

# RFI Fellows Impact Report

MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS | CHADRON, NEB. | 2019



For 10 weeks in summer 2019 students from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Washington University and St. Louis University worked, served and lived in Chadron, Neb., (population 5,851) as Rural Futures Institute Fellows.

Their projects identified gaps in services for PreK-12 youth focusing on behavioral health and priority support and inclusion of the Native American population. Vasu, Elizabeth and Bhargav also filled gaps for mental health care awareness throughout the community. They were supported by RFI Community Innovation Fellows Sandy Montague-Roes and Terri Haynes. Their work was initiated by the Nebraska Department of Education AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) grant.

► [ruralfutures.nebraska.edu/2019fellows](http://ruralfutures.nebraska.edu/2019fellows)



**Top:** Vasu Balraj, Neuroscience, Washington University  
Hometown: Grand Island, Neb.

**Right:** Elizabeth Schott, Elementary Education, Early Childhood Inclusive, University of Nebraska at Kearney  
Hometown: Platte Center, Neb.

**Left:** Bhargav Vemulapalli, Neuroscience, Washington University  
Hometown: Skillman, N.J.

“  
Now I follow the Chadron Record on social media, am friends with people of the Chadron community and even have Chadron set on my weather app on my phone. It’s another place that I care about.”

*Elizabeth Schott*

*RFI Student Fellow, University of Nebraska at Kearney*

## TOTAL MARKET VALUE\*

Total value of RFI Fellows Program to Chadron

► **\$29,920**

## AVERAGE INVESTMENT

2 Students Stipends \$10,000 | Approximate Housing \$2,500

► **\$12,500**

\*This report estimates the market value, the price it would have cost Chadron to hire professional services in the marketplace to complete the outcomes delivered by RFI Fellows and the Rural Futures Institute.

# ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE OF DELIVERABLES

DELIVERABLES	ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE	CALCULATION NOTES
 <b>RESOURCE MAPPING</b> RFI Student Fellows mapped the mental health resources available in Chadron and Western Nebraska. The effort has promoted a more comprehensive understanding of mental health resources available in the region.	\$12,317	Estimated averages hourly wage rates for management analysts in Nebraska (\$38.49) (Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)).
 <b>RADIO SCRIPTS</b> RFI Student Fellows wrote scripts for 50, one-minute radio ads that promote mental health and well-being. Community volunteers will record the ads, which will play on local radio stations throughout Western Nebraska.	\$2,779	Estimated average hourly rate for writers and authors (\$21.76) and volunteers (\$24.01) in Nebraska (BLS; independentsector.org).
 <b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b> RFI Student Fellows distributed donated books pertaining to mental health among Native populations. Fellows also organized the distribution of “Self-Care Certificates” and associated donations from local businesses.	\$2,368	Estimated average hourly rate for meeting, convention and event planners (\$21.98) in Nebraska (BLS).
 <b>“INSIDE OUT” EVENT</b> RFI Student Fellows organized a showing of the movie Inside Out.	\$1,978	Estimated average hourly rate for meeting, convention and event planners (\$21.98) in Nebraska (BLS).
 <b>PRESENTATION TO ROTARY</b> RFI Student Fellows presented information about the biology of mental health to the Chadron Rotary Club.	\$1,758	Estimated average hourly rate for meeting, convention and event planners (\$21.98) in Nebraska (BLS).
 <b>VOLUNTEERED IN THE COMMUNITY</b> RFI Student Fellows are committed to volunteering for 10 hours per summer, beyond their typical duties.	\$720	Estimated value of a volunteer hour in Nebraska (\$24.01) (independentsector.org).
 <b>GAINED INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP TRAINING</b> RFI Community Innovation Fellows received 20 hours of Inclusive Leadership training from experts at the Rural Futures Institute.	\$8,000	Estimated market value of Inclusive Leadership Training.



**The coaching has made me a better manager, and a better communicator. I had no idea I would grow this much through this process.”**

*Sandy Montague-Roes  
 Director, Western Community Health Resources*

## REPORT CONSTRUCT

Researchers at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Bureau of Business Research (BBR) conducted background research with Community Fellows located in Chadron, Neb. The Community Fellows provided detailed information about the community tasks in which Student Fellows engaged. To estimate economic impact, the BBR estimated the market value of the labor put toward completing tasks in Chadron, Neb.