



# Roundtable Discussion: Rural Health Care Facilities

Samantha Scotti, Project Manager,  
NCSL Health Program

Rural Health Roundtable— Western States

May 19, 2023

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



# Agenda

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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.



# 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

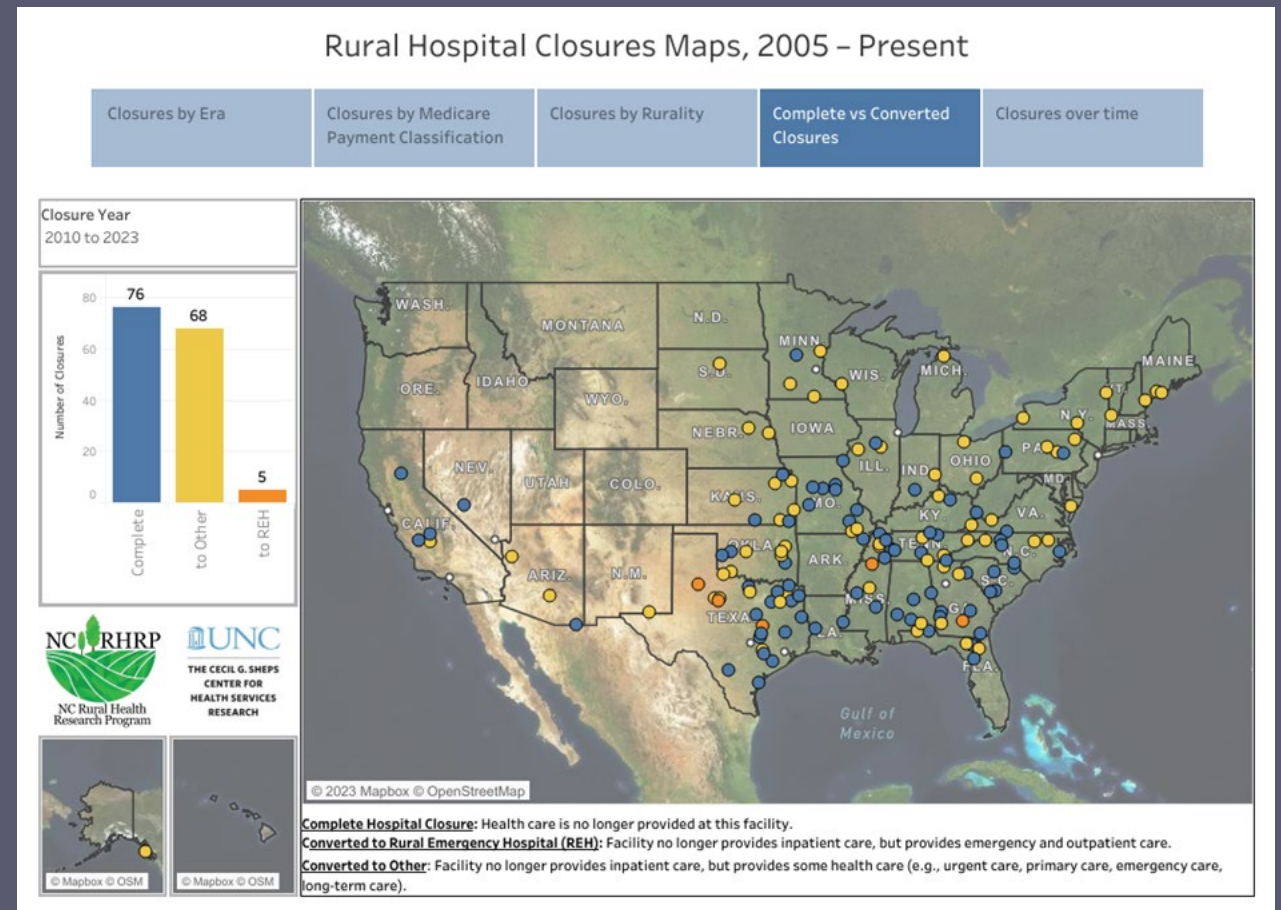
B.  
149

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

# 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

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### 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

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### 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

