

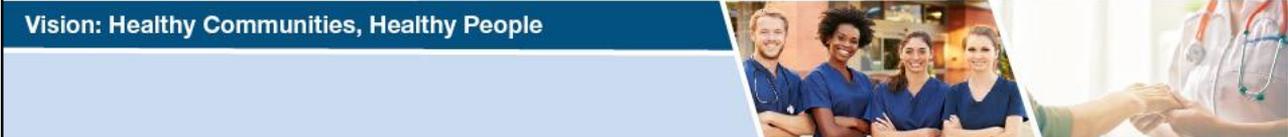


# Illinois Small and Rural Hospital Conference

## Federal Resources to Support Rural Hospitals

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

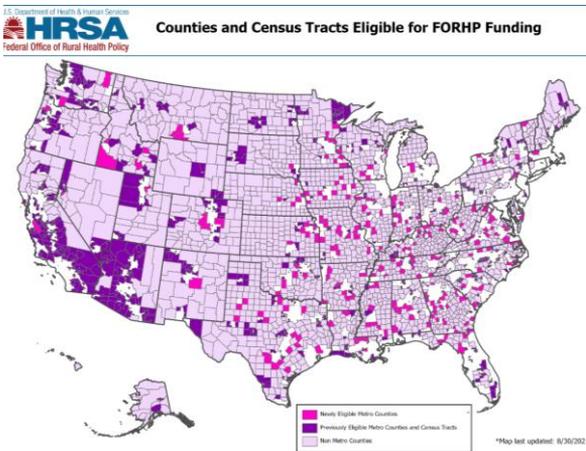
**Tom Morris**  
**Associate Administrator**  
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy



# The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

[Authority: 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



# The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

## Key Program Activity Areas



### Community-Based Efforts

Rural Health Outreach Authority:

- Supports Capacity Building Efforts and Pilots (RMOMs, Healthy Rural Hometowns)
- Public Health Programs
  - Black Lung, Radiation Screening



### Hospital Efforts

The Rural Hospital Flexibility and Small Hospital Improvement Programs

Done in partnership with States

Targeted Hospital Assistance

- Delta Systems Initiative
- Transition to Value
- Small Vulnerable Rural Hospital Program



### Policy & Research Efforts

Rural Health Research Centers to inform Office's Policy role

- Collaboration with AHRQ, CDC/NCHS
- Administer the Rural Residency Planning Grants
- Staff the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services
- Rural Health Information Hub



### Rural Community Opioids Response

Targeted community-based grants to target the opioid epidemic in rural areas

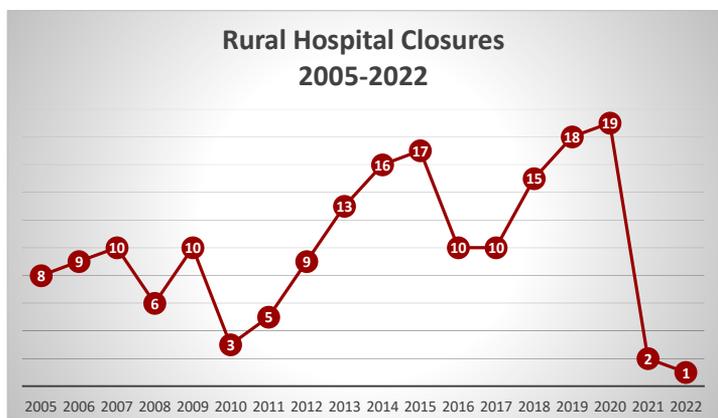
- Rural Opioid Epidemic Centers for Excellence
- Collaboration with HRSA partners, SAMHSA, CDC and NIDA



# Rural Health Policy Issues

## Rural Hospital Closures

- Hospital closures peaked in 2020 and dropped substantially in 2021
- Drop in closures coincides with release of federal COVID-19 funds
- Risk into the future as long-term pressures remain



<https://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/programs-projects/rural-health/rural-hospital-closures/>  
<https://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/publications/1484>



# Rural Health Policy Issues

## CMS rulemaking affecting rural hospitals

- Entering the busy part of this year’s Medicare rulemaking
- Key items we’re tracking:
  - Low-wage hospital adjustment (IPPS) and 5% Cap on Fluctuation
  - Rural Emergency Hospital proposed regulations (OPPS)
  - Medicare Residency Training
  - Proposed Maternal Designation
  - Looking Ahead to the Physician Fee Schedule



