



HRSA Rural Health Update

2020 Louisiana Rural Health Workshop

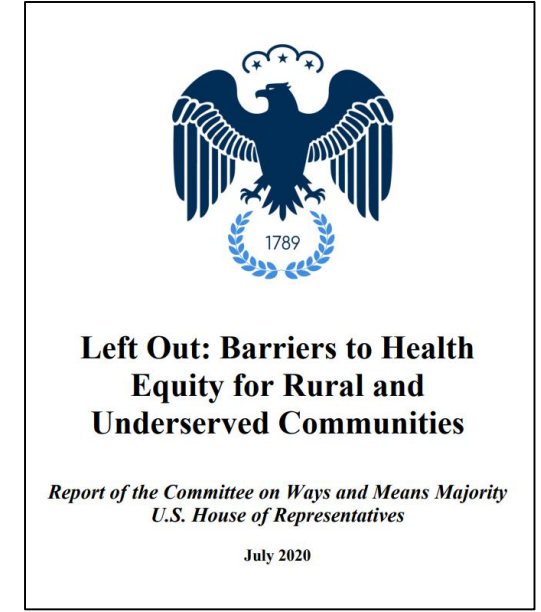
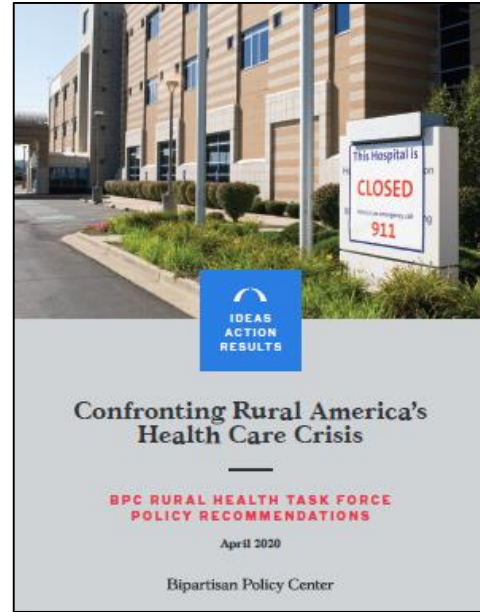
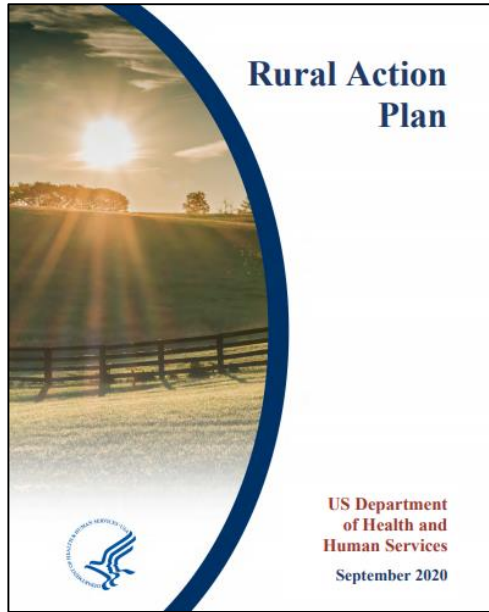
October 9, 2020

Tom Morris
Associate Administrator
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

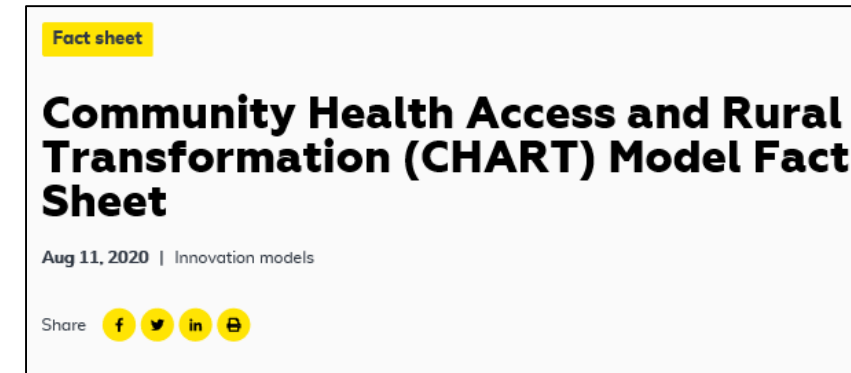
Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



2020 & Rural Health



HealthAffairs



Community Health Access and Rural Transformation-CHART

CHART Model



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Innovation Center Home > Innovation Models > CHART Model

CHART Model

Through the Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model, CMS aims to continue addressing disparities by providing a way for rural communities to transform their health care delivery systems by leveraging innovative financial arrangements as well as operational and regulatory flexibilities.

Background

The approximately 57 million Americans living in rural communities, including millions of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, face unique challenges when seeking healthcare services, such as limited transportation options, shortages of health care services, and an inability to fully benefit from technological and care-delivery innovations. These challenges result in rural Americans facing worse health outcomes and higher rates of preventable diseases than those living in urban areas.

Model Details

CMS is providing funding for rural communities to build systems of care through a Community Transformation Track and is enabling providers to participate in value-based payment models where they are paid for quality and outcomes, instead of volume, through an Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) Transformation Track.

