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| 1. Problem or Issue: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | **Problem Statement:** According to NRHA only about 10% of physicians practice in rural America despite the fact that nearly one-fourth of the population lives in these areas. The ratio of specialists to populace is 40.1 to 100,000 in rural areas as compared to 134.1 to 100,000 in urban areas. This is especially acute in the field of psychiatry, HRSA points out that there are 4,000 Mental Health HPSAs, which comes out to a ratio of 1:30,000. **Need Statement:** In Community Together’s nine county region there are 18 designated HPSAs for Mental Health and 24 MUA resulting communities being underserved for mental health issues. **Desired Outcome/effect/output:** Increase the access to mental health specialists in the HPSA and MUA designated areas through telemedicine to increase the ratio of mental health specialists from 1:5000 to 1:3000 in three years. Build a telepsychiatry network to assist other healthcare organizations in decreasing their mental health specialist’s burden. Lower wait time to access a mental health specialists by 20% in five years.  |

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| What are potential barriers and/or supports that might impact the change you hope for? Are there policies, changes to service providers, or notable trends in your target population that could affect your program outcomes?  |
| 1. The organization where the program is housed

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| 1. Are there other programs/services your program’s target population {could, should, would} participate in that would influence your program outcomes (please describe).

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| 1. Describe activities and strategies to be implemented via the program.
2. At what stage of development is the program being implemented (i.e. is this an evidence-based program with lots of history or is it an innovative new approach).

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2. **Program marketing/**
3. **Establish referral system**
4. **Program Implementation**
5. **Continuous quality improvement/formative evaluation**

**Program Stage:** Previous research from the ATA and the VA indicate that telepsychiatry is effective in rural populations but this is a new approach in these counties. Continuous evaluation will be needed to ensure program is effective and efficient. **Comparing Community Together’s Target Population:** the majority of published studies on Telemedicine addressed populations in rural areas in western United States and at major teaching hospitals. Community Together is rural eastern United States with no major teaching hospitals. |