

FEDERAL OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH POLICY

<http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/>

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. Below is a list of grant programs below from the two divisions of FORHP, Community-Based and Hospital State.

Community-Based Division

- **Black Lung/Coal Miner Clinics Program** 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/blacklunggrants.html>
- **Delta States Rural Development Network** grants support the development of new and innovative health care delivery systems in the Mississippi Delta region
<http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/deltaprogram.html>
- **Rural Health Network Development Planning** grants are one-year grants that support development and operational planning of health care networks
<http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/rhnetworkplanning.html>
- **Rural Health 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
<http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/networkprogram.html>
- **Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program** 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>
- **Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program** grants support formal rural health networks that focus on activities related to the recruitment, education, training and retention of HIT specialists
<http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/techworkforceprogram.html>

- **Rural Health Care Services Outreach** grants support service delivery through collaboration. Each grantee forms a consortium with at least two partners.
<http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/community/careservicesoutreach.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>

Hospital State Division

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.

- **Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex)** 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>
- **Small Rural Hospital Transitions Project** grants support small rural hospitals nationally by providing on-site technical assistance to assist bridging the gaps between the current health care system and the newly emerging health care delivery and payment system

<http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/hospitalstate/index.html>

- **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>

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

For more information on rural health grant opportunities, please visit: <http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/grants/index.html>