

Good Morning and Welcome Back!

Rural Health Regional Roundtable – Western States

Breakfast Discussions

- What does rural look like in your state?
- What are some of the major rural health challenges in your state?
- Share the name of a rural health community that is near and dear to your heart – and why?
- What are you most looking forward to about the site visit today?

Meeting Webpage





Roundtable Discussion: Rural Health Care Facilities

Samantha Scotti, Project Manager,
NCSL Health Program

Rural Health Regional Roundtable— Western States

May 19, 2023

- Rural Health Care Facilities: State Policy Levers
 - Kevin Davenport, NCSL
- Health Facility Programs and Efforts
 - Sarah Heppner, FORHP
- Group Discussion and Report Out



Agenda

Rural Health Care Facilities

Index Card Activity

There are index cards on your table.

Please take 3-4 minutes to jot down one or more of these prompts →

One question or statement per card.

A question you have about rural health facilities and/or policy levers.

A legislative effort you're proud of relating to rural facilities.

A legislative effort you're working on relating to rural facilities.

What legislative effort are you proud of in your state?

Telehealth and Broadband Access

- Expanding access through telehealth.
- Expanding telehealth and virtual care.
- Increasing broadband access.
- Evaluating current practices and standards of care.
- **Utah:** Providing robust broadband throughout majority of the state, which increased online evaluation, telehealth and legal benefits.

Provider Incentives

- **Idaho** passed a Rural Nurse Incentive for loan forgiveness for Critical Access Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Clinics and UA Facilities.
- **Utah** created grants to fund grown your own pipelines for caretakers in rural areas.
- **Washington** legislation enabled the 2nd medical school focused on training doctors to go into primary care in rural and underserved areas.

And more!

- Expanding interlocal agreements and expanding mail order pharmacy options.
- Making capital investments in dental clinics.
- **Colorado:** All of our legislative efforts are focused to include rural communities.

Remaining Questions on Health Care Facilities:

- Looking for ways to stabilize financing for rural health providers.
- Ensuring school nursing access in rural schools.
- The thin margin of our rural hospitals.
- How to sustain rural hospitals, particularly Sole Community Hospitals and Rural Emergency Hospitals.
- Improving Medicaid rates for health care providers.





Rural Health Care Facilities: State Policy Levers

Kevin Davenport

Policy Associate, NCSL

Presentation Overview

- Background
- Policy Levers
- NCSL Resources
- Q & A





Trivia!

Since 2010, how many rural hospitals have closed or converted across the United States?

A.
210

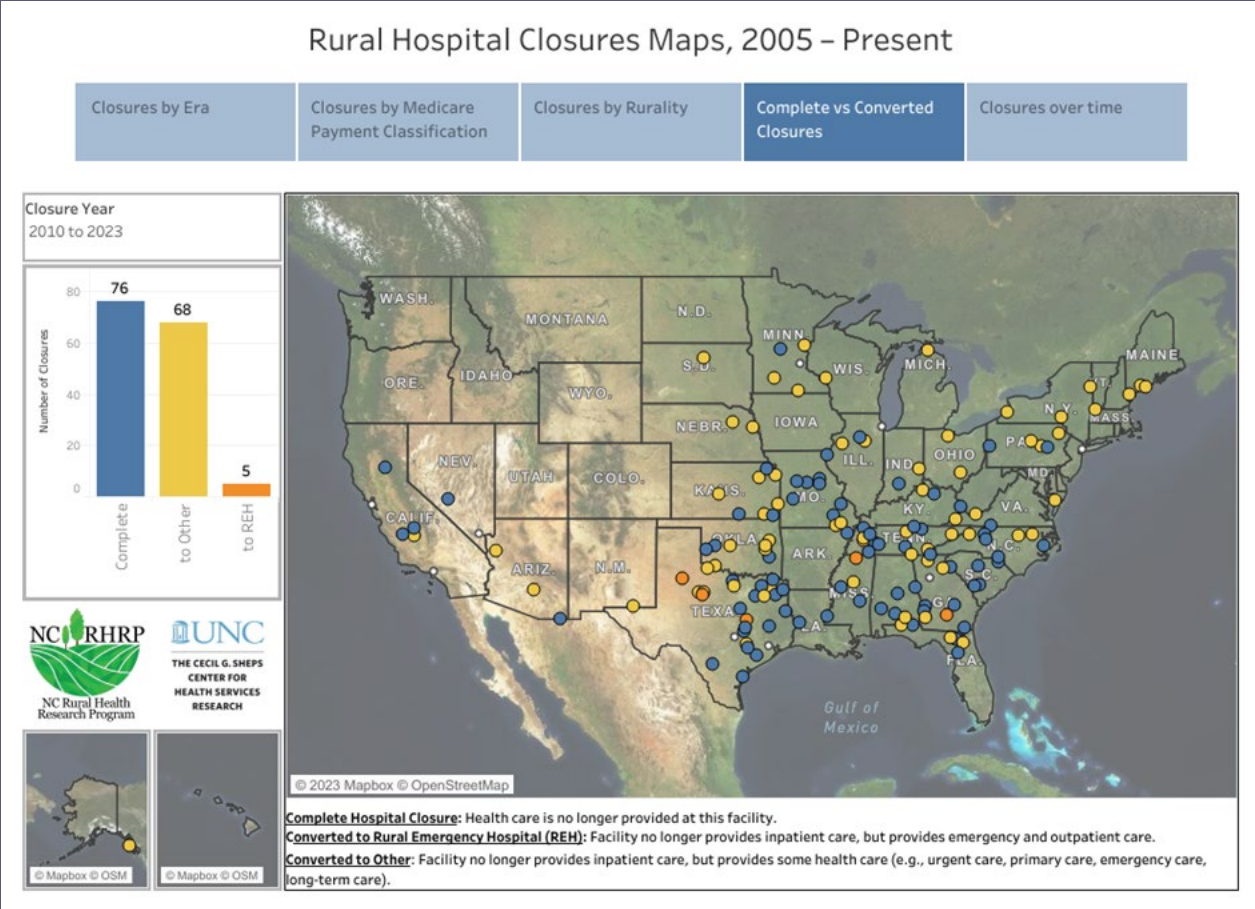
B.
149

C.
89

D.
351

The answer is B!

According to the Sheps Center for Health Services Research, 149 rural hospitals have closed or converted since 2010.



