HOW TO GET INVOLVED

As the U.S. population ages, the demands on the health care system and the workforce will grow. We believe the most effective way to address these challenges is by strengthening the nursing profession. That is why the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation invites you to join its long-standing commitment to improving health and health care for all Americans by focusing on the role of nurses in improving quality of care.

The Foundation has invested nearly $300 million over the past 10 years supporting innovative nursing programs that address many of the challenges that plague the current environment. Most recently, we supported the Institute of Medicine in its development of the landmark report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. This report laid out a bold action plan to transform the health care workforce to meet the needs of the population now and in the future. Recommendations center on five key areas:

- Strengthening nurse education and training;
- Enabling nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training;
- Advancing interprofessional collaboration to ensure coordinated and improved patient care;
- Expanding leadership ranks to ensure that nurses have a voice on management teams, in boardrooms and during policy debates; and
- Improving health care workforce data collection to better assess and project workforce requirements.

The report offers a dynamic blueprint for action, and the Foundation is committed to implementing the recommendations. But no single funder can do it alone. Such an important endeavor requires the support of many partners at the local, state and national levels; across professions; and spanning government, academia, and business sectors. The goal of the *Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action* is to bring together many partners to achieve lasting results that truly transform how health care is delivered.

To ensure that the recommendations of the report are implemented effectively, RWJF has partnered with AARP to rally support for the campaign across the health care spectrum, engaging consumer leaders, prominent officials and groups representing government, business, academic and philanthropic groups at the national level. The campaign is working through Action Coalitions in various states to carry out the recommendations in their respective communities, and replicating the most successful strategies of other coalitions. Thirty-six states have coalitions on the ground already, and are expected to be up and running in most states by the end of 2012.

**What Foundations Can Do**
The goals of the campaign correspond closely with the mission of many foundations, providing a number of opportunities for collaboration and support:

- **Collaborate and Connect:** Join the Action Coalitions, groups of diverse stakeholders driving action at the state and regional levels. Use your reputation as neutral conveners to bring together key actors at the national, state and local levels.
- **Communicate and Advocate:** Share campaign updates and other information with your grantees and networks. Advocate for improvements in health care delivery to use nurses more effectively.
- **Fund and Support:** Invest in research and/or program work that will contribute to the advancement of one or more of the IOM report goals or recommendation areas, such as:
  - Accelerated graduate degree programs in nursing to develop the next generation of a diverse nursing faculty;
  - Nursing models of care that create innovative, cost-effective solutions;
  - Scholarships and loan forgiveness programs to encourage nurses to pursue BSN degrees;
  - Nurse residency programs in a range of practice settings, including public health and community care;
  - Programs to build leadership skills through continuing education; and
  - Eliminating barriers to an expanded scope of practice.

To get involved, contact:
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