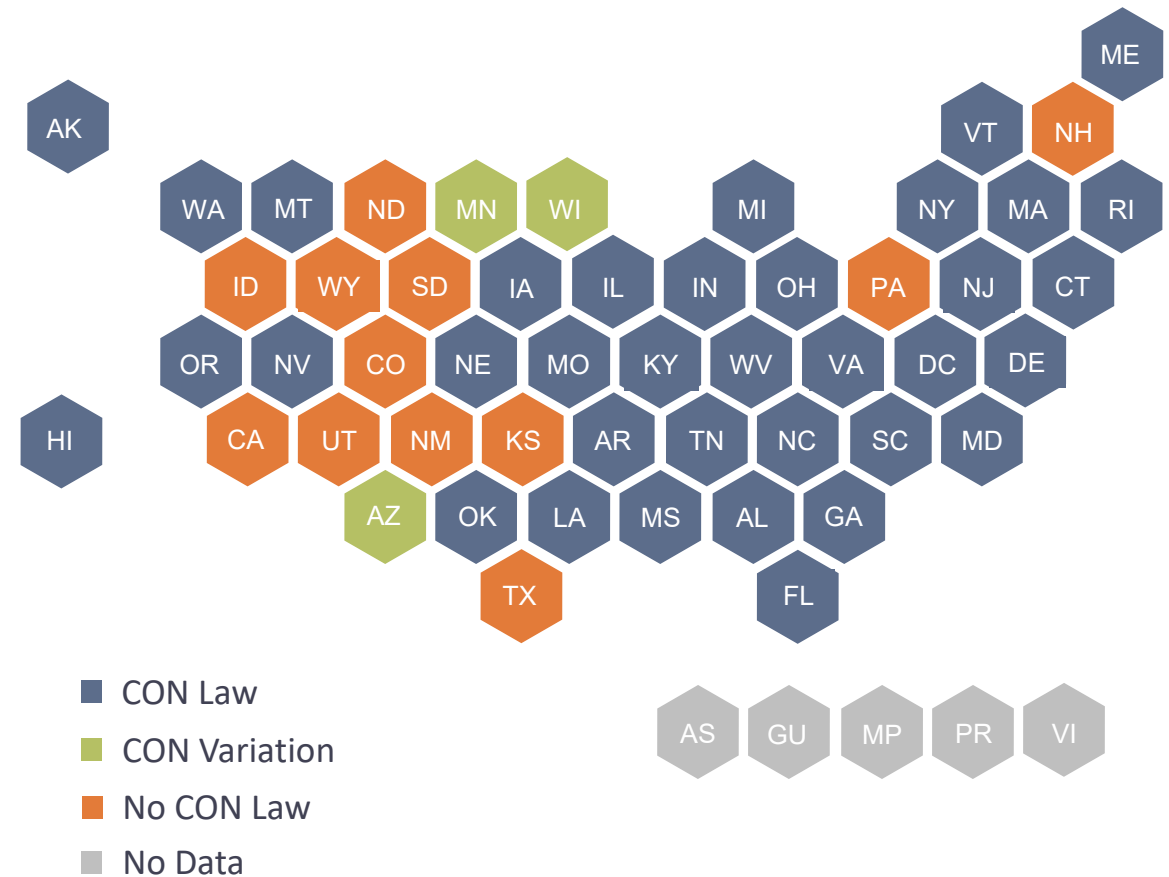
C) 36

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!**

[Kevin.Davenport@ncsl.org](mailto:Kevin.Davenport@ncsl.org)

(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**



# HRSA Improves Health Outcomes and Addresses Health Disparities in Rural Communities

- **More than 7,400 providers** serving in a rural community, which includes **nearly 3,100 rural primary care clinicians, more than 3,700 rural mental/behavioral health clinicians, and more than 600 rural dental clinicians.**
- **Over 1,800 rural health clinics, critical access and small hospitals** participated in the Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing Supply Program and conducted more than **20 million COVID-19 tests.**
- **1 in 5 rural residents** rely on HRSA-funded health centers for care.
- **Over 400,000 unique individuals** gain access to high-quality health care through Rural Health Outreach programs.