Types of Rural Health Facilities

Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)

Freestanding Emergency Department (FSED)

Critical Access Hospital (CAH)

Rural Emergency Hospital (REH)

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)

Rural Health Clinic (RHC)



Services Provided By Facility Type

FQHC	FSED	CAH	REH	SNF	RHC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventative care Dental Mental health and substance abuse Transportation Hospital and specialty care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency care Medical imaging Laboratory Physician visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24/7 emergency care May operate distinct part rehabilitation and psychiatric units May provide general hospice care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24/7 emergency care Observational care <p>Optional services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavioral health Radiology Laboratory Outpatient rehabilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skilled nursing or medical care Rehabilitation needed due to injury, disability or illness Long-term care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outpatient primary care Laboratory Preventative care Telemental health
https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/federally-qualified-health-centers	https://www.acep.org/patient-care/policy-statements/freestanding-emergency-departments	https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/critical-access-hospitals	https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/rural-emergency-hospitals	https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/long-term-services-supports/institutional-long-term-care/nursing-facilities/index.html	https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/rural-health-clinics

State Policy Levers for Rural Health Facilities



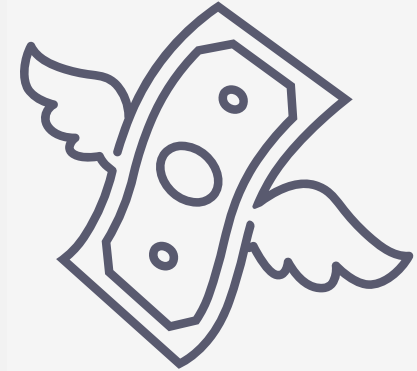
Facility Licensure



Staff Training and Other Requirements



Certificate of Need



Appropriations,
Facility
Reimbursement and
Grant Programs

TRIVIA: Facility Licensure

True or False: All 50 states require assisted living facilities to obtain some form of licensure.



TRIVIA: Facility Licensure

The answer is True!

True or False: All 50 states require assisted living facilities to obtain some form of licensure.



Health Facility Licensure: State Examples

Colorado

Standards for Hospitals and Health Facilities: General Hospitals

- Requires complete and accurate medical records shall be maintained on every patient from admission through discharge.
- Requires facilities to have an infection control program responsible for reducing the risk of acquiring and transmitting infectious diseases.
- Requires that there shall be a nursing department that provides complete, effective care to each patient.

Texas

Texas Hospital Licensing Law

- Directs executive commissioner to adopt rules addressing:
 - Minimum requirements for staffing by physicians and nurses;
 - Patient care and patient bill of rights; and
 - Compliance with other state and federal laws affecting the health, safety and rights of hospital patients.

TRIVIA: Staff Training and Other Requirements



True or False: Federal regulations require nursing homes to be staffed with sufficient nursing staff that have appropriate competencies.

TRIVIA: Staff Training and Other Requirements



True or False: Federal regulations require nursing homes to be staffed with sufficient nursing staff that have appropriate competencies?

The answer is True!

Staff Training and Other Requirements:

Training Requirements

- Florida – ties substance misuse treatment facility licensure to staff requirements such as, appropriate education, credentials and training when necessary.
- North Carolina – requires adult care home special care units to notify in writing of staff training that is dementia care-specific.

Staffing Requirements

- California – mandates nurse-to-patient ratios in acute-care, acute-psychiatric and specialty hospitals.
- Colorado – hospitals are required to form nurse committees tasked with developing staffing plans.
- Washington – requires all staff at transition facilities to be classified as residential rehabilitation counselor II or have classification that indicates an equivalent or higher level of skill.



TRIVIA: Certificate of Need

How many states, including the District of Columbia, utilize certificate of need?

- A) 41
- B) 27
- C) 36
- D) 19



TRIVIA: Certificate of Need

How many states, including the District of Columbia, utilize certificate of need?

A) 41

B) 27

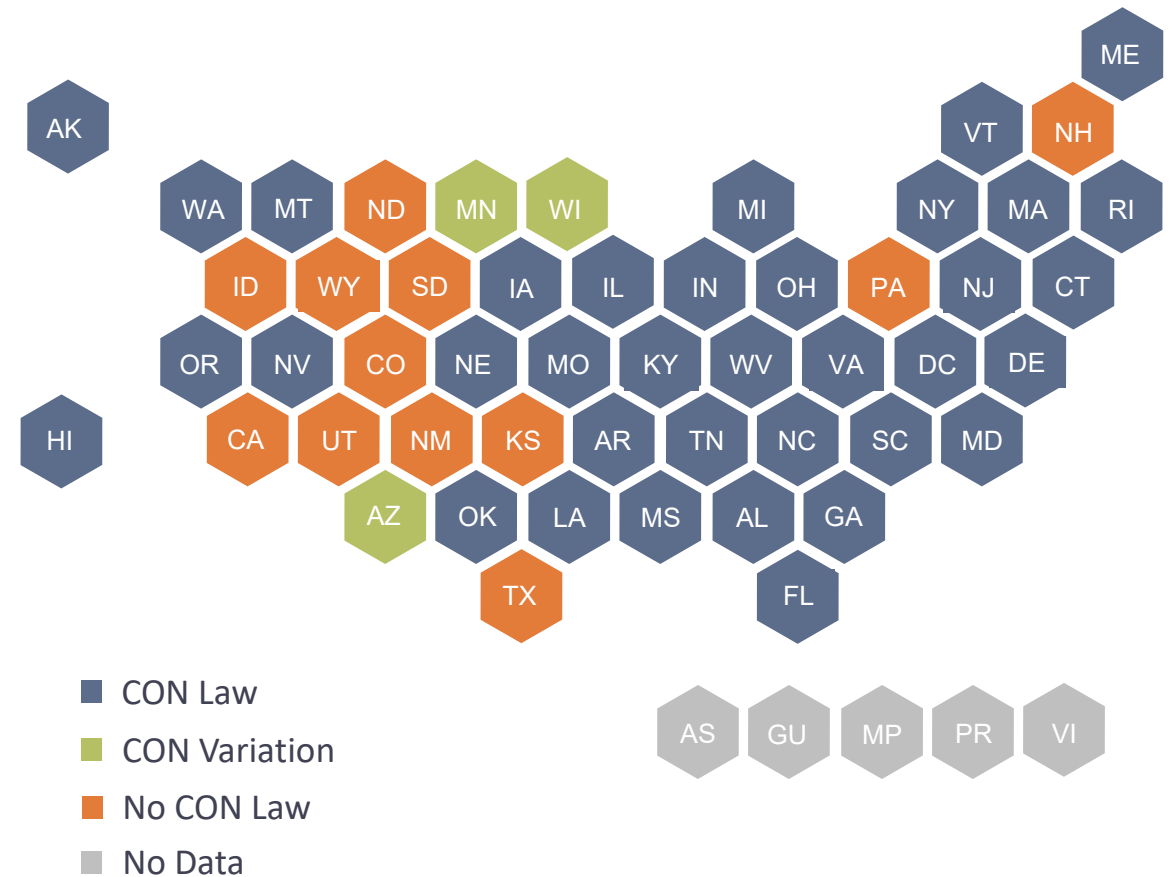
C) 36

D) 19

Certificate of Need State Laws

CON laws generally require health care facilities to seek state-approval prior to expanding their capacity.

