

## 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

[Office for the Advancement of Telehealth \(OAT\)](#) - Provides funding for telehealth grants and resource centers, as well as supporting efforts to align licensing and portability activities across states

[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

### [Flex Monitoring Team](#)

The Flex Monitoring Team (FMT) is a consortium of researchers from the Rural Health Research Centers in Minnesota, North Carolina, and Maine. They are funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy to evaluate the impact of the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program (the Flex Program).

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 ensure 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, and price changes 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.

## 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, minority Americans, young children, and elderly adults. 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 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is the primary federal agency for improving health and achieving health equity through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce and innovative 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 leading innovator, convener, leader, partner, and driver of results in health and health care improvement worldwide. IHI's work is focused in five key areas: improvement capability; person- and family-centered care; patient safety; quality, cost and value; and Triple Aim for populations. IHI works with a wide range of entities, creating opportunities for health care professionals to learn from, collaborate with and be inspired by expert faculty and colleagues throughout the world.

### 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,

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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 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 Patient Safety Foundation

The National Patient Safety Foundation's (NPSF) vision is to create a world where patients and those who care for them are free from harm. A central voice for safety since 1997, NPSF partners with patients and families, the health care community and key stakeholders to advance patient safety and health care workforce safety and disseminate strategies to prevent harm. The NPSF is an independent, not-for-profit organization.

## 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.

## 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 large national database query and report design.

## Rural Policy Research Institute

The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) provides unbiased analysis and information on the challenges, needs, and opportunities facing rural America. RUPRI's reach is national and international and is one of the world's preeminent sources of expertise and perspective on policies impacting rural places and people. RUPRI's activities encompass research, policy analysis and engagement, dissemination and outreach, and decision support tools. Through their work, RUPRI aims to spur public dialogue and help policymakers understand the impacts of public policies and programs on rural people and places.

## Texas A&M Health Science Center Rural and Community Health Institute

The Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) Rural and Community Health Institute (ARCHI) is a health extension center offering programs that promote safe, effective health care practices. ARCHI serves as a bridge for



health care professionals and their organizations with academic centers, policymakers, and researchers to improve the quality and safety of patient care. TAMHSC is the technical assistance center for the FORHP Vulnerable Rural Hospital Assistance Program.

## US Department of Health and Human Services

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the US government's principal agency responsible for enhancing and protecting the health and well-being of all Americans. This is achieved by providing for effective health and human services and fostering 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.