# Rural Health Policy Issues

## Ongoing Implementation of Medicare Graduate Medical Education Changes

### Promoting the Growth of Graduate Medical Education Programs



Sec. 126 Distribution of Additional Residency Positions



Sec. 127 Promoting Rural Hospital GME Funding Opportunity



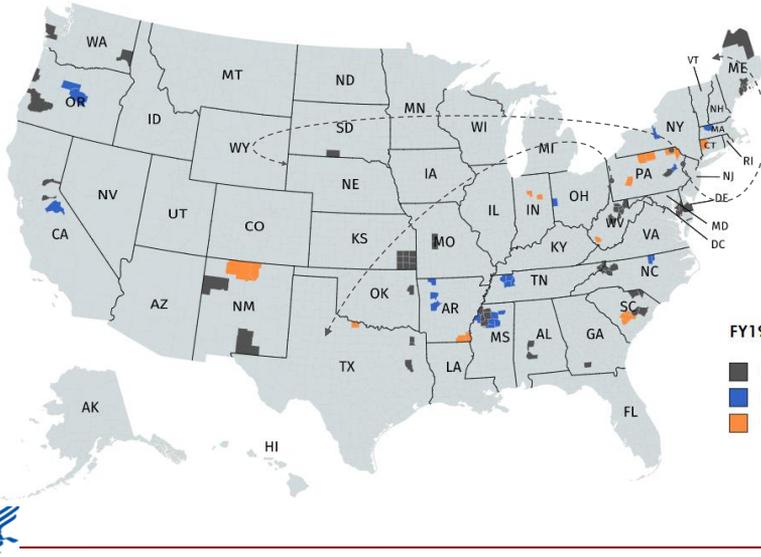
Sec. 131 New Medical Residency Training Programs after hosting Resident Rotators for Short Durations

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (H.R.133)  
<https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr133/BILLS-116hr133enr.pdf>



# Rural Health Policy Issues

## Creating New Rural Residency Programs in Rural Hospitals



- FY19-21 HRSA awarded **\$34M** to 45 award recipients spanning across 26 states and 4 medicine disciplines – **Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, and General Surgery.**
- A National TA Center, [RuralGME.org](http://RuralGME.org), provides technical assistance to RRPD awardees and limited TA resources to rural GME stakeholders.
- HRSA will be making awards in FY22 for a targeted program start date of 8/1/2022.

### FY19-21 RRPD Rural Counties

- FY19 RRPD Awards
- FY20 RRPD Awards
- FY21 RRPD Awards



# Rural Health Policy Issues

## Funding for Technical Assistance for the new Rural Emergency Hospital Designation

117TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT  
2d Session } 117-269

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE BILL (H.R. 2471) TO MEASURE THE PROGRESS OF POST-DISASTER RECOVERY AND EFFORTS TO ADDRESS CORRUPTION, GOVERNANCE, RULES OF LAW, AND MEDIA FREEDOMS IN HAITI; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE JOINT RESOLUTION (H.J. RES. 75) MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL (H.R. 4960) TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF ENERGY PRODUCTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL (H.R. 7007) MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

MARCH 9, 2022.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

**Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Program.**—The Committee includes \$10,000,000 within the total for Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants to establish the Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Program. This program will provide technical assistance from existing State Flexibility Programs and other stakeholders to assist facilities in the implementation of the new Rural Emergency Hospital model.

### Next Steps

- Helping rural communities assess the value of this model
- Increasing awareness of the model through State Offices of Rural Health
- Helping states develop appropriate license standards



# Support for Rural Hospitals & Clinics

## Grants and Technical Assistance



### Ongoing Support

- Flex, SHIP, RHC TA
- Research Policy Analysis, Flex Monitoring Team

### Targeted Technical Assistance

- Focusing on “At-Risk” Facilities  
Delta Region Community Health Systems Project Vulnerable Rural Hospital Program

### Transition and Redesign

- HRSA
  - ✓ Rural Health Value, Rural Health Providers Transition Project
  - ✓ CMS and the Rural Emergency Hospital Designation



- <https://ruralhealthvalue.public-health.uiowa.edu/>
- <https://www.hrsa.gov/library/vulnerable-rural-hospital-assistance>
- <https://www.ruralcenter.org/rhpt>



# Key Administration Priorities with a Rural Focus

## Implications for Rural Health



### TRANSFORMING RURAL HEALTH IN AMERICA

More than 61 million Americans live in rural communities, and too often face challenges in access health care services. In addition, rural residents tend to be older and in poorer health than urban counterparts.