- Major CON Reforms
 - **Montana** HB 231 (2021) limits CON approval to long-term care facilities.
- CON Modifications
 - **Kentucky** HB 777 (2022) exempts ambulance providers from CON approval.
 - **Washington** SB 6359 (2020) exempts rural health clinics in designated home health shortage areas from CON approval.



Source: NCSL, 2022

TRIVIA: State Funding

True or False: There is only one method for policymakers to fund rural health facilities.



TRIVIA: State Funding

False!

There are several ways local and state governments can fund and support rural hospitals.



State Appropriations, Facility Reimbursement and Grant Programs

State Appropriations

Michigan passed the General Omnibus Appropriation Bill of 2022, which allocated \$11 million to the rural Sturgis Hospital.

State Grant Programs

Minnesota (2023) – Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Grant.

Reimbursement

Washington – SB 6032 (2018) increased state and federal funds for rural hospitals through increased Medicaid reimbursement (150%).

NCSL Resources

- [Rural Emergency Hospitals](#) (Webpage)
- [Certificate of Need](#) (Webpage)
- [Health Costs, Coverage and Delivery State Legislation](#) Database
- [Improving Rural Health: State Policy Options for Increasing Access to Care](#) (Policy Report)





Kevin Davenport
Policy Associate

Reach out anytime!

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(303) 856-1444



NCSL Rural Health Regional Roundtable

Updates from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy: Rural Health Care Facilities

May 19, 2023

Sarah Heppner
Associate Director
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Established in Section 711 of the Social Security Act

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) collaborates with rural communities and partners to support community programs and shape policy that will improve health in rural America.

Cross Agency Collaboration

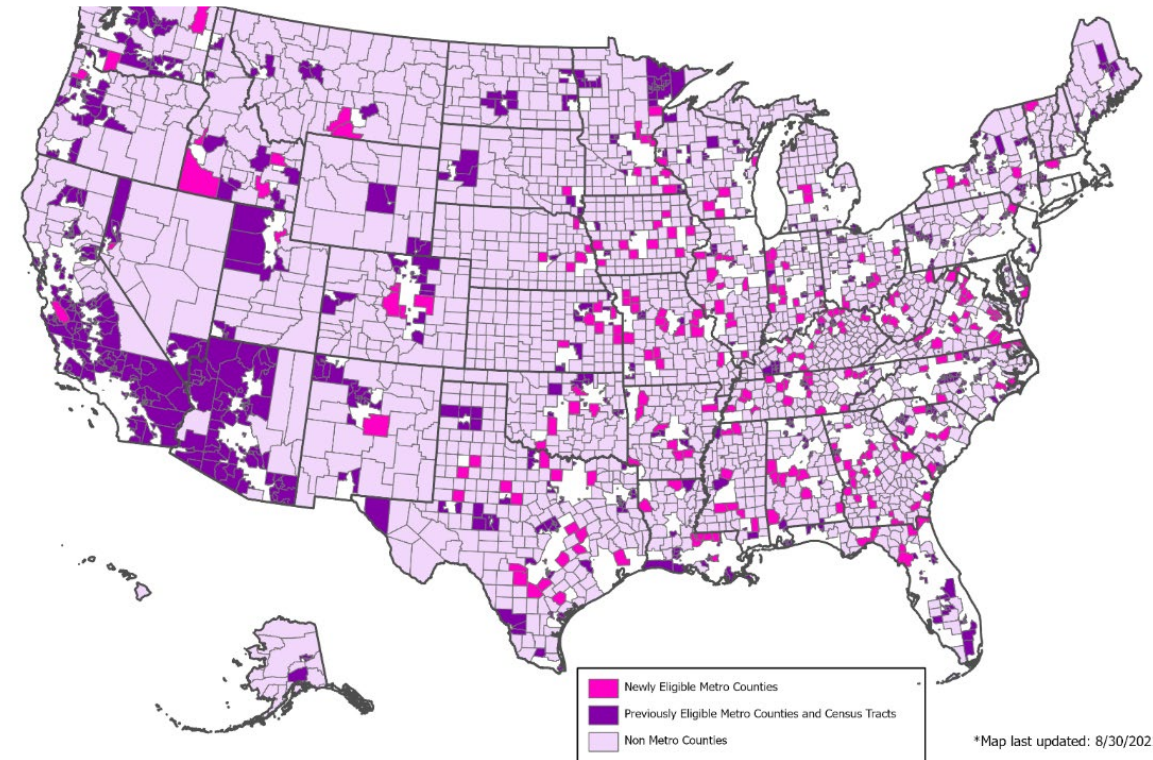
Works across HRSA, HHS, and several other federal partners to accomplish its goals

Capacity Building

Increases access to health care for people in rural communities through grant programs and public partnerships

Voice for Rural

Advises the HHS Secretary on policy and regulation that affect rural areas



Helping Rural Communities Assess New Models

The Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Initiative



Christina Campos (center right) speaks to staff in the emergency department at Guadalupe County Hospital in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. The hospital is one of the first to start the process of converting into a Rural Emergency Hospital as part of a new federal payment program. (ADRIA MALCOLM FOR KHN)

Struggling to Survive, the First Rural Hospitals Line Up for New Federal Lifeline

National Technical Assistance Center

- Rural Health Redesign Center:
<https://www.rhrco.org/reh-tac>;
REHSupport@rhrco.org

Supplemental Funding for State Flex Programs

- Outreach and broad education

Supplement to HRSA partners

- National Conference of State Legislators:
 - Tracking state activity on establishing laws on REH licensure:
<https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/rural-emergency-hospitals.aspx>
- National Academy for State Health Policy
 - Developing model licensing language
 - <https://www.nashp.org/medicares-new-rural-emergency-hospital-designation-considerations-for-states/>

Direct Technical Assistance to Hospitals and Clinics

Free Services Available

Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project

- [Helps](#) organizations in strengthening their foundation in key elements of value-based care: quality, efficiency, patient experience and patient safety.
- Eligible entities include small rural hospitals and Rural Health Clinics.
- **Application Period:** rolling application – [apply now!](#)

Targeted Technical Assistance to Rural Hospitals Program

- [Provides](#) targeted assistance to hospitals working to maintain health care services.
- Helps hospitals and communities understand community health needs and how to keep needed health care local.
- **Application Period:** Fall 2023

Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program

- [Provides](#) intensive technical assistance to healthcare facilities in rural communities in the Mississippi Delta region.
- Helps strengthen the local health care delivery system to position for population health.
- **Application Period:** rolling application – [apply now!](#)



Customizable Communications Toolkits

National Rural Health Resource Center



Behavioral Health

The Behavioral Health Toolkit contains messaging focused on stopping mental health stigma and starting the conversation, as well as highlighting the new 9-8-8 national hotline.

Stop the Stigma. Start The Conversation In Your Community.