# 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

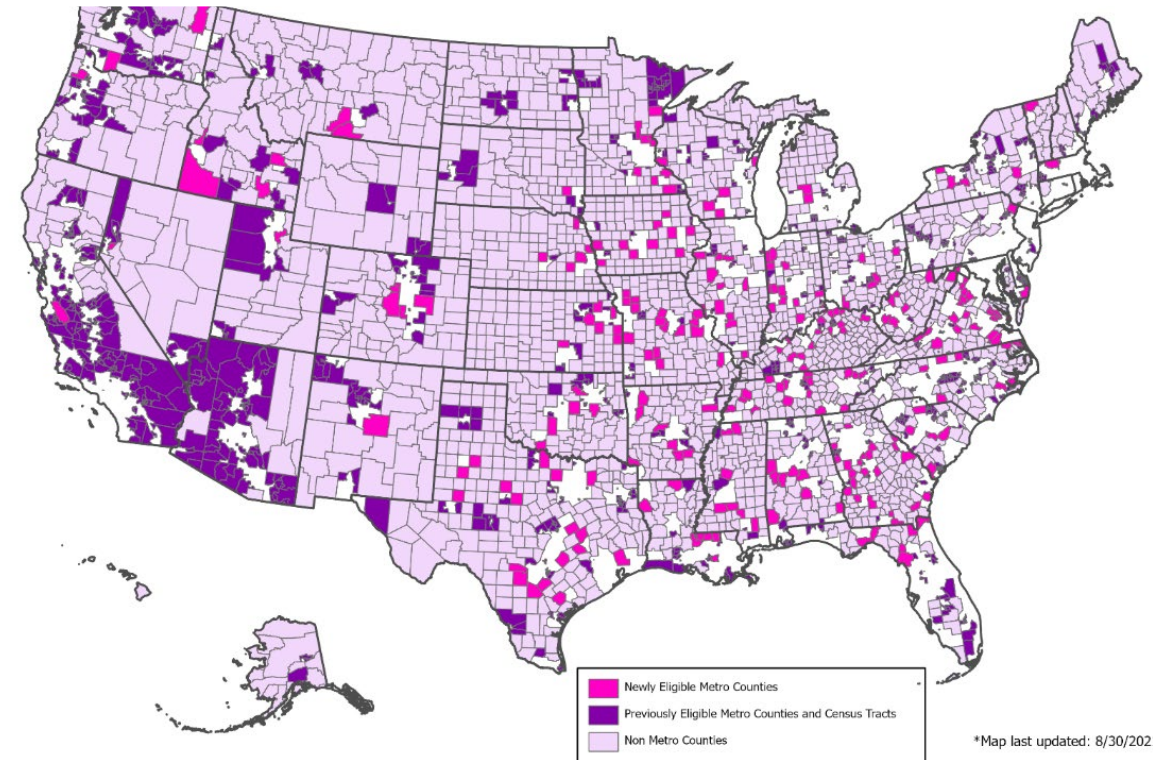
Works across HRSA, HHS, and several other federal partners to accomplish its goals