The budget requests \$374 million for Rural Health programs, which is \$43 million above FY 2022 enacted. These funds will provide grants to improve rural health care service delivery by strengthening health networks' quality of care and encouraging health care providers to remain in rural communities. In FY 2020, over 470,000 people were served by rural community programs.

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2023-budget-in-brief.pdf>



# Proposal for 2023: Behavioral Health

## Leveraging Rural Health Clinics

### FY2023 President's Budget

- **Rural Health Clinic Behavioral Health Initiative (\$10 million)**
  - "... to allow clinics in rural areas where there are no existing behavioral health providers to ...expand the availability of services such as mental health screenings, counseling and therapy."
- **Modernize Medicare Mental Health Benefits**
  - "Allow payment to Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers for Licensed Professional Counselors and Family Therapists providing mental health services."

### Aligning with the Statute, Regulations, and Guidance

- **Aligning behavioral health with the RHC statute and regulations**
  - Addressing definitions for treating mental health and providing specialty services
  - Leveraging flexibilities for telehealth that also RHCs to serve as distant sites (i.e., providers of service) for mental and behavioral health

### Aligning with Administration Priorities

- **The Administration's Push on Mental Health Services**
  - Identified as a priority both within the FY 23 Proposed Budget and within HHS
- **House and Senate**
  - 10 hearings to date in CY 22
  - Mark ups expected this summer



# Rural Behavioral Health Workforce

## Rural Residents have access to fewer Clinicians

### U.S. Counties without Behavioral Health Providers by Urban Influence Category

	Counties without a Psychiatrist (Percent)	Counties without a Psychologist (Percent)	Counties without a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (Percent)	Counties without a Social Worker (Percent)	Counties without a Counselor (Percent)	Counties without any Behavioral Health Provider (Percent)
<b>U.S. (3135 counties)</b>	1699 (54.2)	1076 (34.3)	1711 (54.6)	487 (15.5)	404 (12.9)	241 (7.7)
<b>Metropolitan (1164 counties)</b>	316 (27.1)	183 (15.7)	360 (30.9)	62 (5.3)	50 (4.3)	25 (2.1)
<b>Non-Metro (1971 counties)</b>	1383 (70.2)	893 (45.3)	1351 (68.5)	425 (21.6)	354 (18.0)	216 (11.0)
<b>Adjacent to metro (1023 counties)</b>	653 (63.8)	377 (36.9)	651 (63.6)	145 (14.2)	112 (10.9)	60 (5.9)
<b>Micro nonadjacent to metro (269 counties)</b>	137 (50.9)	74 (27.5)	123 (45.7)	38 (14.1)	30 (11.2)	21 (7.8)
<b>Noncore adjacent to metro (373 counties)</b>	337 (90.3)	254 (68.1)	319 (85.5)	135 (36.2)	114 (30.6)	70 (18.8)
<b>Noncore nonadjacent to metro or micro (306 counties)</b>	256 (83.7)	188 (61.4)	258 (84.3)	107 (35.0)	98 (32.0)	65 (21.2)

Data Sources: Psychiatrists (2019) - Area Health Resource File (AHRF), 2020-2021, Psychologists and psychiatric nurse practitioners (July 2021), social workers, and counselors (January 2022) - National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) National Provider Identifier (NPI) data, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS) Urban Influence Codes, 2013.



# Federal Workforce Support

Addressing rural workforce needs by tapping into other HRSA programs



**National Health Service Corps and Nurse Corps**  
support primary care and mental health providers  
**> 6,000 serve in rural communities**



**Pre-doctoral Training in General, Pediatric, and Public Health Dentistry and Dental Hygiene**  
improves oral health care for those with complex conditions and special health care needs



**Public Health Scholarships**  
\$39 Million available now with applications due June 1, 2022  
**Community Health Worker Training**  
\$226 million available now with applications due June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022



**Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention; Advanced Nursing Education Workforce Program; Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention and Nurse Practitioner Residencies:**  
A range of programs to support the training of nurses and broader nurse education needs.