Vaccine Confidence (Translated into Spanish)

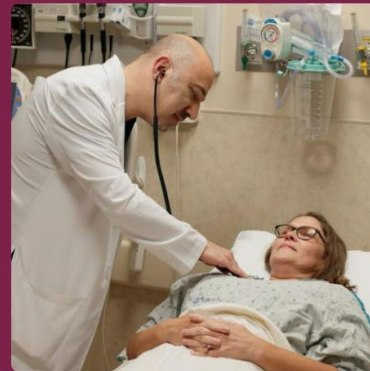
The "Learn. Understand. Decide." campaign, translated into Spanish, provides straightforward facts and addresses COVID-19 related myths and concerns that targeted members of your rural community may share.

Vaccine confidence for your Spanish-speaking community

Swing Bed

The "Between Healing and Home" campaign focuses on providing patients with the tools they need to live independently so they can return home safely, successfully, and with a reduced risk of relapsing.

Encourage patients to recover closer to home



Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Three creative messages help educate patients and providers about pulmonary rehabilitation services that patients can easily access locally.

Educate patients and providers about critical services

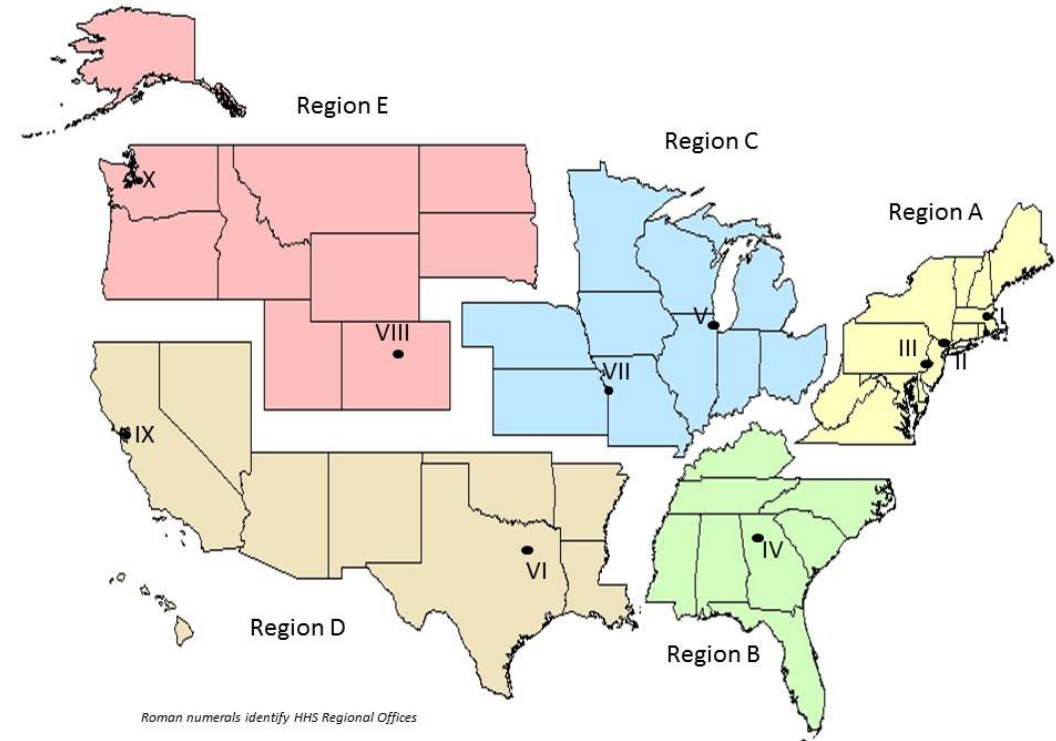


<https://www.ruralcenter.org/programs/drchsd/customizable-communications-toolkit>



State Offices of Rural Health

- Share information, resources and innovative projects with other rural health stakeholders
- Coordinate with other state partners on rural health issues
- Link rural health stakeholders to Federal and state resources
- Rural recruitment and retention



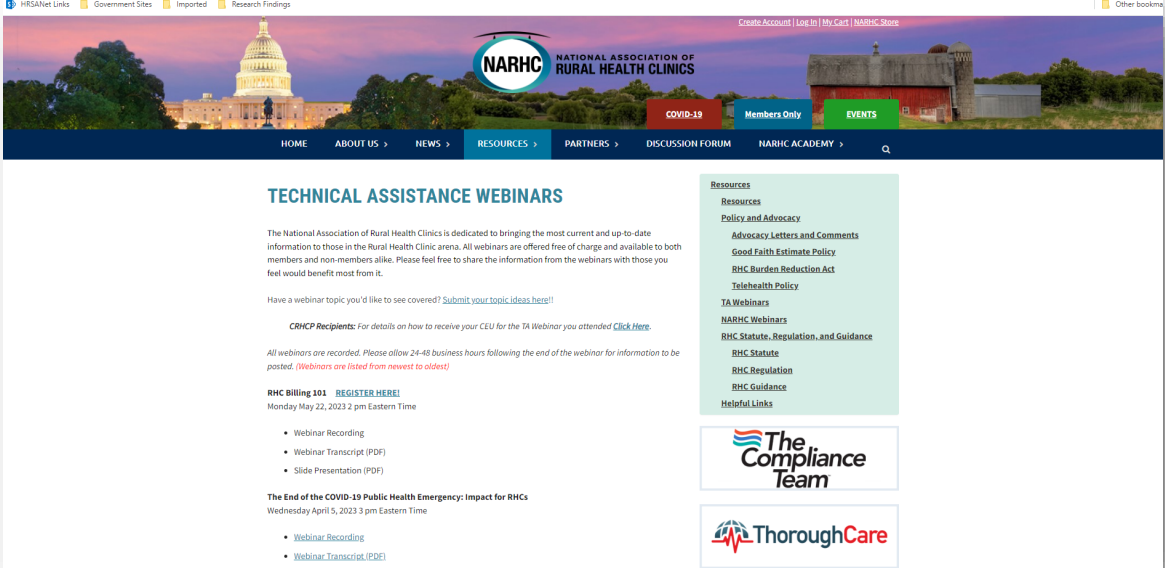
Connect with your SORH: <https://nosorh.org/nosorh-members/>



Supporting Rural Health Clinics

Technical Assistance Series

- Cooperative agreement providing assistance, solutions, and information to RHCs on key policy, regulatory, programmatic, and clinical issues
 - Highlights of NARHC TA:
 - Technical assistance webinars
 - Recordings, slides and transcripts are posted https://www.narhc.org/narhc/TA_Webinars1.asp
 - NARHC forums and email listserv: online information exchange/referral service
 - Sign up <https://www.narhc.org/discussionforums/DiscussionDefault.asp>
 - NARHC website and resources: online information to disseminate key priorities and resources on specific topics (e.g., good faith estimate, telehealth policy)



