

# Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Flex Program Workshop

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) Flex Program Workshop aims to provide new or existing state Flex Program staff an orientation to the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program. Sessions are presented by the National Rural Health Resource Center/Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC), FORHP, Flex Monitoring Team, Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance (RQITA), and additional subject matter experts. Upon workshop completion, participants will better understand the Flex Program's goals and services available to support Flex Program excellence.

## Attendance and Participation Requirements

As a condition of the state Flex Program cooperative agreement, state programs with new Flex Coordinators or Flex Program Directors are expected to attend the Flex Workshop within one year of their hire date. There is no fee to participate in the Flex Workshop. However, there are a few expectations for participating attendees:

- Participate in a pre-event webinar.
- Complete the Core Competencies for State Flex Program Excellence self-assessment.
- Upon completing the workshop, participants will choose an activity to implement based on knowledge gained from the workshop related to the Core Competency self-assessment results. Participants receive individualized coaching and resources from TASC to support the implementation of their chosen activity.

Workshop topics commonly include:

- History and direction of the Flex Program
- Program areas of the Flex Program
- Understanding the value-based health care system and resources to support rural value-based care and payment
- Critical access hospital (CAH) finance and the top 10 financial indicators for CAHs
- CAH leadership perspectives panel discussion
- 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
- Flex Program evaluation
- Best practices and tips for Flex Coordinators

The FORHP Flex Program Workshop is held twice a year, generally in April and October. While there is no charge to attend the workshop, state Flex Programs are required to pay for their travel to and from Duluth, MN, where the in-person events are held. Travel and lodging expenses are allowable as part of the Flex grant.

The past few Workshops have been held virtually. We will continue to make decisions on in-person versus virtual workshops for the foreseeable future in response to the public health emergency and pandemic. TASC and FORHP will make timely announcements about the location and logistics of future workshops.

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