**Area Health Education Centers Program**  
builds a pipeline of trainees with experience in rural and underserved areas



**Behavioral Health Workforce Development Programs**  
enhance training for professionals and paraprofessionals  
**52% gain experience in treating substance use disorders**



**Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program**  
trains in community-based outpatient settings  
**> 93% train in medically underserved or rural communities**

<https://bhw.hrsa.gov>



# Leveraging Federal Workforce Resources

HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce

## Steps to Consider

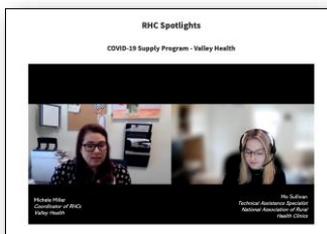
- Building links between academic partners and rural clinical sites
- Sign up for regular updates:  
✓ [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/HRSA/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=ENIEWS](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/HRSA/subscriber/new?topic_id=ENIEWS)



# FORHP Rural Health Clinic COVID Programs

## Vaccine Distribution & Confidence, COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation, Testing & Treatment

- RHCs Playing a Key Role in the Pandemic Response
- Consider enrolling in the HRSA program for direct access to vaccine and testing supplies
  - Includes Technical Assistance Support



[https://www.narhc.org/narhc/COVID-19\\_At-Home\\_Tests.asp#rhcspt](https://www.narhc.org/narhc/COVID-19_At-Home_Tests.asp#rhcspt)



<https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/rural-health-clinics>



# Opportunities for Rural Hospitals to Focus on Community Health

## Funding helps test new ideas

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) has supported:



The goal of rural community programs is to improve health service delivery by strengthening health networks and encourage collaboration among rural health care providers.

improving rural health outcomes through collaboration among rural health care providers.



### Direct Services

- Rural Health Care Services Outreach
- Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement
- Delta States Rural Development Network
- Pilot Programs



### Capacity-Building

- Rural Health Network Development
- Rural Health Network Development Planning
- Pilot Programs

Watch [Improving Rural Health Outcomes: Stories from the Field](#) to hear Grantee stories at RHIhub.



# Leveraging the Right Program

## Grants Target Specific Areas

### When You Have Only A General Sense of Need

Network Planning Program  
(One Year of Funding)

- Funding Can Help Bring Together Partners;
- Engage in Community Planning
- A Focus on Developing a Collaborative Plan to Address Community Need
- Examples: workforce retention; elder care, substance use services, chronic disease, oral health, strategic planning, etc.



### If Need is Clear and the Collaborative Partners Are Engaged

Rural Health Outreach Program  
(Four Years of Funding)

- Funding Can Be Used to Expand Services to Enhance Access
- Can Cover Initial Salary and Operational Costs, some equipment costs, training
- Examples: reducing avoidable re-admissions; triaging non-emergent care; community health workers or paramedic program development



### If Need is Clear and the Collaborative Partners Are Engaged

Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program  
(Four Years of Funding)

- Funding Can Be Used to Expand Services to Enhance Access
- Can Cover Initial Salary Costs; training for staff; case management, developing new care patterns
- Examples: Improved discharge planning, chronic disease management, etc.



### If Need is Clear and the Collaborative Partners Are Engaged

Network Planning Program  
(Four Years of Funding)

- Funding Can Be Used to Expand Services to Enhance Access
- Can Cover Initial Salary and equipment costs;
- Funding is on system and process improvement and less on direct services
- Example: Implementing value-based care processes



### If Need is Clear and the Collaborative Partners Are Engaged

Opioids Implementation Grant Program  
(Four Years of Funding)

- Funding Can Be Used to Expand Services to Enhance Access, Develop New Services, Build Capacity
- Can Cover Initial Salary Costs
- Recovery Services, Peer Support Counselors, Medication Assisted Treatment Services, Telehealth



# Community-Based Division Program Opportunities

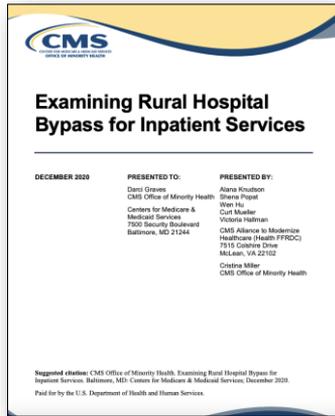
## Funding Forecast

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Rural Health Care Services Outreach*			NOFO Available Fall of 2024 Project Period Start 7/1/2025
Rural Health Network Development*	NOFO Available Summer 2022 Project Period Start 7/1/2023		
Rural Health Network Development Planning	NOFO Available Fall 2022 Project Period Start 7/1/2023	NOFO Available Fall 2023 Project Period Start 7/1/2024	NOFO Available Fall 2023 Project Period Start 7/1/2024
Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement*			
Delta States Rural Development Network*	NOFO Available Fall 2022 Project Period Start 8/1/2023		