The Model aims to:

- ◆ Increase financial stability for rural providers through the use of new ways of reimbursing providers that provide up-front investments and predictable, capitated payments that pay for quality and patient outcomes;
- ◆ Remove regulatory burden by providing waivers that increase operational and regulatory flexibility for rural providers; and
- ◆ Enhance beneficiaries' access to health care services by ensuring rural providers remain financially

Model Summary

Stage: Announced
Number of Participants: N/A
Category: Initiatives to Accelerate the Development and Testing of New Payment and Service Delivery Models
Authority: Section 3021 of the Affordable Care Act

Milestones & Updates

Sep 15, 2020
Announced: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Aug 20, 2020
Announced: August 18 overview webinar materials posted

Aug 11, 2020
Announced: Rural health model to empower rural communities through increased healthcare access and improved quality

- Goals:
 - Improve access to care in rural areas
 - Improve quality of care and health outcomes for rural beneficiaries
 - Increase adoption of alternative payment models (APMs) among rural providers
 - Improve rural provider financial stability
- Tracks:
 - Community Transformation
 - ACO Transformation

<https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/chart-model>

CHART: Community Transformation Track

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SYNOPSIS VERSION HISTORY RELATED DOCUMENTS PACKAGE

Print Synopsis Details

General Information

Document Type: Grants Notice	Version: Synopsis 4
Funding Opportunity Number: CMS-2G2-21-001	Posted Date: Sep 15, 2020
Funding Opportunity Title: Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART)	Last Updated Date: Sep 15, 2020
Opportunity Category: Discretionary	Original Closing Date for Applications: Feb 16, 2021 No Explanation
Opportunity Category Explanation:	Current Closing Date for Applications: Feb 16, 2021 No Explanation
Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement	Archive Date: Mar 18, 2021
Category of Funding Activity: Health	Estimated Total Program Funding: \$75,000,000
Category Explanation:	Award Ceiling: \$5,000,000
Expected Number of Awards: 15	Award Floor: \$0
CFDA Number(s): 93.624 -- Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model	
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: No	

Eligibility

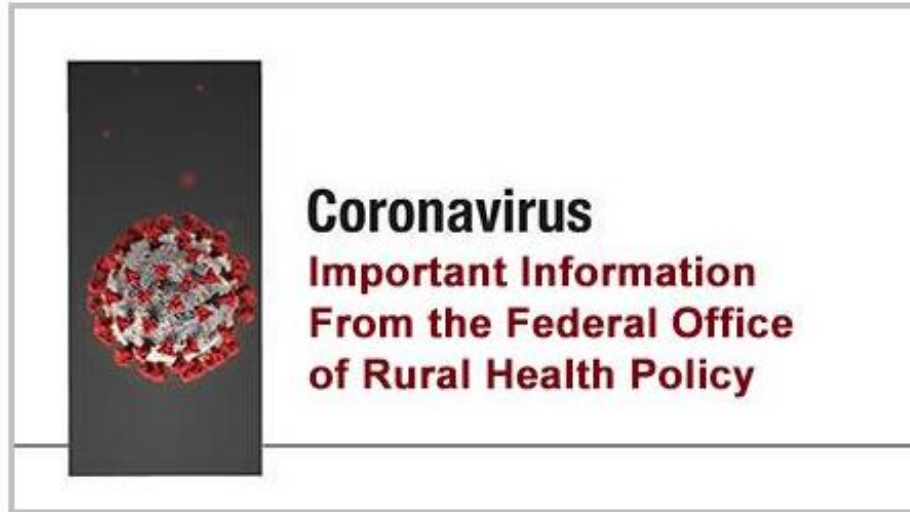
Eligible Applicants: City or township governments
For profit organizations other than small businesses
County governments

- Notice of Funding Opportunity: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=329062>
- Recommended letter of intent: 1/18/2021
- Applications due: 2/16/2021



2020 & Rural Health- COVID 19

- Support for RHC COVID-19 Testing
- Payments to Rural Hospitals & Providers
- Funding to Support Tribes



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2020

Contact: HHS Press Office
202-690-6343
media@hhs.gov

HHS Begins Distribution of Payments to Hospitals with High COVID-19 Admissions, Rural Providers

Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is processing payments from the Provider Relief Fund to hospitals with large numbers of COVID-19 inpatient admissions through April 10, 2020, and to rural providers in support of the national response to COVID-19.

"These new payments are being distributed to healthcare providers who have been hardest hit by the virus: \$12 billion to facilities admitting large numbers of COVID-19 patients and \$10 billion to providers in rural areas, who are already working on narrow margins," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "HHS has put these funds out as quickly as possible, after gathering data to ensure that they are going to the providers who need them the most. With another \$75 billion recently appropriated by Congress, the Trump Administration will continue doing everything we can to support America's heroic healthcare providers on the frontlines of this war on the virus."