## 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



# 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



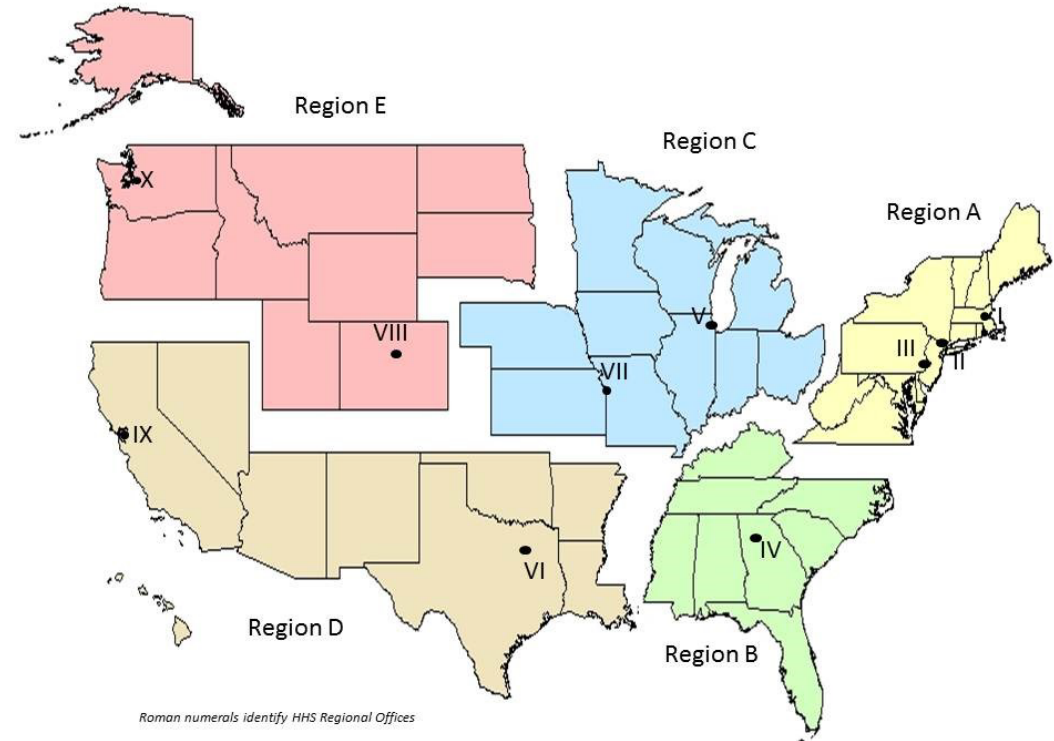
### Providing Direct Services

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

# 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/>



# 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)

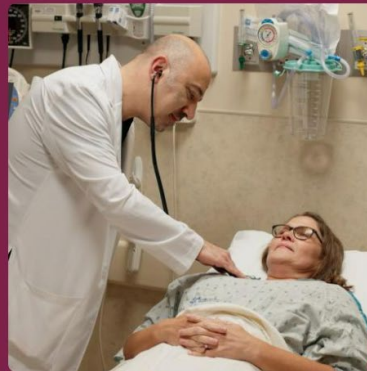
The "Learn. Understand. Decide." campaign, translated into Spanish, provides straightforward facts and addresses COVID-19 related myths and concerns that targeted members of your rural community may share.

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>



# 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](mailto:REHSupport@rhrco.org)

#### Supplemental Funding for State Flex Programs

- Outreach and broad education

#### Supplement to HRSA partners

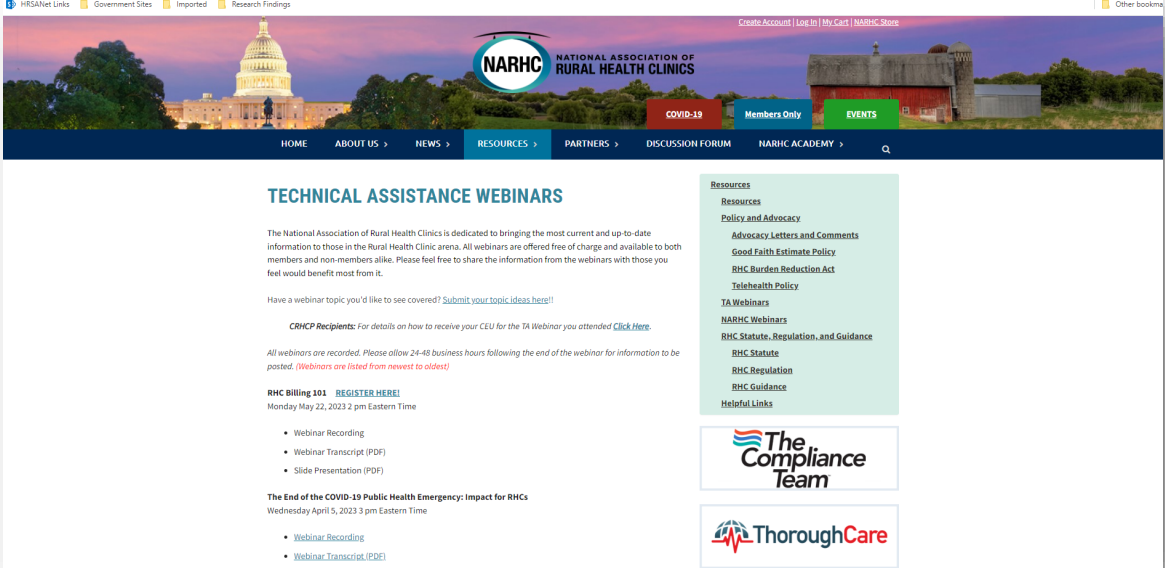
- National Conference of State Legislators:
  - Tracking state activity on establishing laws on REH licensure:  
<https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/rural-emergency-hospitals.aspx>
- National Academy for State Health Policy
  - Developing model licensing language
  - <https://www.nashp.org/medicares-new-rural-emergency-hospital-designation-considerations-for-s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