# Rural Hospitals and Community Health

## Leveraging Rural Health Outreach Funding to Reduce bypass

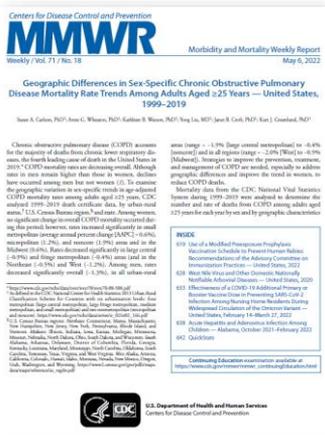


<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/ruralhospitalbypassfinalreport.pdf>



# Rural Community Health: Special Projects

## Expanding Access to Pulmonary Rehabilitation



### Supplemental Technical Assistance

FY 2021 investment of approximately \$1.9 million:

- 13 participating CAH – 7 Delta, 6 TASC
- Consultations & Coaching calls
- Learning Collaborative
- Workforce support
- Equipment funding available to hospitals in the Delta Region

### Existing Resources

RHIhub:

[Rural Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Toolkit](#)

National Rural Health Resource Center:

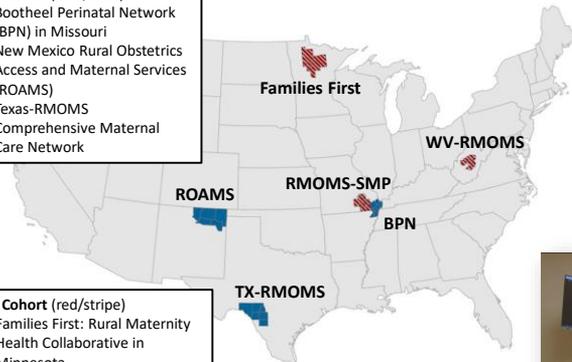
[Rural COPD Resources and Efforts](#)



# A New Approach for Rural Maternity Care

## Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program

- 2019 Cohort (blue/solid)**
- Bootheel Perinatal Network (BPN) in Missouri
  - New Mexico Rural Obstetrics Access and Maternal Services (ROAMS)
  - Texas-RMOMS Comprehensive Maternal Care Network



- 2021 Cohort (red/stripe)**
- Families First: Rural Maternity Health Collaborative in Minnesota
  - RMOMS-Southeast Missouri Partnership
  - West Virginia RMOMS

### Highlights from the 2019 Cohort's First Implementation Year

(September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021)

- Provided prenatal, labor and delivery, or postpartum care to 3,100 rural RMOMS participants
- Implemented telehealth, patient navigation, and direct service expansion initiatives to improve access to maternity care and support services



"The ROAMS program is an incredible grant that allows us to provide both telehealth medicine and rural outreach medicine to the obstetrical patients in our area."  
- ROAMS Clinician

"ROAMS has also afforded us the ability to do ultrasounds, which can be transmitted not only to the OB in Raton but to the high-risk fetal OB in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Española, without travel on the patient's part."  
- ROAMS Clinician

<https://roamsnm.org/>



# Rural Communities and Telehealth

## Expanded use of technology during pandemic but what's next?

- Pandemic-driven acceleration aided by reduction or regulatory barriers
- Elevation of the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth within HRSA
- Challenges and Opportunities with Broadband
- Technical Assistance Resources



<https://www.cchpca.org>



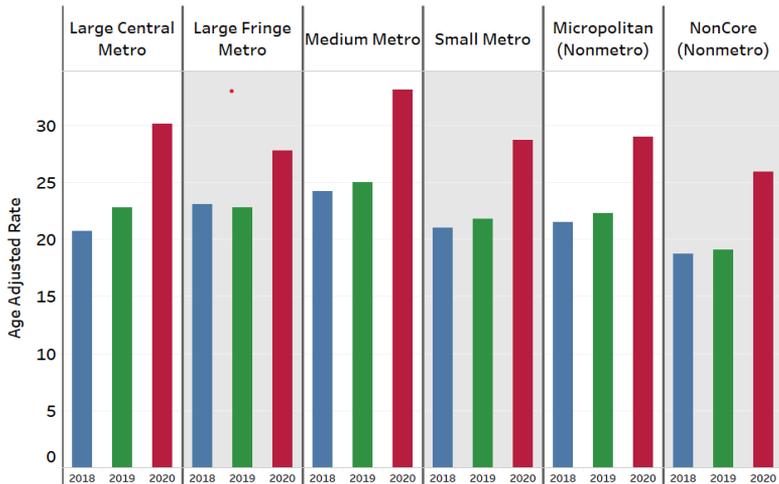
<https://telehealthresourcecenter.org/centers/upper-midwest-telehealth-resource-center/>





# The Implications of the Opioid Crisis on Rural Communities

## Age-Adjusted Death Rates of Drug-Related Overdose 2018-2020



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2020, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html> on Mar 8, 2022 12:55:57 PM



# Rural Health Resources

## Rural Community Opioids Response Program

### Capacity Building

- Previously funded Planning Grants to support networks of community partners
- Ensuring diverse cohorts that help build economies of scale in rural communities.