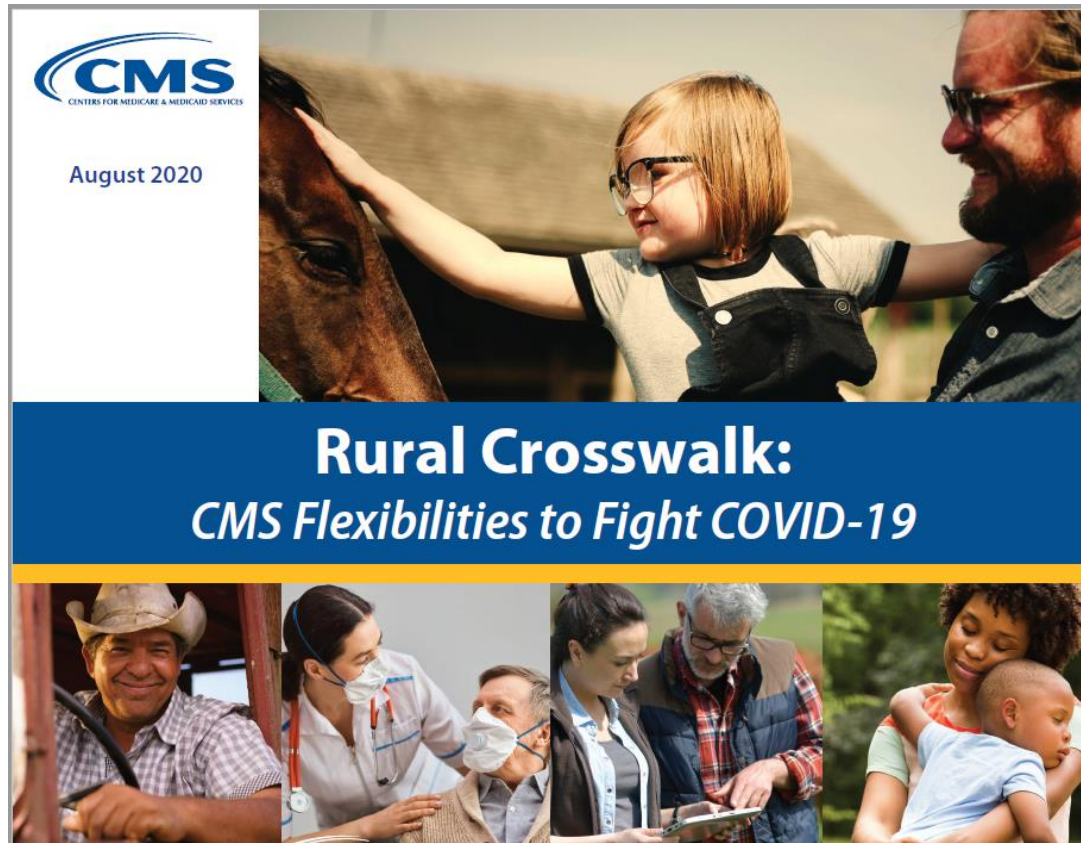
COVID-19 High-Impact Distribution:

COVID-19 High-Impact Distribution:

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Regulatory Flexibilities



- Telehealth and Virtual Services
- Expansion of Service Sites
- Paperwork
- Workforce
- Payment
- Data Reporting

<https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/emergency-preparedness-response-operations/current-emergencies/coronavirus-waivers>

Rural Health Clinic (RHC) COVID-19 Testing Funds

- \$225M awarded to support over 4,500 RHCs for COVID-19 testing and related expenses
- Approximately \$49,000 distributed evenly to each RHC site
- Funds allocated through the Provider Relief Fund mechanism
- Eligible RHCs identified through CMS data
- Most RHCs received payments May 20th
- Technical assistance (TA) available for RHCs



RHC COVID-19 Testing Technical Assistance



The screenshot shows the NARHC website with a header featuring the NARHC logo and the text "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RURAL HEALTH CLINICS". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT US, NEWS, RESOURCES, PARTNERS, DISCUSSION FORUMS, and NARHC ACADEMY. The main content area is titled "COVID-19 & Rural Health Clinics" and includes a red notice: "**NARHC will update this page with additional resources throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic**". Below this is a section for the "Rural Health Clinic Testing Fund" with a paragraph of text. A sidebar on the right contains links for "COVID-19 Waivers", "COVID-19 RHC Waivers FAQ", and "COVID-19 Important Links".

COVID-19 & Rural Health Clinics

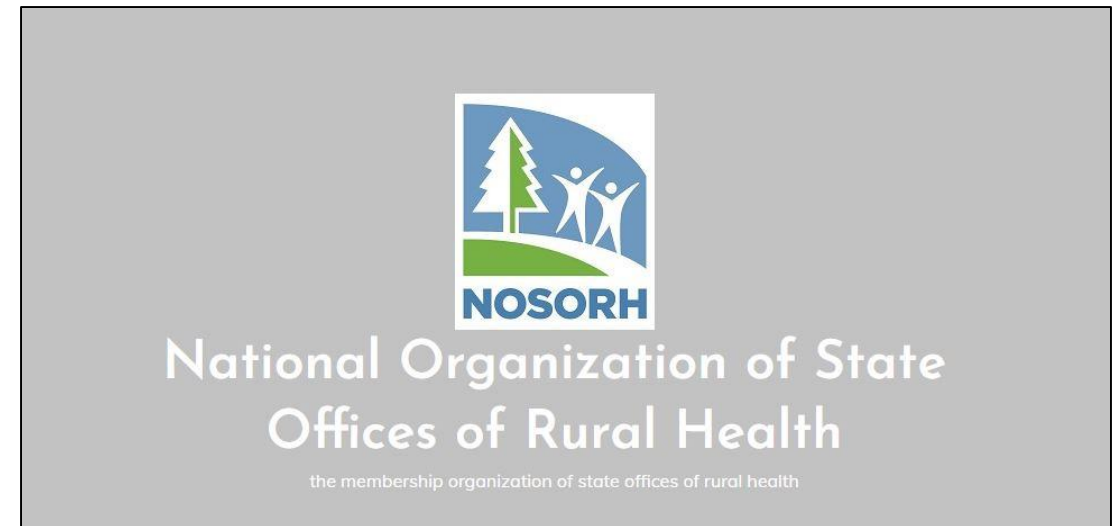
****NARHC will update this page with additional resources throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic****

Rural Health Clinic Testing Fund

Beginning on May 20th, all rural health clinics received just under \$50,000 for COVID-19 testing. The following links to the terms and conditions and the FAQ will provide you some guidance on how to spend this money. We understand that there are some important questions (such as how to treat this money on the RHC cost report) that are not yet answered, and we will update this space when we learn more.

- COVID-19
- COVID-19 Waivers
- COVID-19 RHC Waivers FAQ
- COVID-19 Important Links

<https://www.narhc.org/narhc/COVID-191.asp>



The screenshot shows the NOSORH website with a logo featuring a tree and two figures. Below the logo is the text "National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health" and "the membership organization of state offices of rural health".

NOSORH

National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health

the membership organization of state offices of rural health

<https://nosorh.org/>




New HHS Telehealth Website

i If you're having a **medical emergency**, call 911. If you aren't sure, [read when to seek emergency care](#).

TELEHEALTH.HHS.GOV For patients ▾ For providers ▾

Telehealth: Health care from the safety of our homes.

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, we don't have to choose between medical care and social distancing. When patients can get health care through telehealth — and doctors can provide it — we protect ourselves and our communities.



Learn more about telehealth

For patients




Find out what telehealth is, what you'll need (not much!), and what to expect from a visit. You can also check out our tips on finding telehealth options.

-  [Understanding telehealth](#) >
-  [Telehealth during COVID-19](#) >
-  [Finding telehealth options](#) >

[See more on the patients page >](#)

For providers

Get information to help you integrate telehealth, get up to speed on recent COVID-19 related policies, and learn what patients will need to use telehealth.

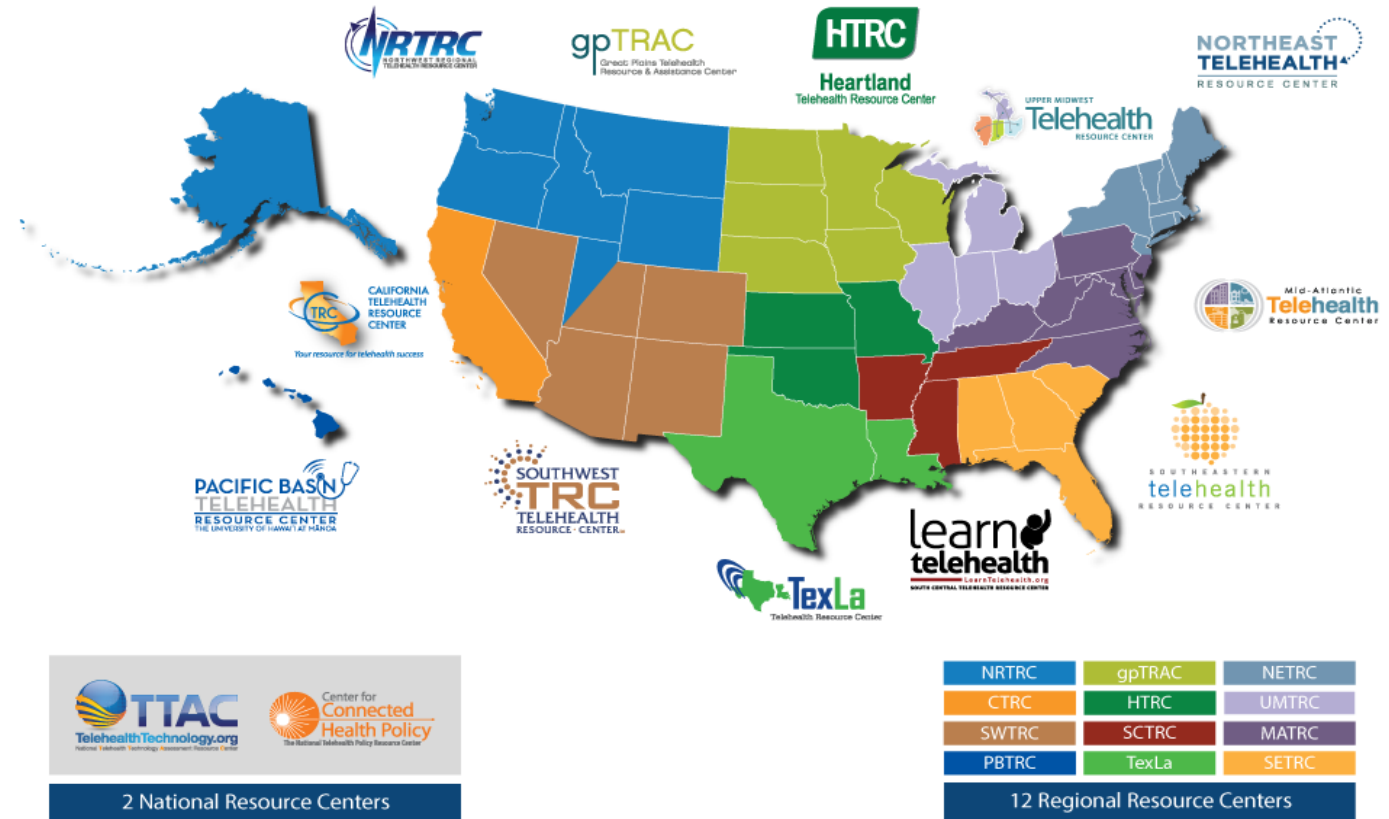
-  [Getting started with telehealth](#) >
-  [Policy changes during COVID-19](#) >
-  [Planning your telehealth workflow](#) >

[See more on the providers page >](#)



HRSA-Funded Telehealth Resource Centers

TelehealthResourceCenters.org



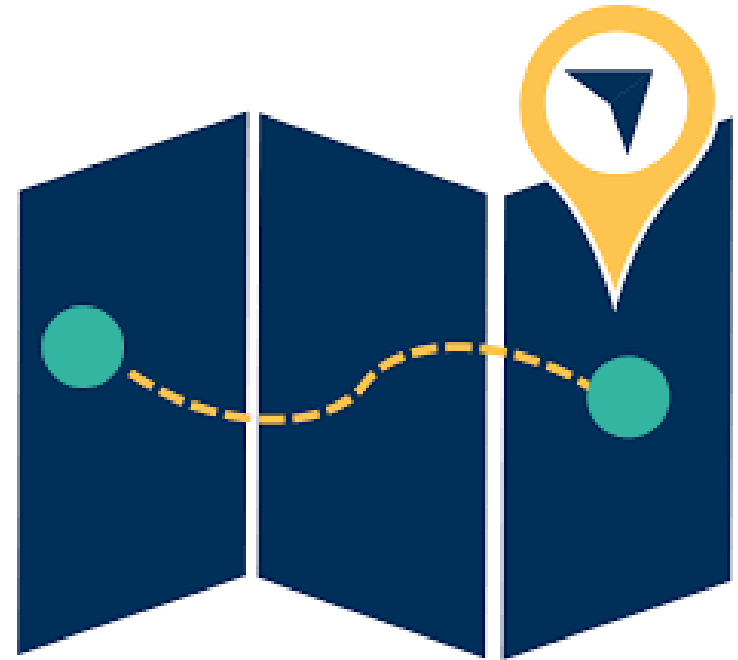
TRC's have a mission to serve as a focal point for advancing the effective use of telehealth and support access to telehealth services in rural and underserved communities.



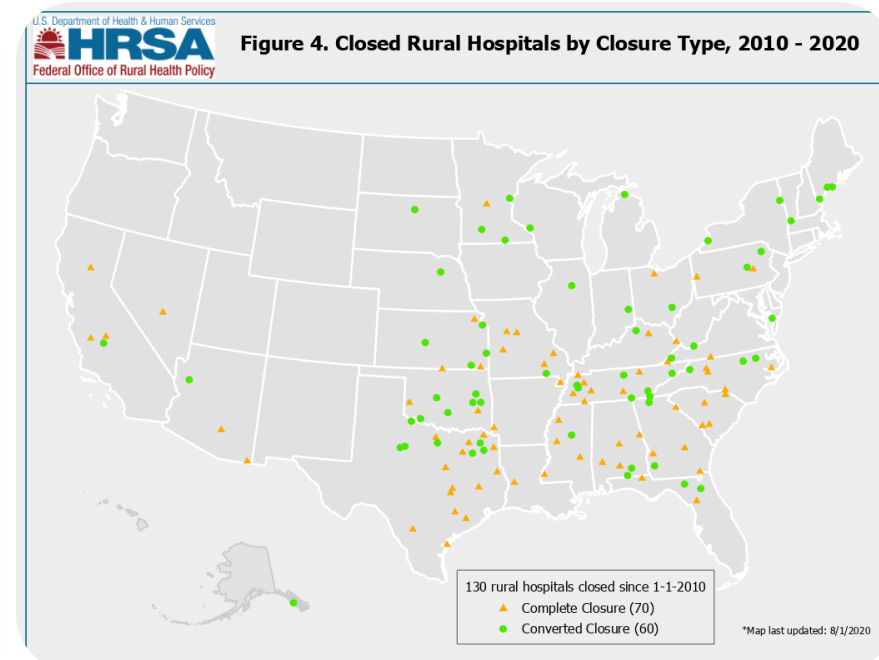
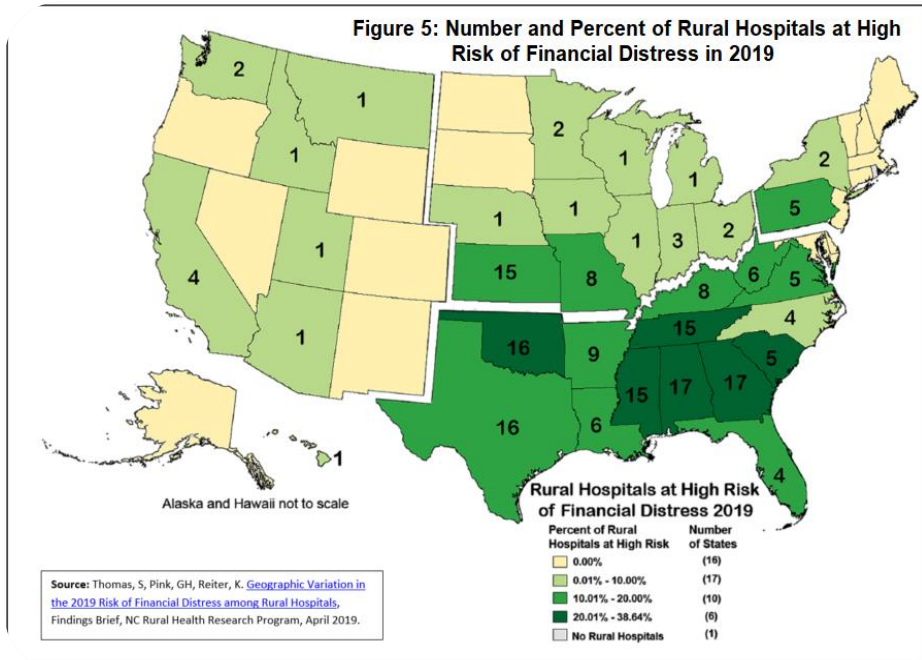
Rural Health - Opportunities for Collaboration

Looking to 2021 and Beyond

- Continuing the Existing Collaborations
- Addressing the Pandemic
- Addressing Disparities
- Fully Integrating Telehealth



Rural Hospital Closure and Risk



- This Trends Begs a Key Policy Issue ...

Definition of Rural – Proposed Changes



The screenshot shows the Federal Register website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with options like 'Sections', 'Browse', 'Search', 'Reader Aids', and 'My FR'. The main header features the 'FEDERAL REGISTER' logo and the text 'The Daily Journal of the United States Government'. A blue banner indicates a 'Notice'. The main content area is titled 'Revised Geographic Eligibility for Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Grants' and is dated '09/23/2020'. A green button labeled 'SUBMIT A FORMAL COMMENT' is visible. Below the main content, there is a 'PUBLISHED DOCUMENT' section with a sidebar menu. The sidebar menu includes 'AGENCY:', 'ACTION:', and 'SUMMARY:'. The 'AGENCY:' section lists 'Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services.' The 'ACTION:' section lists 'Request for public comment.' The 'SUMMARY:' section lists 'HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) has sought to identify clear, consistent, and data-driven methods of defining rural areas in the United States.' To the right of the sidebar, there is a 'DOCUMENT DETAILS' section with the following information: 'Printed version: PDF', 'Publication Date: 09/23/2020', 'Agencies: Health Resources and Services Administration', 'Dates: Submit written comments no later than October 23, 2020.', and 'Comments Close: 10/23/2020'.

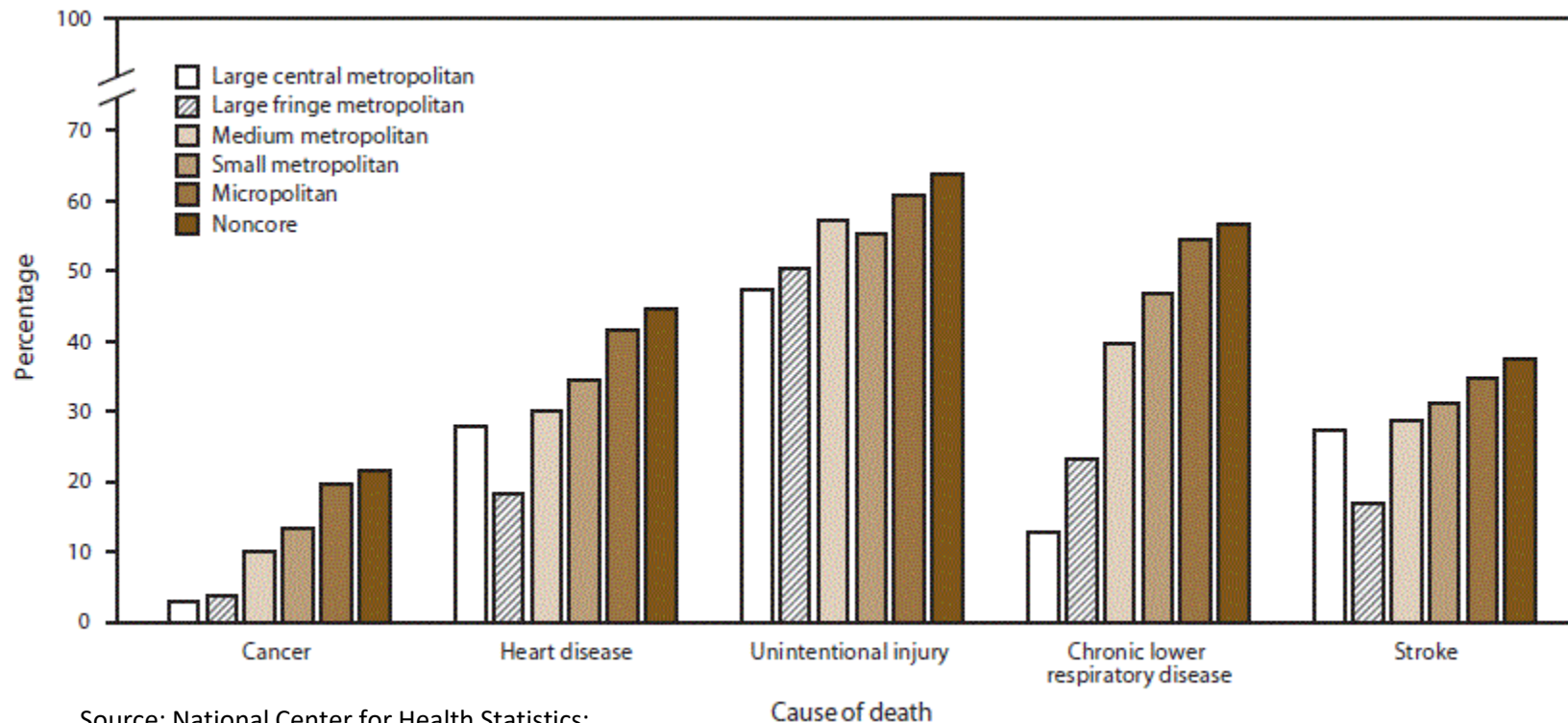
- Send comments to ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov
- Comments due October 23, 2020
- Read the full notice at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-20971>



Emerging Rural Disparities

Potentially Excess Death

In 2019, CDC noted a higher rate of potentially excess deaths occurred among rural Americans than urban Americans from the 5 leading causes of death



Source: National Center for Health Statistics: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/ss/ss6810a1.htm#F1_down; Percentage of deaths that were potentially excess* among persons aged <80 years from the five leading causes of death, by urban-rural county classification — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2017



Leveraging FORHP Programs for Rural Communities



Community Based Division (CBD)

Black Lung, Delta, Opioids, Care Coordination, Network Development and Planning, Quality Improvement, Outreach



Hospital State Division (HSD)

State Offices of Rural Health, Flex and Small Rural Hospital Improvement Programs, Rural QI TA, Small Rural Hospital Transitions



Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT)

Telehealth Resource Centers, Network Grants, Licensure Portability, Rural Child Poverty, Rural Veterans Health Access



Policy Research Division (PRD)

Rural Health Research Centers, Rural Health Value, Rural Policy Analysis, RHC Policy and Clinical Assessment, Rural Residency Planning and Development



Rural Community Opioids Response Program Team (RCORP)

Rural Community Opioids Response Programs (Planning, Implementation, MAT Expansion) and Cooperative Agreements