# 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](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)



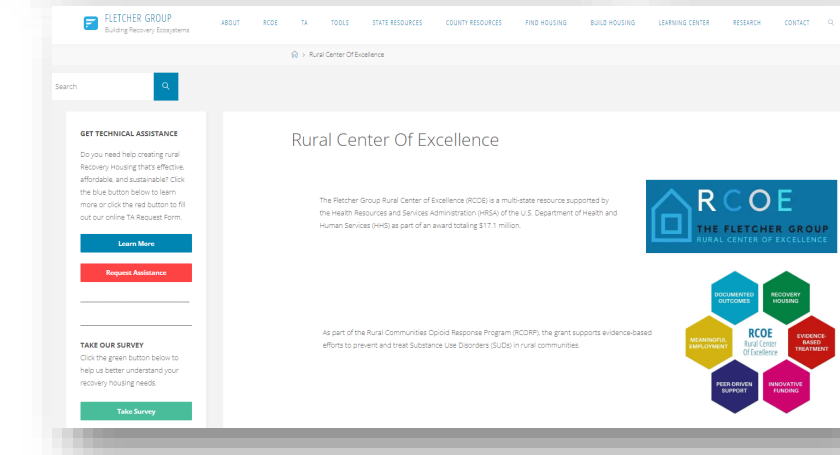
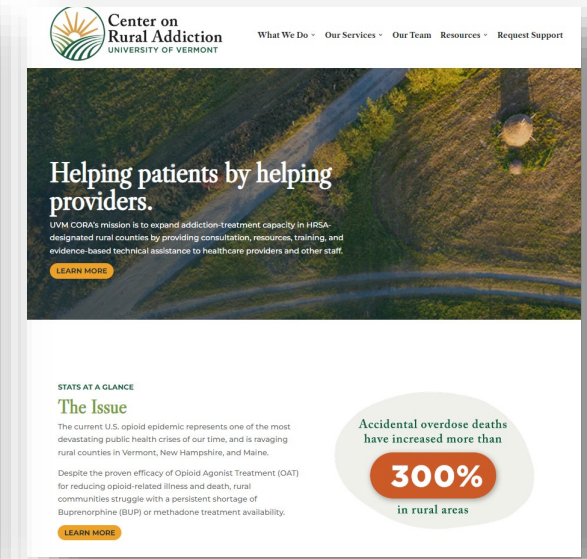
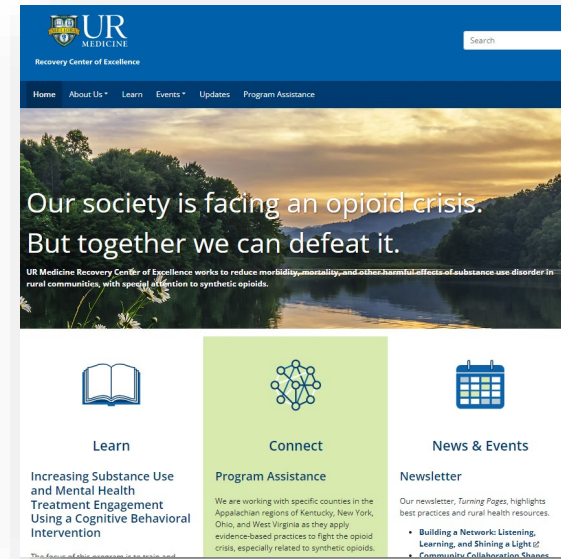
The screenshot shows the NARHC website's 'TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINARS' page. The header includes the NARHC logo and navigation links for HOME, ABOUT US, NEWS, RESOURCES, PARTNERS, DISCUSSION FORUM, and NARHC ACADEMY. The main content area features a section for 'TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINARS' with 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 'RHC Billing 101' with a 'REGISTER HERE' button and a list of resources: Webinar Recording, Webinar Transcript (PDF), and Slide Presentation (PDF). Below this, there is a section for '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. At the bottom right, there are logos for 'The Compliance Team' and 'ThoroughCare'.

- [https://www.narhc.org/narhc/TA\\_Webinars1.asp](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

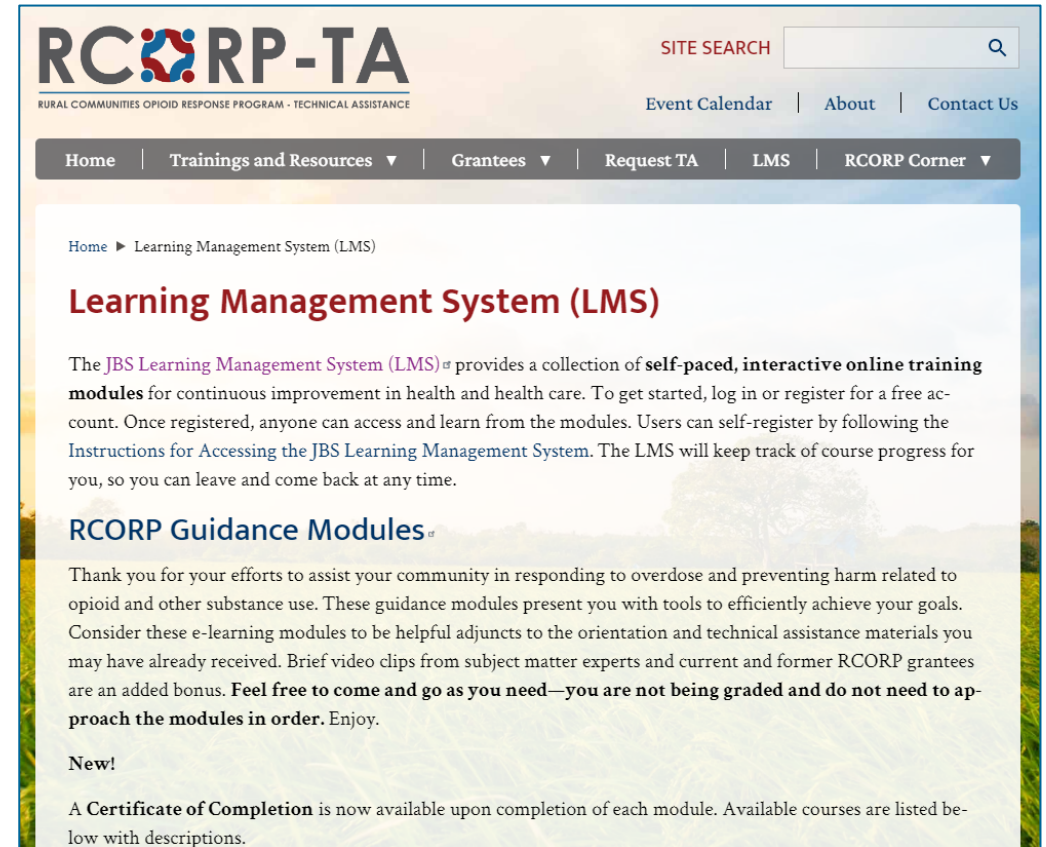
## Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Technical Assistance

