Overview

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) promotes better health care service in rural America. FORHP was established by Section 711 of the Social Security Act in December of 1987 and is located in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Congress charged FORHP with informing and advising the Department of Health and Human Services (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. FORHP works both with federal, state, and local governments and with the private sector: associations, foundations, providers and community leaders, to seek solutions to rural health care problems.

In particular, FORHP:

- Helps shape rural health policy
- Works with State Offices of Rural Health
- Promotes rural health research
- Funds innovative rural health programs
- Provides support to the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services
- Acts as a voice for the concerns of rural hospitals, clinics, and other rural health care providers
- Acts as a liaison with national, state, and local rural health organizations
- Works with minority populations in rural areas
- Sponsors a National Clearinghouse of Rural Health Information

Funding

Grants are aimed at expanding access to, coordinating, restraining cost of, and improving the quality of essential health care in rural areas.

For information on locations eligible to receive Rural Health Grants see the FORHP website: http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/RuralAdvisor/

Here is a list of the Rural Health Grants:

- **Rural Health Outreach** grants support service delivery through collaboration. Each grantee forms a consortium with at least two partners
- Network Development Program grants support the development of networks of at least three health care organizations that integrate systems of care administratively, clinically, financially, and technologically.
  [Link](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/networkprogram.html)

- Network Development Planning grants are one-year grants that support development and operational planning of health care networks.
  [Link](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/rhnetworkplanning.html)

- Delta States Rural Development Network grants support the development of new and innovative health care delivery systems in the Mississippi Delta region.
  [Link](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/deltaprogram.html)

- Rural Health Information Technology Network Development grants support rural health networks in the adoption of Health Information Technology and Electronic Health Records by offering assistance in purchasing equipment, installing broadband networks, and providing training for staff.
  [Link](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/rhitnd.html)

- Rural Health Workforce Development Program is a one-time pilot program aimed at supporting the development of rural health networks that seek to improve the recruitment and retention of emerging health professionals in rural communities.
  [Link](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/workforcedev.html)

- Delta Rural Hospital Performance Improvement (RHPI) Project supports hospitals in the Mississippi Delta region to improve financial, quality, and operational performance.
  [Link](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/hospitalstate/delta/index.html)

- Rural Access to Emergency Devices grants assist rural communities to purchase automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and provide training in their use and maintenance.
  [Link](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/emergencydevices.html)

- Public Access to Defibrillation Demonstration Projects supports projects that increase public access to emergency medical devices and services.
  [Link](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/defibrillation.html)

- Frontier Extended Stay Clinic Cooperative Agreement grants examine the effectiveness and appropriateness of this new type of health care provider in certain remote locations.
  [Link](http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/policy/frontierextended.html)

- Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement grants assist rural providers with the implementation of quality improvement strategies, while
improving patient care and chronic disease outcomes  
http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/smallhealthcare.html

- **Black Lung/Coal Miner Clinics** grants support public and private non-profit entities in the operation of clinics that provide diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of active and retired coal miners with respiratory and pulmonary impairments  
http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/blacklungrants.html

- **Radiation Exposure Screening and Education** grants support health care providers in the operation of clinics that educate, screen, diagnose, and treat people affected by the mining, transporting, and processing of uranium and the testing of nuclear weapons for the nation’s weapons arsenal  
http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/resepgrant.html

For more information on rural health grant opportunities, please visit:  

**State Programs**

FORHP promotes state and local empowerment to meet rural health needs by supporting State Offices of Rural Health, by encouraging the formation of State Rural Health Associations, and by working with a variety of State agencies to improve rural health.

- **State Offices of Rural Health (SORH)** grants are awarded to states to assist in strengthening rural health care delivery systems by maintaining a focal point for rural health  
http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/hospitalstate/stateoffices.html

- **Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program** grants are awarded to states to help them develop and implement Rural Health Plans with broad collaboration; stabilize rural hospitals by helping them consider, plan for, and obtain designation as critical access hospitals (CAH); assist CAHs, other providers, and communities as they develop networks of care; improve and integrate emergency medical services; and improve quality of care  
http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/hospitalstate/medicareflexibility_.html

- **Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program** (SHIP) grants are awarded to states to assist small rural hospitals to pay for costs related to the implementation of Prospective Payment System (PPS), comply with provisions of HIPAA, reduce medical errors, and support quality improvement initiatives  
http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/hospitalstate/smallimprovement.html