Rural Grant Opportunities

From the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Program	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Rural Health Care Services Outreach	NOFO Available Now		
Rural Health Network Development			NOFO Available Summer 2022
Rural Health Network Development Planning	NOFO Available Summer 2020	NOFO Available Summer 2021	NOFO Available Summer 2022
Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement		NOFO Available Winter 2022	
Delta States Network			NOFO Available Summer 2022
Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Implementation	NOFO Available Winter 2020		
Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Psychostimulant Support	NOFO Available Winter 2020		

- Other Possibilities for FY 21 ...
 - Rural Residency Planning Grants
 - Rural Maternal Obstetrics Management Strategies Program

*NOFO Availability Subject to Change



Lifting the Voice of Rural Community Health

The Hidden Story of Twenty-Plus Years of Rural Creativity and Innovation

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



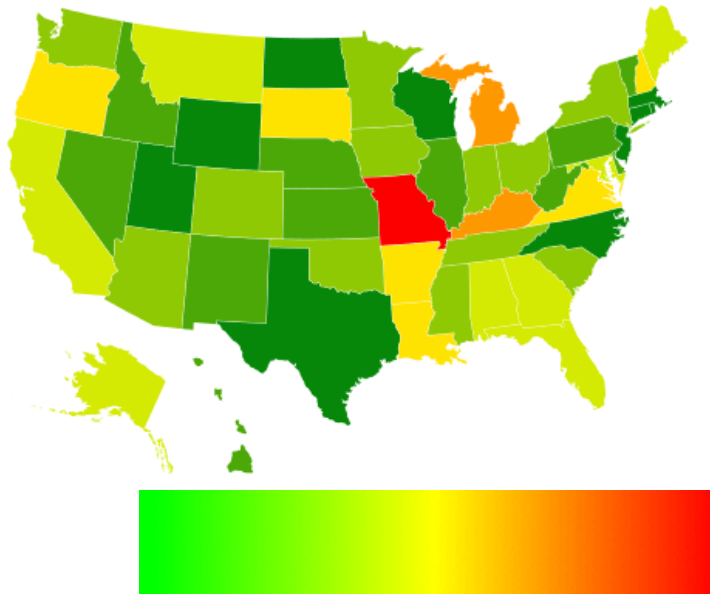
The goal of rural community programs is to improve health service delivery by strengthening health networks and encourage collaboration among rural health care providers.



Lifting the Voice of Rural Community Health

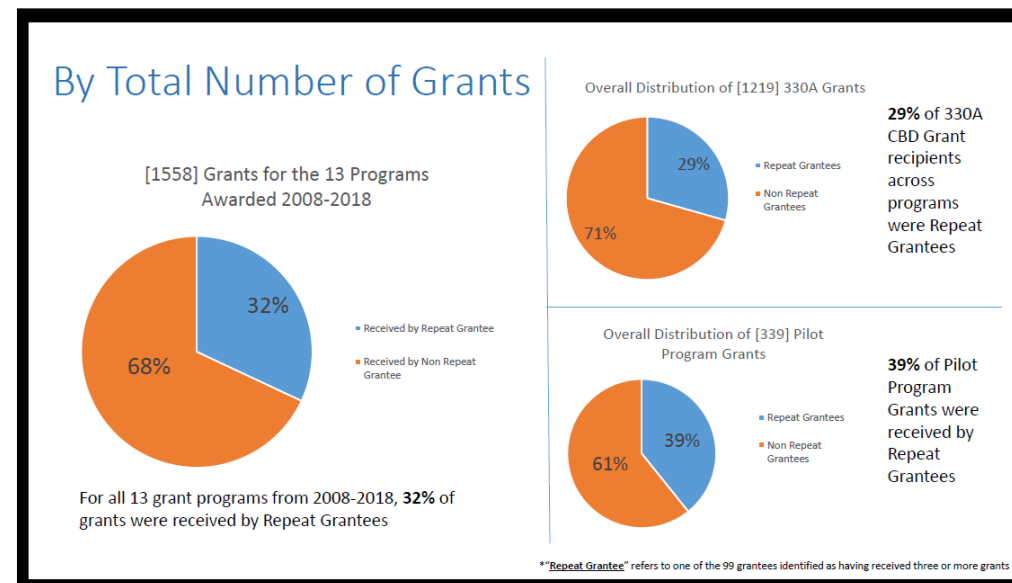
The Hidden Story of Twenty-Plus Years of Rural Creativity and Innovation

- Targeted Federal Investments Reap Ongoing Benefits
 - Sustainability
 - Improved Outcomes; Potential Savings

