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

- **Rural Action Plan**
  - US Department of Health and Human Services
  - September 2020

- **Confronting Rural America’s Health Care Crisis**
  - RPC Rural Health Task Force
  - Policy Recommendations
  - April 2020
  - Bipartisan Policy Center

- **American's Future Budget**
  - Budget of the U.S. Government
  - Office of Management and Budget
  - July 2020

- **Left Out: Barriers to Health Equity for Rural and Underserved Communities**
  - Report of the Committee on Ways and Means Majority
  - U.S. House of Representatives
  - July 2020

- **Executive Order on Improving Rural Health and Telehealth Access**
  - Issued on August 3, 2020

- **Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model Fact Sheet**
  - Aug 11, 2020 | Innovation models

- **Health Affairs**
- **AJPH**
- **HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy**
Community Health Access and Rural Transformation - CHART

**CHART Model**

**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

CHART: Community Transformation Track

- 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

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 19, 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 hands 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:
Regulatory Flexibilities

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

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

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

https://nosorh.org/
New HHS Telehealth Website

If you're having a medical emergency, call 911. If you aren't sure, read when to seek emergency care.

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

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 patients page
See more on the providers page
HRSA-Funded Telehealth Resource Centers

TelehealthResourceCenters.org

TRCs 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

- 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2021</th>
<th>FY 2022</th>
<th>FY 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Health Care Services Outreach</td>
<td>NOFO Available Now</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Health Network Development</td>
<td></td>
<td>NOFO Available Summer 2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Health Network Development Planning</td>
<td>NOFO Available Summer 2020</td>
<td>NOFO Available Summer 2021</td>
<td>NOFO Available Summer 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement</td>
<td>NOFO Available Winter 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta States Network</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NOFO Available Summer 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Implementation</td>
<td>NOFO Available Winter 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Psychostimulant Support</td>
<td>NOFO Available Winter 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*NOFO Availability Subject to Change*
Rural Residency Planning and Development
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:

- At least 750,000 people each year since 2011
- With over 200 grantees
- Of which 80% continue services after program ends

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
Healthy Rural Hometown Initiative (HRHI)

Potentially Excess Deaths from the Five Leading Causes of Death in Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties — United States, 2010–2017

Rural Action Plan

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. 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. 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.
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

https://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/

https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/
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
Connect with HRSA

Learn more about our agency at:

www.HRSA.gov

Sign up for the HRSA eNews

FOLLOW US: