

# Useful Organizations

## National Rural Health Resource Center

The National Rural Health Resource Center (The Center) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining and improving health care in rural communities. As the nation's leading technical assistance and knowledge center in rural health, The Center focuses on five core areas:

- Transition to Value and Population Health
- Collaboration and Partnership
- Performance Improvement
- Health Information Technology
- Workforce

The Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC), a program of The Center, provides information, tools, and education to critical access hospitals (CAHs) and to individual state Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Programs.

## Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) was created in 1987 to advise the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on health care issues impacting rural communities, including:

- Access to quality health care and health professionals
- Viability of rural hospitals
- Effect of the Department's proposed rules and regulations, including Medicare and Medicaid, on access to and financing of health care in rural areas

In line with the mission of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), FORHP helps increase access to care for underserved populations and builds health care capacity through several programs:

[Community Based Division \(CBD\)](#) - Provides support to community organizations to improve health care service delivery and strengthen health networks and encourages collaboration among rural health care providers.

[Hospital State Division \(HSD\)](#) - Supports on-going improvements in care to 50 State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) and to rural hospitals through

the Flex Program. HSD also supports technical assistance for small rural hospitals, including CAHs.

[Policy Research Division \(PRD\)](#) - Coordinates the review of proposed regulations to assess the potential impact on rural health care delivery and financing, the division also supports eight Rural Health Research Centers across the country and staffs the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health & Human Services

[Rural Strategic Initiatives Division \(RSID\)](#) - Coordinates the [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program \(RCORP\)](#) and other new initiatives such as the COVID-19 Tribal program.

## [Flex Monitoring Team](#)

The Flex Monitoring Team (FMT) is a consortium of researchers from the Universities of Minnesota, North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and Southern Maine. They are funded by the FORHP to evaluate the impact of the Flex Program. The FMT also operates and maintains the Critical Access Hospital Measurement and Performance Assessment System (CAHMPAS) for easy access to financial, quality, and community benefit measures.

All of their efforts aim to improve the accessibility, viability, and quality of health care for rural residents and communities. They provide state Flex Programs and critical access hospitals (CAHs) with ways to optimize their performance based on evidence and/or best practices. FMT conducts analysis, collect and track state-level CAH data, maintains a national database of CAHs, consults with their expert workgroup for feedback and input, collaborates with TASC and other organizations to provide project services, and share findings at meetings, webinars, and conferences. The FMT's work focuses on three main topic areas: quality, finance, and community engagement.

## [Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance](#)

The goal of the Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance (RQITA) is to improve quality and health outcomes in rural communities through technical assistance to beneficiaries of FORHP quality initiatives, which are focused on quality measure reporting and improvement: Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement (SHCPQI) and the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP). RQITA is intended to add expertise related to quality reporting and improvement by working closely with FORHP and technical assistance partners. RQITA is a program of Stratis Health, an

independent nonprofit organization that leads collaboration and innovation in health care quality and patient safety.

Resources to support MBQIP can be found on the [MBQIP webpage](#).

## Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) mission is to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within HHS and with other partners to ensure the evidence is understood and used. AHRQ's broad programs of research bring practical, science-based information to medical practitioners and to consumers and other health care purchasers.

## The American Health Quality Association

The American Health Quality Association (AHQA) is an educational, not-for-profit, national membership association dedicated to promoting and facilitating fundamental change that improves the quality of health care in America. AHQA represents Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) and professionals working to improve health care quality and patient safety.

## American Hospital Association

The American Hospital Association (AHA) is a national organization that represents and serves all types of hospitals, health care networks, and their patients and communities. Through representation and advocacy activities, AHA ensures that members' perspectives and needs are heard and addressed in national health policy development, legislative and regulatory debates, and judicial matters. AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends.

## Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the economy. BLS is an independent national statistical agency that collects, analyzes, and disseminates essential economic information to support public and private decision-making.

## Center for Connected Health Policy

The Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan

organization working to maximize telehealth's ability to improve health outcomes, care delivery, and cost effectiveness. Established in 2008, CCHP acts as a catalyst for change by providing nonpartisan, unbiased, and research-based analyses, reports, and telehealth resources to policy makers, the private health care sector, health plans, academic researchers, and consumer health advocates. CCHP's mission is to advance state and national telehealth policies that promote better systems of care, improved health outcomes, and provide more equitable access to quality, affordable health care and services.

## Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is a federal agency within HHS tasked with strengthening and modernizing America's health care system while providing quality care at lower costs. More than 100 million people are covered through the CMS managed programs of Medicare, Medicaid, the Health Insurance Marketplace, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CMS is comprised of 10 regional offices with staff who work collaboratively with state and local representatives to provide oversight and foster innovation.

## The Commonwealth Fund

The Commonwealth Fund is a private foundation that aims to promote a high performing health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, particularly for society's most vulnerable, including low-income people, the uninsured, and people of color. The Fund carries out this mandate by supporting independent research on health care issues and making grants to improve health care practice and policy. An international program in health policy is designed to stimulate innovative policies and practices in the United States and other industrialized countries.

## Georgia Health Policy Center

The Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) provides evidence-based research, program development and policy guidance to improve health status at the community level. The center conducts, analyzes and disseminates qualitative and quantitative findings to connect decision makers with the objective research and guidance needed to make informed decisions about health policy and programs. The center provides technical assistance under contract with FORHP to rural health networks.

## Health Resources and Services Administration

The mission of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency HHS, is to improve health outcomes and achieve health equity through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce and innovative high-value programs. HRSA's programs, including those overseen by the FORHP, provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically, or medically vulnerable.

