

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 workshop session is presented by either National Rural Health Resource Center (The Center) staff or a subject matter expert, including speakers from the FORHP, the Flex Monitoring Team, and Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance (RQITA). All speakers have vast knowledge and rural experience in the topic areas. Upon workshop completion, participants will have gained an improved understanding of the Flex Program's goals and services available to support Flex Program excellence.

Attendance and Participation Requirements

In addition to attending the workshop itself, there are a few additional expectations. 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 tools and resources available from the Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC), a program of The Center. Additionally, attendees are asked to complete a self-assessment related to the Core Competencies for State Flex Program Excellence prior to attending. Upon completion of the workshop, attendees will choose an activity to implement based on knowledge gained from the Workshop related to the self-assessment results. Participants receive individualized coaching and resources from TASC to support implementation of their chosen activity.

Workshop topics commonly discussed 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 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 tips for Flex Coordinators
- Program Evaluation

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 to attend the workshop, however, state Flex Programs are required to pay for their own travel. Travel and lodging expenses are allowable as part of the Flex grant.

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