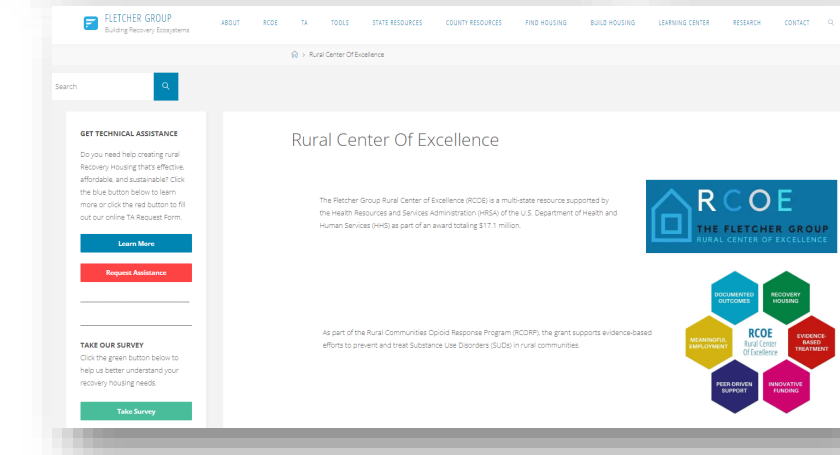
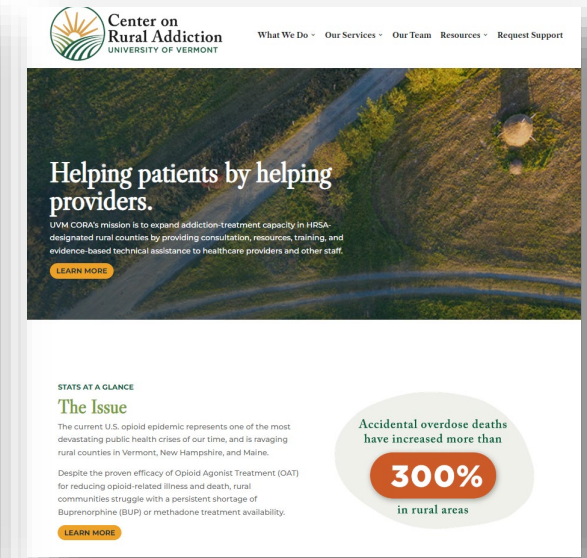
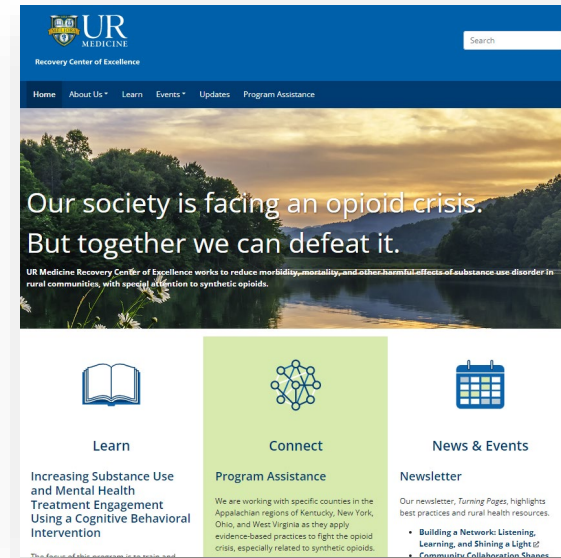
The screenshot shows the NARHC website's 'TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINARS' page. The header includes the NARHC logo and navigation links for HOME, ABOUT US, NEWS, RESOURCES, PARTNERS, DISCUSSION FORUM, and NARHC ACADEMY. The main content area features a section titled 'TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINARS' with a description of the organization's commitment to providing up-to-date information. It includes a link to submit topic ideas and a section for CME/CPD recipients. A featured webinar, 'RHC Billing 101', is highlighted with a 'REGISTER HERE' button and a list of available resources: Webinar Recording, Webinar Transcript (PDF), and Slide Presentation (PDF). The page also mentions 'The End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency: Impact for RHCs' with similar resource links. On the right side, there is a 'Resources' sidebar with categories like Policy and Advocacy, TA Webinars, and NARHC Webinars. Logos for 'The Compliance Team' and 'ThoroughCare' are visible at the bottom of the sidebar.

- https://www.narhc.org/narhc/TA_Webinars1.asp

Behavioral Health Resources

Rural Centers of Excellence

- University of Vermont
 - Focused on innovative and effective treatment interventions for SUD, particularly OUD, in rural communities
 - ✓ <https://uvmcora.org/>
- University of Rochester
 - Focused on addressing synthetic opioid-related overdose mortality in rural communities in the Appalachian region
 - ✓ <https://recoverycenterofexcellence.org/>
- The Fletcher Group in collaboration with the University of Kentucky
 - Focused best practices in recovery housing programs for SUD, particularly OUD; interventions among low-income, high-risk individuals in rural communities
 - ✓ <https://fletchergroup.org/rcoe/>



Behavioral Health Resources

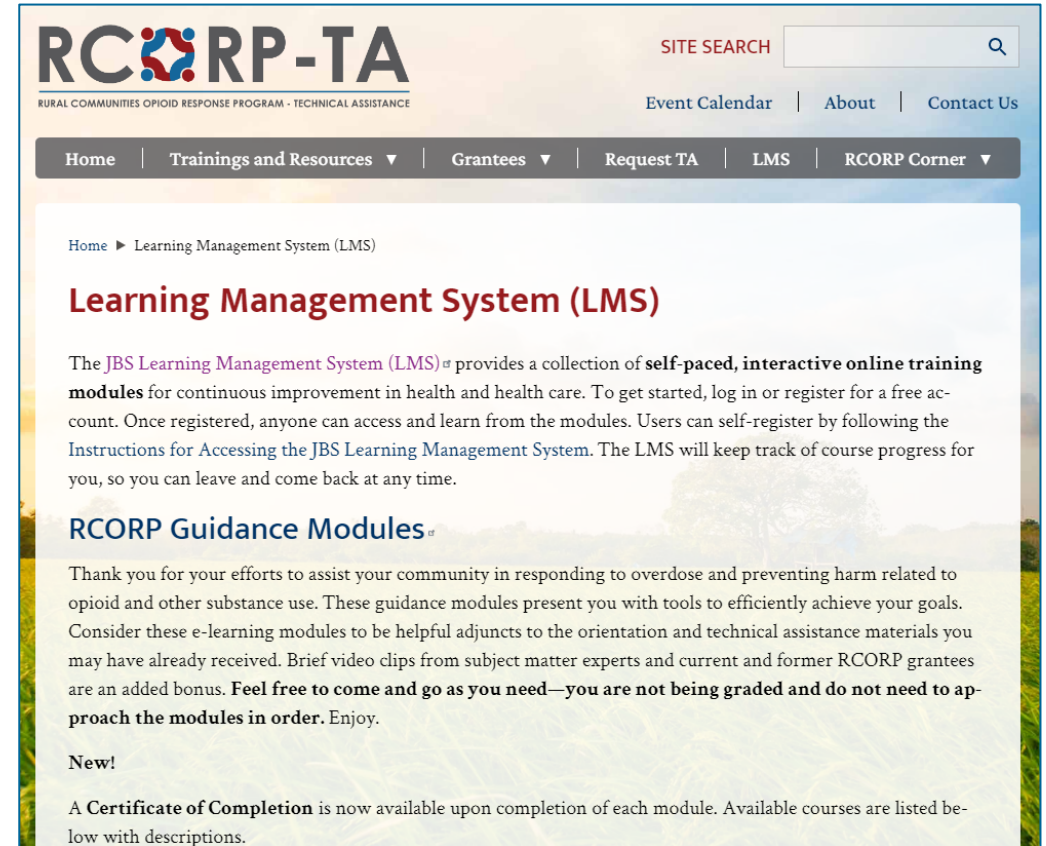
Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Technical Assistance

