to Champion Nursing in America (CCNA), an initiative of AARP, the AARP Foundation, and RWJF, serves as the national program office for the *Future of Nursing State Implementation Program*.

“We are so pleased to be able to add three new state Action Coalitions to this program, and provide continuing support to 18 others,” said Susan Reinhard, PhD, RN, FAAN, senior vice president of the AARP Public Policy Institute and chief strategist at CCNA. “We expect this new funding will help realize our goal, to transform health care through nursing so we can improve health outcomes and wellbeing for individuals, families, and communities.”

About the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action

The Arizona Action Coalition is part of the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action, a joint initiative of AARP and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), working to implement the Institute of Medicine’s evidence-based recommendations on the future of nursing. The Campaign includes Action Coalitions in 50 states and the District of Columbia and a wide range of health care professionals, consumer advocates, policy-makers, and the business, academic, and philanthropic communities. The Center to Champion Nursing in America, an initiative of AARP, the AARP Foundation and RWJF, serves as the coordinating entity for the Campaign, as well as the national program office for the Future of Nursing State Implementation Program. Learn more at www.campaignforaction.org. Follow the Campaign for Action on Twitter at @Campaign4Action and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CampaignForAction.

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are striving to build a national Culture of Health that will enable all to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.

About AARP

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.