



**NATIONAL  
RURAL HEALTH  
RESOURCE CENTER**

## **FISCAL YEAR 2019 OUTLINE OF FLEX PROGRAM AREAS AND ACTIVITY CATEGORIES**

To access the full Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) other cooperative agreement supporting materials, please access the [Flex Program Grant and Cooperative Agreement Guidance page](#).

### **Program Area 1: Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Quality Improvement (required)**

Goals: 1) Increase the number of CAHs consistently reporting quality data, and 2) Improve the quality of care in CAHs

Activity Categories:

- 1.1. Report and improve Core Patient Safety/Inpatient Measures, including develop antibiotic stewardship programs (required annually)
- 1.2. Report and improve Core Patient Engagement Measures (required annually)
- 1.3. Report and improve Core Care Transitions Measures (required annually)
- 1.4. Report and improve Core Outpatient Measures (required annually)
- 1.5. Report and improve Additional Patient Safety Measures (optional)
- 1.6. Report and improve Additional Patient Engagement Measures (optional)
- 1.7. Report and improve Additional Care Transitions Measures (optional)
- 1.8. Report and improve Additional Outpatient Measures (optional)

### **Program Area 2: CAH Operational and Financial Improvement (required)**

Goal: Maintain and improve the financial viability of CAHs

Activity Categories:

- 2.1 Statewide operation and financial needs assessment (required annually)
- 2.2 Individual CAH-specific needs assessment and action planning (optional)
- 2.3 Financial improvement (optional)
- 2.4 Operational improvement (optional)
- 2.5 Value-based payment projects (optional)

## **Program Area 3: CAH Population Health and Financial Improvement (optional)**

Goal: Build capacity of CAHs to achieve measurable improvements in the health outcomes of their communities

Activity Categories:

- 3.1 Support CAHs identifying community and resource needs (optional)
- 3.2 Assist CAHs to build strategies to prioritize and address unmet needs of the community (optional)
- 3.3 Assist CAHs to engage with community stakeholders and public health experts and address specific health needs (optional)

## **Program Area 4: Rural Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Improvement (optional)**

Goals: 1) Improve the organizational capacity of rural EMS, and  
2) Improve the quality of rural EMS

Activity Categories:

- 4.1 Statewide rural EMS needs assessment and action planning (optional)
- 4.2 Community-level rural EMS assessments and action planning (optional)
- 4.3 EMS operational improvement (optional)
- 4.4 EMS quality improvement (optional)

## **Program Area 5: Innovative Model Development (optional)**

Goal: Increase knowledge and evidence base supporting new models of rural health care delivery

Activity Categories:

- 5.1 Develop and test innovative models and publish report or documentation of the innovation (optional)
- 5.2 Develop and test CAH outpatient clinic (including CAH-owned rural health clinics) quality reporting and publish report or documentation (optional)

## **Program Area 6: CAH Designation (required if requested)**

Goal: Assist rural hospitals to seek or maintain appropriate Medicare participation status to meet community needs

Activity Categories:

- 6.1 CAH conversions (required if assistance is requested by rural hospitals)
- 6.2 CAH transitions (required if assistance is requested by CAHs)