Learning Management System

A collection of publicly available self-paced, interactive online training modules. Module topics include:

- Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery activities
- Addressing stigma
- Needs assessment and gap analysis
- Developing a strategic and action plan
- Planning for sustainability
- And more!

<https://www.rcorp-ta.org/learning-management-system>



RCORP-TA
RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SITE SEARCH

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Home ► Learning Management System (LMS)

Learning Management System (LMS)

The **JBS Learning Management System (LMS)** provides a collection of **self-paced, interactive online training modules** for continuous improvement in health and health care. To get started, log in or register for a free account. Once registered, anyone can access and learn from the modules. Users can self-register by following the [Instructions for Accessing the JBS Learning Management System](#). The LMS will keep track of course progress for you, so you can leave and come back at any time.

RCORP Guidance Modules

Thank you for your efforts to assist your community in responding to overdose and preventing harm related to opioid and other substance use. These guidance modules present you with tools to efficiently achieve your goals. Consider these e-learning modules to be helpful adjuncts to the orientation and technical assistance materials you may have already received. Brief video clips from subject matter experts and current and former RCORP grantees are an added bonus. **Feel free to come and go as you need—you are not being graded and do not need to approach the modules in order.** Enjoy.

New!

A **Certificate of Completion** is now available upon completion of each module. Available courses are listed below with descriptions.

The National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network

3RNET - State Level Resource for Employers and Professionals

Post Jobs, Get Referrals, Hire & Inspire



[WHY APPLY?](#)



[APPLY TO POST JOBS NOW](#)



3RNET+TOOLS
Powerful. Yet Simple.

- [JOB POSTING](#)
- [JOB SEARCH](#)
- [JOB REFERRALS](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

[3RNET PLUS TOOLS](#)

People Who Can Help
You have questions, we have people with answers.



[3RNET NETWORK COORDINATORS](#)



[J-1 VISA WAIVER CONTACTS](#)



[CONTACT 3RNET](#)

Education
We get it, recruiting can be tough. Fortunately, we've been working this since 1995 (we're vintage!). We offer both in-person and virtual education to make your life easier.



3RNET Academy

[3RNET ACADEMY](#)



Employer's Guide to Workforce Programs

[EMPLOYER'S GUIDE TO WORKFORCE PROGRAMS](#)



Community Based Training

[COMMUNITY BASED TRAINING](#)

REGISTER PROFESSIONAL REGISTER EMPLOYER LOGIN

FOR PROFESSIONALS FOR EMPLOYERS

Your new career starts here

Profession/Specialty Select States [SEARCH](#)

[Filter Search](#)

Finding Jobs With 3RNET is As Easy As

- 1 Search for jobs by profession or location in all 50 states.
- 2 Register for FREE to get full access to job details and notifications.
- 3 Get information on Loan Repayment Programs, J-1 Visa waivers, and more.

[REGISTER FOR FREE](#)

<https://www.3rnet.org/>

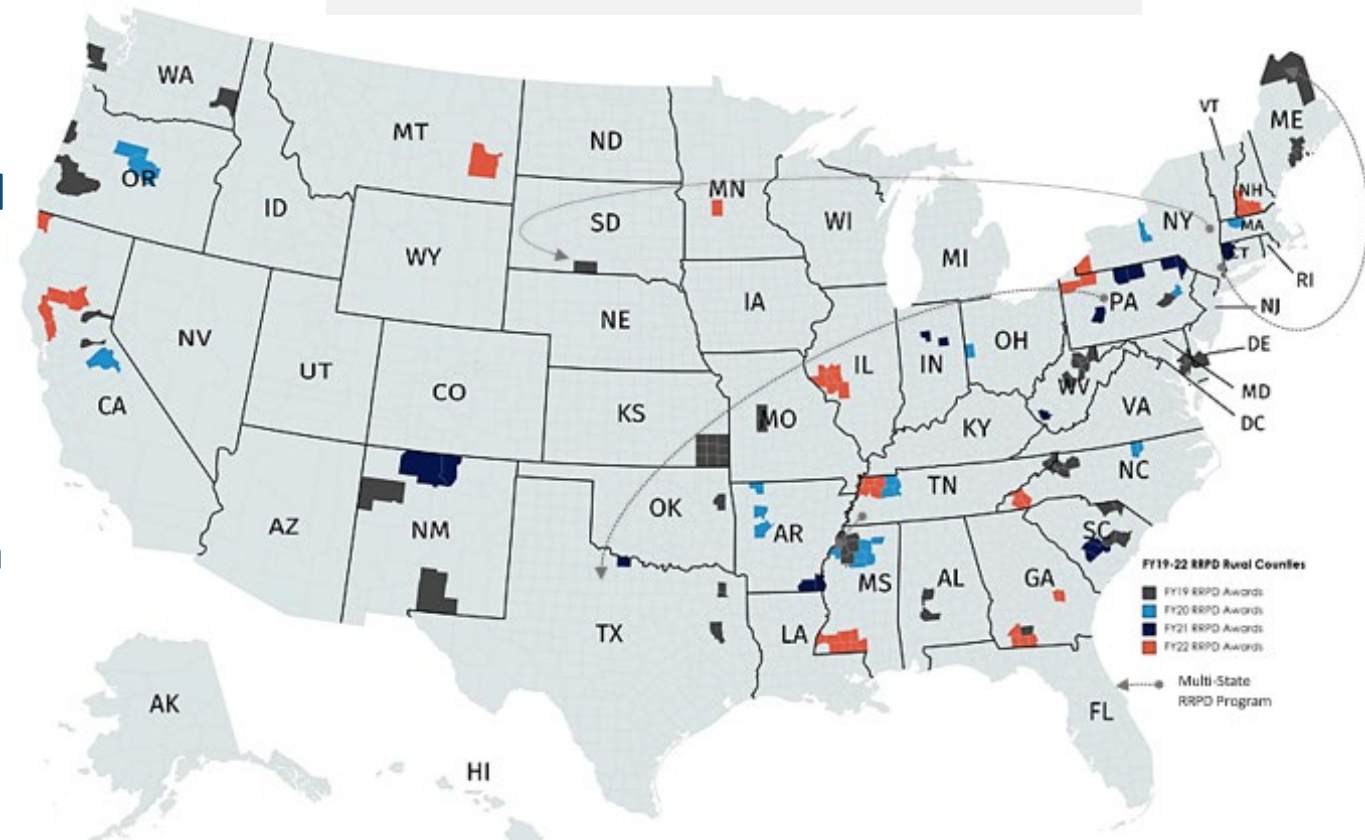
Rural Residency Planning & Development (RRPD) Program

Creating Sustainable Rural Residencies

FY19-FY22 RRPD Grant Program

- HRSA awarded **\$43.4M** to 58 award recipients spanning across 32 states and 5 medicine disciplines.
- Support the development of **new, accredited and sustainable rural residency programs** in family medicine, internal medicine, psychiatry, general surgery, preventive medicine, and obstetrics and gynecology.
- Created **39 new accredited rural residency programs for 524 new resident positions*** in family medicine, psychiatry, internal medicine and general surgery.
- 22 Programs enrolled nearly **190 resident physicians** training in rural clinical settings

FY19-22 RRPD Rural Counties



* As of May 2023

Rural Residency Development Technical Assistance

The screenshot displays the RuralGME.org website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the RuralGME.org logo and links for HOME, REGIONAL HUBS, PUBLICATIONS, VIDEOS, and PORTAL. The PORTAL link is circled in orange. Below the navigation bar is a large image of a rural landscape at sunset. Overlaid on this image is a dark box with the text "RURAL RESIDENCY RESOURCES" and "If you would like to access our portal containing resources for developing rural residencies, please use the link below to register online." Below this text is a green "REGISTER" button. In the bottom right corner of the screenshot, there is a smaller inset showing a registration form with fields for First Name, Last Name, E-Mail Address, Institution/Employer, and Zip Code. It also includes a section for "What is your interest in our Portal?" with checkboxes for "Starting a program", "Improving a program", "Helping other institutions start programs", and "Other". There are also fields for "What is your professional role?" and "How did you hear about RuralGME?". At the bottom of the form, it says "Please enter the following characters in the input below:" followed by a box containing the characters "LT2P".

- Rural GME development resources and tools available via the [RuralGME.org](https://portal.ruralgme.org) portal
- To register for free access to portal resources, visit: <https://portal.ruralgme.org/register>

Rural Telementoring Training Center

Technical Assistance and Evaluation Program



- National resources to implement and evaluate telementoring programs
- To request training and technical assistance:
<https://ruraltelementoring.org/interest/>

Health Policy and Research

Accessible and Through a Rural Lens

Questions about
Policy Updates?

Write to ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov

RHIhub
Rural Health Information Hub

www.ruralhealthinfo.org

Online Library - Topics & States - Rural Data Visualizations - Case Studies & Conversations - Tools for Success -

Your First Stop for Rural Health Information

Get Rural Updates & Alerts

Find Rural Data

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

[Rural Response to COVID-19](#)
Key federal and state resources to address COVID-19.

Exploring Rural Health Podcast

Sign-up to receive our [weekly newsletter](#).

The [Rural Data Explorer](#) and [Chart Gallery](#) provide access to

Check out [Insights on Educating the Rural](#)

Rural Health Research Gateway

www.ruralhealthresearch.org

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WEBINAR

Rural-Urban Differences in Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences

March 15, 2022
9:00 AM/PT | 10:00 AM/MT
11:00 AM/CT | 12:00 PM/ET

RURAL & MINORITY Health Research Center

Rural Health Research Gateway

Learn More About Upcoming Webinar

Rural Health Research Gateway

The Rural Health Research Gateway provides easy and timely access to research conducted by the Rural Health Research Centers, funded by the [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy](#). Gateway efficiently puts new findings and information in the hands of our subscribers, including policymakers, educators, public health employees, hospital staff, and more.

- [Gateway flyer](#)
- [Popular rural health products and topics . 2020-2021](#)
- [Learn more](#)



Announcements from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy



July 15, 2021

What's New

[HHS Boosts Funding for COVID-19 Response in Rural Areas.](#) On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) announced \$398 Million for COVID-19 testing and mitigation. The funds will be distributed by State Offices of Rural Health to 1,540 rural hospitals through the [Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program](#).

[One Month Left to Enroll in, or Change, Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage.](#) Last week, HHS released a report on current [trends and challenges to accessing affordable health care in rural America](#). Analysts found that, although uninsured rates have fallen in rural areas, other barriers to care such as geographic distances, infrastructure limitations, and provider shortages contribute to rural health disparities. The report comes one month before the special enrollment period [for qualified individuals and families](#) ends on August 15. As noted in the HHS brief, 65 percent of the 1.9 million rural uninsured individuals in [HealthCare.gov states](#) may be able to find a zero-premium plan on the platform.

[NOSORH Accepting 2021 Community Star Nominations.](#) The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) seeks nominations until August 2 of individuals, organizations, or consortia making a big difference in the health of rural communities.

COVID-19 Resources

[Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Distribution \(RHCVD\) Program.](#) Under the program, Medicare-certified RHCs will receive direct COVID-19 vaccines in addition to their normal jurisdictions' weekly allocation. Contact RHCvaxDistribution@hrsa.gov for more information.



HHS Telehealth Resources

Telehealth.HHS.gov

<https://telehealth.hhs.gov/>

Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

<https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/topics/telehealth>

Telehealth Centers of Excellence

<https://telehealthcoe.org/>

Telehealth Resource Centers

<https://www.telehealthresourcecenter.org/>

ProviderBridge

<https://www.providerbridge.org/>

Multi-Discipline Licensure Resource Project

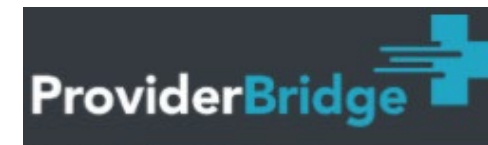
<https://licensureproject.org/>



TELEHEALTH.HHS.GOV



Telehealth Centers of Excellence



Leveraging the Appropriate Programs

FORHP Grants Target Specific Areas of Concern



Building Capacity

These programs focus on developing a collaborative plan to address community need by bringing together partners and/or engaging in community planning.

- Rural Health Network Development Planning Program
- Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program
- Rural Northern Border Region Planning Program
- Rural Community Opioids Response Program



Expanding Services

These programs expand access to and improve the quality of health care in rural communities.