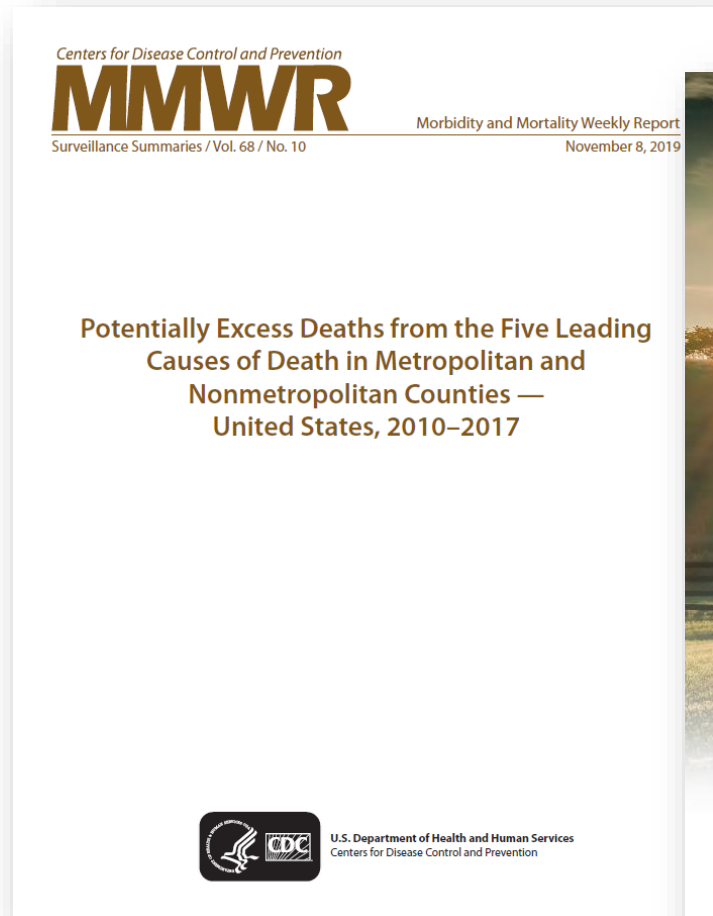


Low Repeat
Grantee States

High Repeat
Grantee States



Health Rural Hometown Initiative (HRHI)



- **Healthy Rural Hometown Initiative**

The Healthy Rural Hometown Initiative is a five-year multi-program effort to identify strategies to address the underlying factors that drive growing rural disparities related to heart disease, cancer, unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease, and stroke.⁹⁷ This initiative has two phases. The first is to align and target community-focused funding streams within FORHP to address the underlying factors that affect growing rural disparities related to these five causes of excess death.⁹⁸ Beginning in FY 2020, HRSA is implementing strategies to target approximately 20 percent of its rural community-based programs to focus on these disparities and encourage award recipients to include human service providers and state Medicaid stakeholders in their networks to both improve health and reduce long-term costs associated with treatment.

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Outreach Program: HRHI Track

Goal: To demonstrate the collective impact of projects that better manage conditions, address risk factors, and focus on prevention related to the leading causes of death.



Resources



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Workforce

Research Findings

View publications, including policy briefs, working papers, and journal publications, on Workforce:

- [Research Products](#) - (98)
- [Journal Articles](#) - (32)

Recaps

View one-page summary [Recaps](#) of key findings from the Rural Health Research Centers on Workforce:

- [Rural Obstetric Services: Access, Workforce, and Impact](#)
Date: 04/2019
This resource presents current hospital-based obstetric closure rates and characteristics of rural communities without and losing obstetric services, as well as the impact of limited access on maternal and child health.

Webinars

Access information on upcoming or archived webinars on Workforce.

- [Diminishing Access to Rural Maternity Care and Associated Changes in Birth Location and Outcomes](#)
Presented Thursday, April 26, 2018
- [Behavioral Health Workforce Supply](#)
Presented Tuesday, July 18, 2017
- [Obstetric Care Quality and Access for Rural U.S. Women](#)
Presented Wednesday, January 11, 2017
- [Ups and Downs: Trends in Rural Children's Access to Care](#)
Presented Thursday, October 13, 2016
- [Prevalence of Opioids and the Workforce to Provide Treatment in Rural and Urban Settings](#)
Presented Thursday, June 25, 2015

Related Topics

- [Allied health professionals](#)
- [International Medical Graduates \(IMGs\)](#)
- [Nurses and nurse practitioners](#)
- [Physician assistants](#)
- [Physicians](#)

Additional Resources

Access other FORHP-funded resources on this topic.

From the Rural Health Information Hub:

- [Community Health Workers in Rural Settings](#)
- [Education and Training of the Rural Healthcare Workforce](#)
- [Recruitment and Retention for Rural Health Facilities Topic Guide](#)
- [Rural Healthcare Workforce Topic Guide](#)
- [Rural J-1 Visa Waiver Topic Guide](#)
- [Scholarships, Loans, and Loan Repayment for Rural Health Professions Topic Guide](#)

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



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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.

Military Medics and Corpsmen Program

Updated/reviewed September 2019

- Need:** To help veterans transition into civilian healthcare careers.
- Intervention:** MMAC and healthcare employers in urban

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



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: Email Michelle Daniels at
mdaniels@hrsa.gov



Announcements from the
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy



August 22, 2019

What's New

Comments Requested: Rural Access to Health Care Services – October 9. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) seeks information from the public about measuring access to health care in rural communities. This Request for Information (RFI) supports the ongoing work of the [HHS Rural Health Task Force](#) that is seeking to identify the needs of rural communities, how to meet those needs, and what HHS policy changes can address those needs. Questions for public comment specific to rural communities include: what are the core health care services needed, what types and numbers of health care professionals are needed, what factors are important to identify core health services, and how should access to health care services be measured. People in rural communities [face a range of health disparities](#), including greater obesity and disease burden in children and adults, higher mortality rates, and shorter life expectancy. Rural areas also have [fewer health professionals per person](#) compared to urban areas.

Agrisafe: Nurse Scholar Distance Education Program – Early Registration Ends August 23. Calling all nurses serving rural communities! Get the tools necessary to help farmers and ranchers in your community, while earning 18 Continuing Nursing Education hours. The Nurse Scholar program is a distance learning opportunity available to rural nurses provided by experienced health and safety educators. Increase your knowledge base in prevention, identification, and assessment of diseases related to agricultural work exposures. Classes are in the form of webinars from September 4 – December 6, 2019 that can be viewed live or On Demand.

Funding Opportunities

Rural Health Network Development Program – November 25. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced a new Notice of Funding Opportunity for The Rural Health Network Development Program (Network Development). This program will support up to 46 applicant organizations, which are either public or nonprofit private rural entities who represent a network of three or more separate, existing health care entities. HRSA expects to invest approximately \$13 million for this program to support integrated rural health care networks that combine the functions of the network entities and include skilled, experienced staff, with a high functioning network board, to address the health care needs of the targeted rural community.



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