### Expanding Access and Building Infrastructure

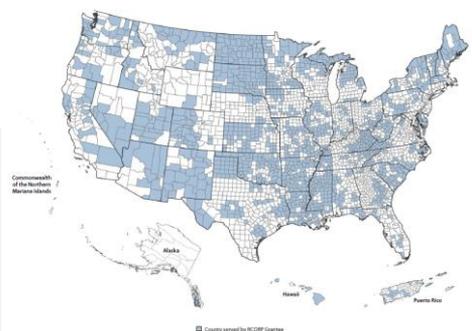
- Flexible funding to adapt to unique community needs.
- Focus on prevention and treatment.

### Targeted Approaches

- Medication Assisted Treatment
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Addressing Psycho-Stimulants
- BH Integration

### Centers of Excellence

- VT: Evidence-based practices
- Fletcher: Supporting Recovery Housing Efforts
- Rochester: Synthetic Opioid Overdose Mortality



RCORP – Opioid focused

SUD more broadly

Behavioral Health



# Rural Strategic Initiatives Division Funding Opportunities

## Funding Forecast (Grants)

	FY 2023	FY 2024
RCORP-Rural Vulnerable Population Support (Proposed)	NOFO available Fall 2022 Project Start Date: 9/1/2023	
RCORP-Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (Proposed)	NOFO available Fall/Winter 2022 Project Start Date: 9/1/2023	
RCORP-Youth and Adolescent Support (Proposed)	NOFO available Winter 2022/3 Project Start Date: 9/1/2023	
RCORP-Rapid Overdose Response	NOFO available Fall 2022 Project Start Date: 9/1/2023	NOFO available Fall 2023 Project Start Date: 9/1/2024
Implementation Awards (Proposed)	NOFO available Winter 2022/3 Project Start Date: 9/1/2023	NOFO available Winter 2023 Project Start Date: 9/1/2024



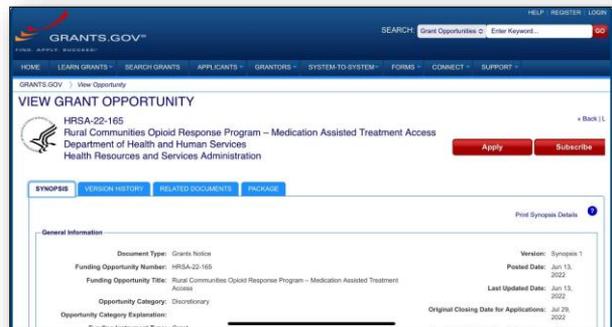
All programs contingent on FY23/4 appropriation/availability of funds



# Current Funding Opportunity

## New Funding to Support Medication Assisted Treatment

- **Purpose:** Establish new MAT access points and increase the capacity for sustainable MAT service provision in rural communities.
- Background: \$10 million in funding to support 10 awards
- NOFO released this week:
  - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=339574>.



# Behavioral Health Resources

## RCORP-Technical Assistance & RCORP-Rural Centers of Excellence

**Welcome to the RCORP-TA Resource Portal!**

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is a multi-year initiative by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in rural communities at the highest risk for SUD.

**Upcoming Events**

**Register Your Interest Now: Implementing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Practices in Health Care Settings- A New Learning Collaborative for RCORP Grantees**  
April 28, 2022 8:00 am–May 11, 2022 5:00 pm EDT

**HRSA Cancer Community Conversation: Advancing Equity in Cancer Prevention in Primary Care and Rural Health Settings**  
May 4, 2022

<https://www.rcorp-ta.org/>

**Center on Rural Addiction**  
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

What We Do | Our Services | Our Team | Resources

Request Support

<https://uvmcora.org/>

**GET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Do you need help creating rural Recovery Housing that's effective, affordable, and sustainable? Click the blue button below to learn more or click the red button to fill out our online TA Request Form.

**Learn More**

**Rural Center Of Excellence**

The Rescher Group Rural Center of Excellence (RCOE) is a multi-state resource supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$13.7 million.