- Rural Health Outreach Services Program
- Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Medication Assisted Treatment Expansion
- Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Implementation



Supporting Hospitals

These programs provide technical assistance and/or support to rural hospitals.

- Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project
- Small Rural Hospital improvement Program
- Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program
- Rural Health Outreach Services and Network Development
- Rural Network Planning



Providing Direct Services

These programs directly improve upon the delivery of health care services and improve population health.

- Rural Health Care Services Outreach
- Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement
- Delta States Rural Development Network
- Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program
- Rural Care Coordination
- Rural Community Opioids Response Programs

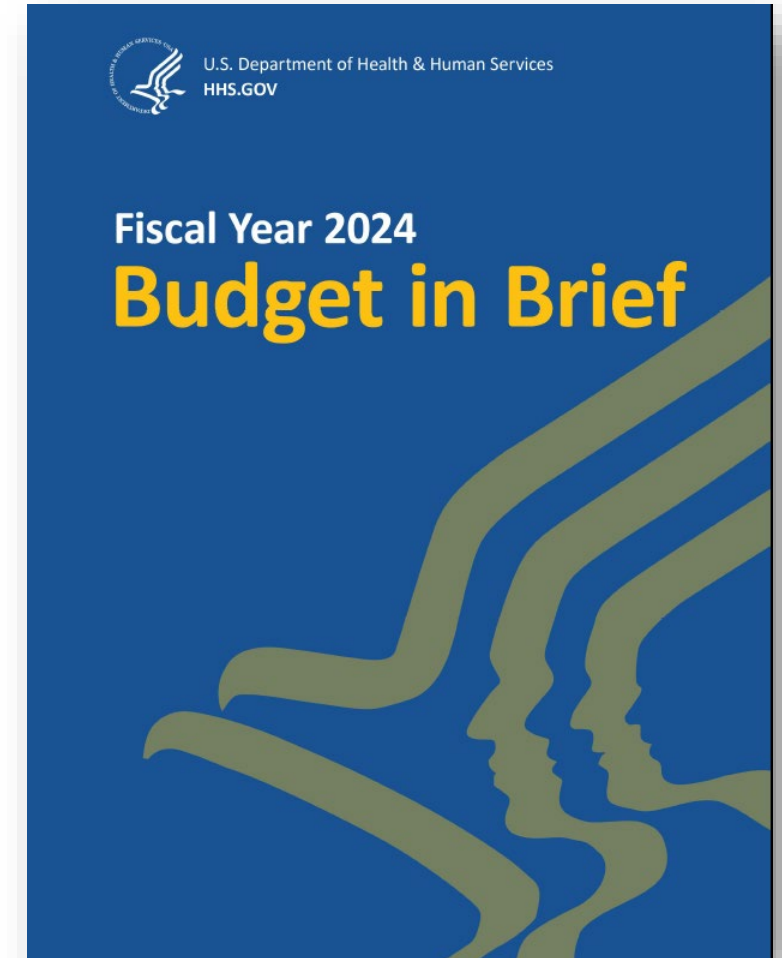
New Proposals for 2024

From the Administration's Budget

The Budget provides **\$415.9 million**, an increase of **\$63.4 million**, to expand access and improve health care in rural communities

- **+\$10 million** for the **Rural Health Clinic Behavioral Health Initiative** to expand access to behavioral health care services
- **+\$10 million** for **Financial and Community Sustainability for At-Risk Rural Hospitals** to provide expert technical assistance to rural hospitals severely at-risk for imminent closure
- **+\$20 million** for the **Rural Service Lines Pilot** to enhance or expand service lines to support people where they live
- **+\$20 million** for the **Rural Communities Opioid Response Program**

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/budget/fy2024/index.html>



HRSA Needs Your Help!

- Consider Being a Grant Reviewer
- Ensures We Get the Rural Perspective
- Provides a good insight into the grants process
- Key Steps:
 - Once registered not rural as your area of expertise
 - Let us know when you are in the database (so we can select you)
 - ✓ Email Lisa Chechile at lchechile@hrsa.gov



The screenshot shows the HRSA website navigation bar with a search box and dropdown menus for Grants, Loans & Scholarships, Data Warehouse, Training & TA Hub, and About HRSA. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Grants > How to Become a Grant Reviewer'. The main heading is 'How to Become a Grant Reviewer'. An alert box contains the following text: 'Alert: Because of our efforts to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19), we may adjust the timelines of our previously-scheduled Objective Review Committees. We appreciate your understanding and continued commitment to the HRSA objective review process. We hope you and your families are safe and continue to stay safe. Thank you.' Below the alert, the text states: 'If you have expertise in certain subjects, you may be able to evaluate grant applications.' The section 'How do we choose reviewers?' explains that reviewers are chosen based on knowledge, education, and experience, and also based on specific criteria in the HRSA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The section 'How can you apply to become a grant reviewer?' instructs users to register via the 'Reviewer Recruitment Module (RRM)' if they have expertise in health care. A list of areas of expertise includes: Health workforce training, HIV/AIDS, Maternal and child health, Organ transplantation, Primary care for underserved people, and Rural health. A note at the bottom states: 'Note: We particularly want reviewers who have expertise in social, cultural, or health care issues of people in rural areas, migrants, or'.

<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/reviewers>



FORHP Weekly Announcements

Focus on ...

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

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Announcements from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

January 12, 2022

What's New

Ending Sunday: Open Enrollment for Health Insurance. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has a collection of tools for helping individuals and families get health insurance during the Marketplace Open Enrollment period, **November 1, 2022 through January 15, 2023**. Graphics, social media messages, and customizable posters and fact sheets, are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. Marketplace plans are an important source of coverage for people in rural areas, who represent [approximately 15 percent of Marketplace enrollees in states using HealthCare.gov](#).

New Awards to Train Doctors in Underserved Areas. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded the first round of Medicare-funded residency slots to 100 teaching hospitals across 30 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, effective July 1, 2023. The graduate medical education slots prioritize hospitals located in [Health Professional Shortage Areas](#), and the majority are allocated for primary care – including obstetrics/gynecology – and mental health specialties. CMS is set to create 200 new positions every year over the next five years. The application period for the second round of 200 residency slots will open in January 2023 and close on March 31, 2023.

Finding Doctors Offering Medicare-Paid Telehealth. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) added a telehealth indicator on [Medicare Care Compare](#), the site that allows consumers to search for doctors, clinicians, groups, and facilities accepting Medicare beneficiaries. Last year, CMS reported [a 30-fold increase in telehealth services](#). The new indicator helps beneficiaries and caregivers more easily find clinicians who provide telehealth services.

Extended: HHS Seeks Feedback on Tribal Consultation Policy – New Deadline, January 27. HHS extended the deadline for submitting comments on the updated draft HHS Tribal Consultation Policy to January 27, 2023. The updated draft addresses comments and



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Rural Health Questions?

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Walk Away with a Takeaway!

What is one thing you
learned during this
session?