### 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

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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](#)

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**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/>

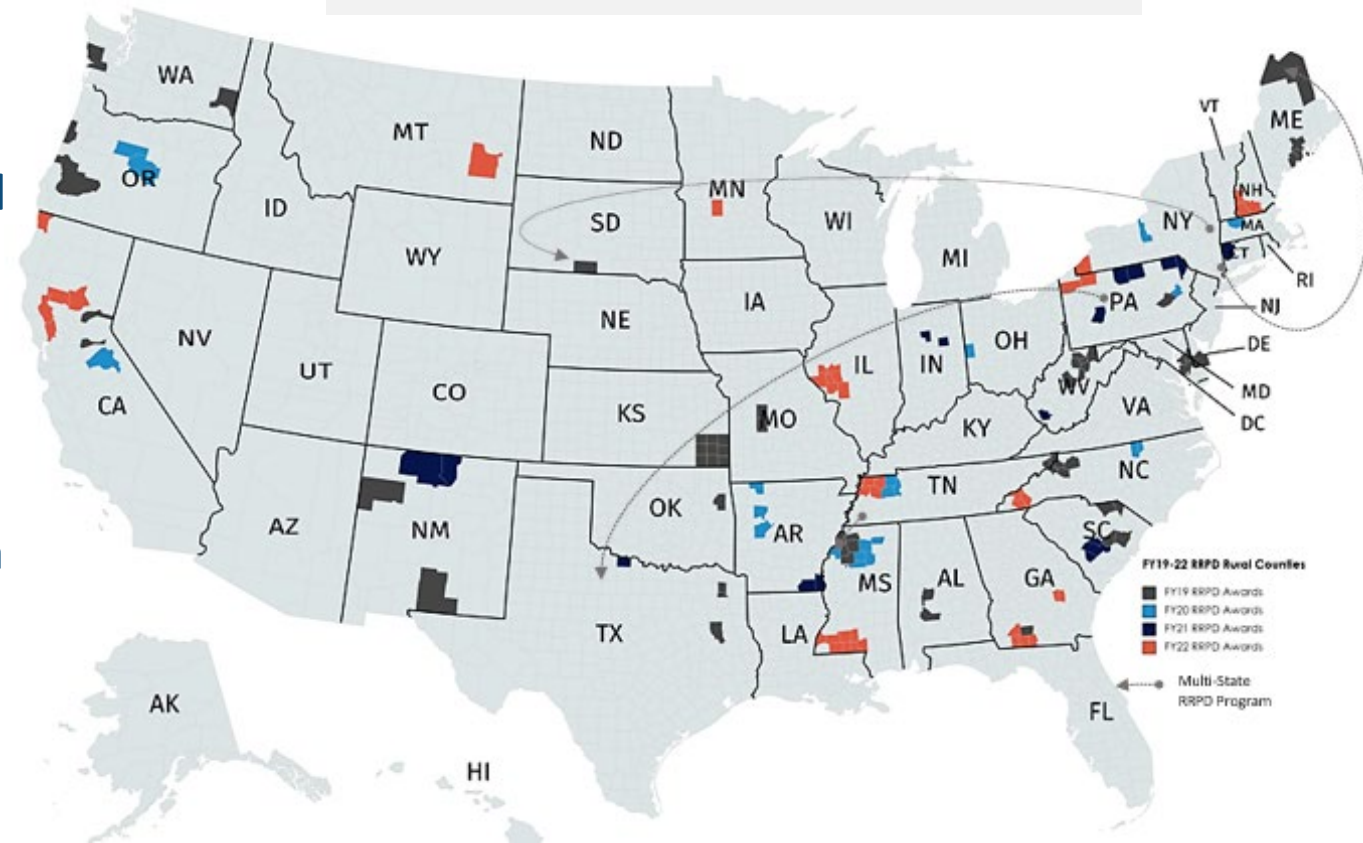
# Rural Residency Planning & Development (RRPD) Program

