

FEDERAL OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH POLICY FLEX PROGRAM WORKSHOP

The goal of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) Flex Program Workshop is to provide new or existing state Flex Program staff an orientation to the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program. Each of the sessions at the Workshop is presented by either staff of the National Rural Health Resource Center (The Center) or a subject matter expert, including speakers from FORHP, the Flex Monitoring Team and Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance (RQITA). All speakers have vast knowledge and rural experience in the subject areas. In addition to the event itself, there are a few other expectations that go along with attendance. A webinar is held prior to the Workshop to provide participants with helpful introductory information such as the history and overview of the Flex Program and available tools and resources from the Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC), a program of the National Rural Health Resource Center. Additionally, attendees are asked to complete a self-assessment related to the Core Competencies for State Flex Program Excellence and complete an activity related to the self-assessment results. Participants receive individualized coaching and resources from TASC to support implementation of their activity. Six months after attending the Workshop, participants attend a close-out webinar and share the results of their chosen activity. By completion of the workshop, participants gain an improved understanding of the Flex Program's goals and services available to support Flex Program excellence.

Topics commonly discussed as part of the Workshop include:

- History and Direction of the Flex Program
- Understanding the Value-based Health Care System
- Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Finance and Understanding the Top 10 Financial Indicators for CAHs
- CAH Leadership Perspectives Panel
- Network Collaboration and Development
- National Quality Initiatives and the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP)
- Core Competencies for State Flex Program Excellence
- Rural Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Challenges and Opportunities
- Community and Population Health
- Best Practices and Hints for Flex Coordinators

The FORHP Flex Program Workshop is held twice a year, generally in April and October, in Duluth, Minnesota, which is where The Center is located. There is no charge for the workshop, but state Flex Programs are required to pay for their own travel.

For more information about the FORHP Flex Program Workshop, please contact TASC at tasc@ruralcenter.org or (877) 321-9393.