<https://www.fletchergroup.org/rcoe/>

**Recovery Center of Excellence**

Home | Events | Learn | Updates | Program Assistance | About Us

<https://recoverycenterofexcellence.org/>



# Health Policy & Research

## Accessible and Through a Rural Lens

**Health Resources & Services Administration**

Get reimbursed for COVID-19 testing and treatment of uninsured individuals. [Learn more >](#)

**HRSA**  
Health Resources & Services Administration

FORHP Home | Find Funding | Resources | About Us

<https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health-policy> | Rural Health Policy

**Rural Health Policy**

**Regulatory Review**

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is charged in [Section 11101 of the Social Security Act](#) with advising the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the effect that federal health care policies and regulations may have on rural communities. Monitoring current and proposed changes, including programs established under the ACA and OIG, Medicare and Medicaid, FORHP analyzes their impact on the rural health care system, and on rural hospitals and clinics, in the policy of rural areas to attract health professionals, and on rural health care access to high quality care.

Data collection and analysis is essential to understanding the challenges in rural communities, how these communities are impacted by policy, and setting policy for the future. For this reason, the work of the [Rural Health Research Gateway](#) informs that of FORHP's policy team and vice versa.

**Policy Updates**

**April**

**ORIG Guidance to Reimburse Hospital Survey Activities** (PDF - 245 KB). As of March 23, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is offering the suspension on hospital survey activities and on-site data collection for the public health emergency. [View comments and questions.](#)

**Questions about Policy Updates?**

Write to [ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov](mailto:ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov)

**National Advisory Committee on Rural Health & Human Services**

**Nineteenth Meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services**

Monday, April 19, 2022

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Meeting Room 100

The National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services (NACRHHS) is the independent advisory body that provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on health care challenges in rural America. The committee is an independent advisory group appointed by a public law passed by the United States Congress.

**Chair:**  
Hon. Mark H. McClellan (R-VA)

**Vision, Mission, and Values**

**Member:** Hon. Tom Harkin (D-IA)

**Members:**  
Hon. Tom Harkin (D-IA)  
Hon. Mark H. McClellan (R-VA)  
Hon. Tom Harkin (D-IA)

<https://www.hrsa.gov/advisory-committees/rural-health/index.html>

**Rural Health Research Gateway**

[ruralhealthresearch.org](https://ruralhealthresearch.org)

The Rural Health Research Gateway is an online library of research and expertise. The website is free to use, searchable, and provides access to the work of the Rural Health Research Centers and Analysis Initiatives funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.

The Rural Health Research Center program is the only federal program that is dedicated entirely to providing policy-relevant research on healthcare in rural areas. The centers study critical issues facing rural communities in the quest to secure equitable, affordable, high-quality health services for rural residents.

**This online resource of research connects you to:**

- Research and policy centers
- Products and journal publications
- Fact sheets
- Policy briefs
- Research projects
- Rural data
- Experts
- Dissemination toolkit

**Connect with us**

- [www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealthresearch.org](https://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealthresearch.org)
- [Facebook.com/HRHAGateway](https://www.facebook.com/HRHAGateway)
- [Instagram.com/hrsa\\_gateway](https://www.instagram.com/hrsa_gateway)



# Resources

## Rural Health Information Hub (RHihub)

### Topic Guides

#### MORE ON THIS TOPIC

- Introduction
- FAQs
- Chart Gallery
- Resources
- Organizations
- Funding & Opportunities
- News
- Events
- Models and Innovations
- About This Guide

Rural Health > Topics & States > Topics

#### Rural Healthcare Workforce

Maintaining the healthcare workforce is fundamental to providing access to quality healthcare in rural areas. Rural healthcare facilities must employ enough healthcare professionals to meet the needs of the community. They must have proper licensure, adequate education and training, and cultural competency skills. Equally important, optimizing how health professionals are used and enhancing coordination among them helps ensure that patients are getting the best care possible.

Strategies can include:

- Using interprofessional teams to provide coordinated and efficient care for patients and to extend the reach of each provider
- Ensuring that all professionals are fully utilizing their skill sets and working at the top of their license; that is, practicing to the full extent of their training and allowed scope of practice.
- Removing state and federal barriers to professional practice, where appropriate
- Changing policy to allow alternative provider types, once evidence shows they can provide quality care

### Funding Opportunities

#### MORE ON THIS TOPIC

- Introduction
- Chart Gallery
- Resources
- Organizations
- Funding & Opportunities
- News
- Events
- Models and Innovations
- About This Guide

Rural Health > Topics & States > Topics

#### Rural Healthcare Workforce – Funding & Opportunities

For additional funding options, please see RHihub's [Online Library: Funding & Opportunities](#)

Sort By: **Date** | Name | Hide Inactive Funding

[Narrow by type](#) | [Narrow by geography](#) | [Narrow by topic](#)

#### Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program

Loan repayment for undergraduate and graduate health professional educational loans in return for full-time clinical service in Indian Health Service programs.

Geographic coverage: Nationwide  
Application Deadline: Aug 15, 2019  
Sponsors: Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

#### NIDDK Education Program Grants (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Grants to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs. Institutions are encouraged to diversify their student and faculty populations to enhance the participation of individuals from groups identified as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences.

### Models and Innovations

#### MORE ON THIS TOPIC

- Introduction
- Chart Gallery
- Resources
- Organizations
- Funding & Opportunities
- News
- Events
- Models and Innovations
- About This Guide

Rural Health > Topics & States > Topics

#### Rural Healthcare Workforce – Models and Innovations

These stories feature model programs and successful rural projects that can serve as a source of ideas and provide lessons others have learned. Some of the projects or programs may no longer be active. Read about the [criteria and evidence base](#) for programs included.

Sort By: **Date** | Name

[Narrow by geography](#) | [Narrow by topic](#)

#### Promising Examples

##### High Plains Community Health Center Care Teams

Updated/reviewed February 2019

- Need:** Meeting health care demands in a region with a limited number of physicians, where recruiting additional providers is considered impractical.
- Intervention:** Using the additional support of health coaches, implementation of care teams consisting of 3 medical assistants to support each provider.
- Results:** More patients seen per provider hour, with improved patient outcomes and clinic cost savings.



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

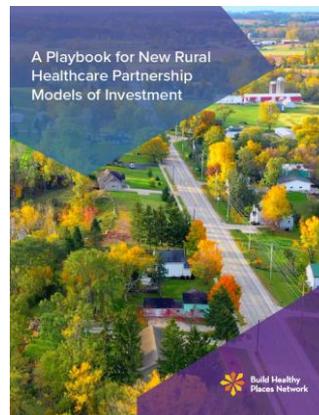
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
**HRSA**  
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

# Building Healthy Places Network (BHPN)

Supporting community development & health organizations to build healthy communities together

**Mission of BHPN:** To transform the way organizations work together across the health, community development, and finance sectors to more effectively reduce poverty, advance racial equity, and improve health in neighborhoods across the United States.

**Purpose:** To uplift community-led solutions and accelerate cross-sector investments in persistently marginalized communities to create healthier, more equitable, and thriving places.

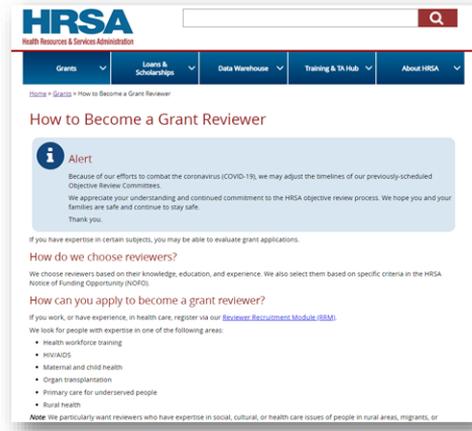


<https://bit.ly/3PDF4N9> and <https://bit.ly/3amz4Zn>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
**HRSA**  
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

# HRSA Needs Your Help!

## Consider Being a HRSA Grant Reviewer



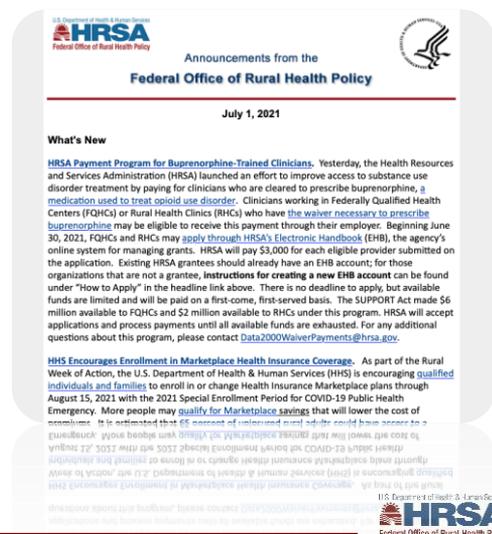
<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/reviewers>



# 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](mailto:mdaniels@hrsa.gov)



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