## Institute for Healthcare Improvement

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), an independent, not-for-profit organization, is a recognized innovator, convener, leader, trustworthy partner, and driver of results in health and health care improvement worldwide. IHI's strategy to improve health and health care worldwide has four key areas: improve the health of populations, build the capacity to improve, and innovate and spark action. IHI works with a wide range of entities to seek and achieve science-based improvements in health and health care.

## The Joint Commission

An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission accredits and certifies nearly 22,000 health care organizations and programs in the US. Joint Commission accreditation and certification is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards.

## MedlinePlus

MedlinePlus is the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) website for patients and their families and friends. Produced by the National Library of Medicine, MedlinePlus is the world's largest medical library, providing free, reliable, up-to-date information about diseases, conditions, and wellness issues. Resources include directories, a medical encyclopedia, a medical dictionary, health information in Spanish, extensive information on prescription and nonprescription drugs, health information from the media, and links to thousands of clinical trials.

## National Center for Health Statistics

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the nation's principal health statistics

agency. NCHS compiles statistical information to guide actions and policies to improve health. NCHS is a unique public resource for health information.

## National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers

The National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs) provides assistance, education, and information to those individuals and organizations that are providing or are interested in providing health care via telehealth. With funding through the HRSA Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT), the consortium of 12 regional and two national TRCs assist to expand the availability of health care to rural and underserved populations.

## National Cooperative of Health Networks Association

The National Cooperative of Health Networks Association (NCHN) is a national, professional membership organization comprised exclusively of health networks, alliances, and/or consortiums dedicated to supporting the success of health networks.

## National Library of Medicine

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has been a center of information innovation since its founding in 1836. The world's largest biomedical library, NLM maintains and makes available a vast print collection and produces electronic information resources on a wide range of topics. NLM also supports and conducts research, development, and training in biomedical informatics and health information technology.

## National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) was established in 1995 to assist State Offices of Rural Health (SORHs) in their efforts to improve access to, and the quality of, health care for America's 57 million rural citizens. NOSORH enhances the capacity of SORHs to do this by supporting the development of state and community rural health leaders; creating and facilitating state, regional and national partnerships that foster information sharing and spur rural health-related programming; and enhancing access to quality health care services in rural communities.

## National Rural Health Association

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) is a national, nonprofit membership of more than 21,000 members, whose mission is to provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research. NRHA membership consists of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.

## National Rural Recruitment & Retention Network

The National Rural Recruitment & Retention Network (3RNet) is a nonprofit, membership organization who works to improve rural and underserved communities' access to quality health care through recruitment of physicians and other health care professionals, development of community-based recruitment and retention activities, and national advocacy relative to rural and underserved health care workforce issues. The 3RNet is the national leader for community-based health professional recruitment and retention, using interactive technologies and communication.

## Nursing Home Resource Center

CMS launched the Nursing Home Resource Center to serve as a centralized hub bringing together the latest information, guidance, clarification, instructions, and recent COVID-related policies and data on nursing homes that is important to facilities, frontline providers, residents, and their families.

## Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

The Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT) promotes telehealth as a way to deliver health care and supports the efforts of HHS to expand access and improvement health outcomes. OAT provides telehealth grant programs to promote and advance telehealth services in rural areas.

## Rural Health Information Hub

The Rural Health Information Hub (RHIfhub), formerly the Rural Assistance Center, is funded by FORHP to be a national clearinghouse on rural health issues. RHIfhub is committed to supporting health care and population health in rural communities. RHIfhub provides access to current and reliable resources and tools to learn about rural health needs and work to address them.

## Rural Health Innovations

Rural Health Innovations (RHI), LLC is a subsidiary of the National Rural Health Resource Center (The Center), a non-profit organization. Together, RHI and The Center are the nation's leading technical assistance and knowledge centers in rural health. In partnership with The Center, RHI enhances the health of rural communities by providing products and services with a focus on excellence and innovation.

## Rural Health Value

Rural Health Value is a cooperative agreement between the FORHP, the RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis (RUPRI Center), and Stratis Health. The Rural Health Value Team will analyze rural implications of changes in the organization, finance, and delivery of health care services and will assist rural communities and providers transition to a high- performance rural health system. The RUPRI Center brings experience in a variety of research strategies including survey design, qualitative analysis, simulation development, and national database query and report design.

## Rural Policy Research Institute

The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) undertakes unbiased research and analysis on the challenges, needs, and opportunities facing rural America. RUPRI's reach is national and international and is recognized as a trusted source of research-grounded expertise regarding the rural differential in public policies. RUPRI's activities encompass research, policy analysis and engagement, dissemination and outreach, and decision support tools. Through their work, RUPRI aims to foster public dialogue and help policymakers understand the impacts of public policies and programs on rural people and places.

## Texas A&M Health Science Center for Optimizing Rural Health

The Center for Optimizing Rural Health is a program of the Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) Rural and Community Health Institute (ARCHI). This FORHP funded technical assistance center supports the Vulnerable Rural Hospital Assistance Program. This program provides targeted in-depth assistance to vulnerable rural hospitals within communities that are struggling to maintain health care services.

## U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The mission of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is to enhance the health and well-being of all Americans. This is achieved by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in medicine, public health, and social services. The department is comprised of 11 operating divisions, including HRSA, which oversee a wide spectrum of activities. The FORHP is located within HRSA and is charged with informing and advising HHS on matters affecting rural hospitals and health care, coordinating activities within the department that relate to rural health care and maintaining a national information clearinghouse.