## 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 is a "Please specify" field, a "What is your professional role?" field, and a "How did you hear about RuralGME?" field. 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](mailto:ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov)

**RHIhub**  
Rural Health Information Hub

[www.ruralhealthinfo.org](http://www.ruralhealthinfo.org)

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Your First Stop for Rural Health Information

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

Exploring Rural Health Podcast

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

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

**Rural Health Research Gateway**

[www.ruralhealthresearch.org](http://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

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Rural Health Research Gateway

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- [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](mailto:RHCvaxDistribution@hrsa.gov) for more information.





# Telehealth.HHS.gov

Telehealth.HHS.gov is a trusted, timely, and one-stop resource for patients, providers, and researchers for everything they need to know about telehealth including:

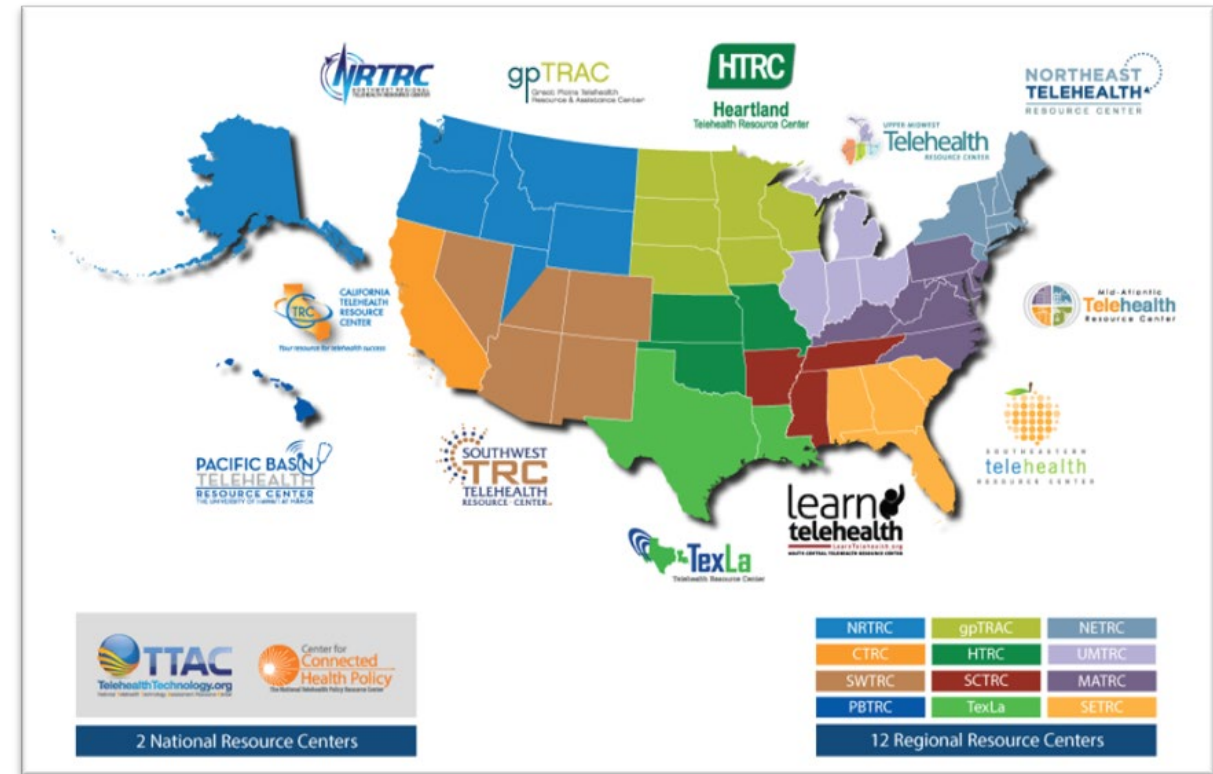
- Best practice guides
- Licensure
- Policies
- Research
- Funding opportunities
- Events
- Tip sheets
- Videos



# Telehealth Resource Center Program

The Telehealth Resource Center Program (TRC) supports the delivery of telehealth technical assistance.

- National Policy Telehealth Resource Center
- National Technology Telehealth Resource Center
- 12 Regional Telehealth Resource Centers



In 2022, TRCs had over **6,000 technical assistance** inquiries.



# 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**



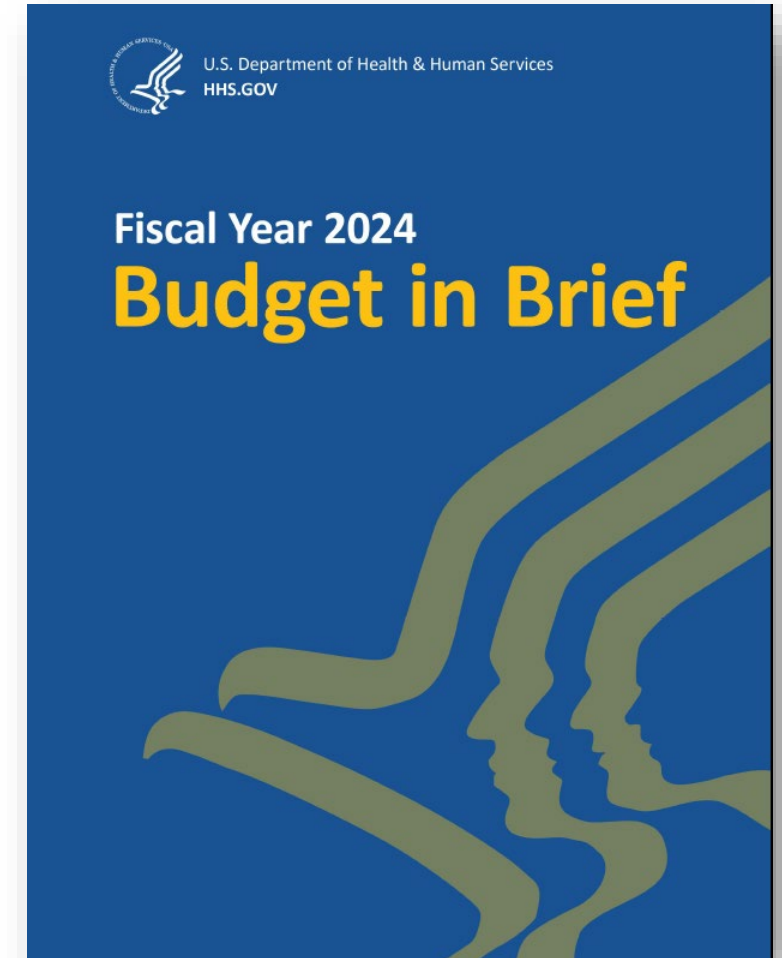
# New Proposals for 2024

## 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](mailto:lchechile@hrsa.gov)



The screenshot shows the HRSA website with a navigation menu including 'Grants', 'Loans & Scholarships', 'Data Warehouse', 'Training & TA Hub', and 'About HRSA'. The main content area is titled 'How to Become a Grant Reviewer' and features an 'Alert' box with information about COVID-19 adjustments to review timelines. Below the alert, there are sections for 'How do we choose reviewers?' and 'How can you apply to become a grant reviewer?' with a list of expertise areas.

**HRSA**  
Health Resources & Services Administration

Home > Grants > How to Become a Grant Reviewer

## How to Become a Grant Reviewer

**i 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.

If you have expertise in certain subjects, you may be able to evaluate grant applications.

### How do we choose reviewers?

We choose reviewers based on their knowledge, education, and experience. We also select them based on specific criteria in the HRSA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

### How can you apply to become a grant reviewer?

If you work, or have experience, in health care, register via our [Reviewer Recruitment Module \(RRM\)](#). We look for people with expertise in one of the following areas:

- Health workforce training
- HIV/AIDS
- Maternal and child health
- Organ transplantation
- Primary care for underserved people
- Rural health

**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

To sign up:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/HRSA/subscriber/new?qsp=HRSA-subscribe>



## 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



# Connect with HRSA

Learn more about our agency at:  
[www.HRSA.gov](http://www.HRSA.gov)

Rural Health Questions?

Email [RuralPolicy@HRSA.gov](mailto:RuralPolicy@HRSA.gov)



[Sign up for the HRSA eNews](#)

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# Walk Away with a Takeaway!

What is one thing you  
learned during this  
session?

