Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Rural Health Resources

Our work increases access to care in rural communities

Explore our Programs

https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health
Health Policy & Research
Accessible and Through a Rural Lens

Questions about Policy Updates?
Write to ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov

Rural Health Policy

Regulatory Review

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is changed in Section 11105 of the Social Security Act with authorising the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the effective date that federal health care policies and regulations may have on rural communities. Monitoring current and proposed changes, including programs established under titles XXI and XXIX (Medicare and Medicaid), FORHP analyses their impact on the financial viability of small rural hospitals and clinics, on the ability of rural areas to attract health professionals, and on rural areas’ access to high quality care.

Data collection and analysis is essential to understanding the challenges in rural communities, how those communities are impacted by policy, and setting policy for the future. For this reason, the work of the Rural Health Research Centers informs that of FORHP’s policy team and vice versa.

Policy Updates

April 1
CMS Guidance to Resume Hospital Survey Activities (PDF - 265 KB). As of March 23, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is lifting the suspension on hospital survey activities, which was put in place due to the public health emergency. Non-immediate jeopardy

Reports

Guide for Rural Health Care Infrastructure and Coordination (2019) (PDF - 2 MB) This Guide describes how rural hospitals, community health centers, local public health departments, and other rural stakeholders can work together to assess and address their communities’ health needs.

Interim Report to Congress on Frontier Health Demonstration Project (2018) (PDF - 565 KB)

Final Report to Congress on Frontier Health Demonstration Project (2020) (PDF - 343 KB) This Final Report to Congress expands on the Interim report, with findings from the duration of the 3-year model and recommendations for legislative and administrative action.
FORHP Weekly Announcements

- Rural-focused Funding Opportunities
- Policy and Regulatory Developments Affecting Rural Providers and Communities
- Rural Research findings
- Policy updates from a Rural Perspective

To sign up: Email Michelle Daniels at mdaniels@hrsa.gov