

# STATE OFFICES of Rural Health



National Organization of  
State Offices of Rural Health



## Role of SORH

State Offices of Rural Health (SORHs) are **neutral conveners** of state partners, health care providers and communities. They **lead coordination** of efforts in workforce, economic development, and **innovation** in rural hospitals, **emergency services** and rural health care delivery systems.

SORHs collect and disseminate data which inform public policy decisions that impact rural providers. The **technical assistance** provided by SORHs improves health care provider recruitment, builds effective **networks** and expands health care services for rural people.

SORHs are the **connection to State and Federal resources** for over 1300 Critical Access Hospitals, thousands of rural health partners and millions of rural people across the United States.

## 5 Reasons Why

### Congress Must Increase Funding by \$5.5 Million to:

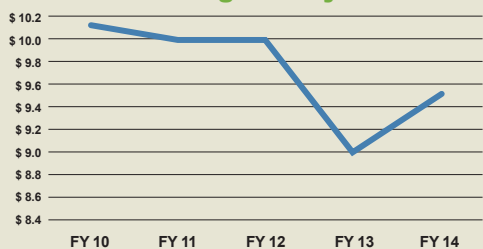
1. Build capacity to support small town hospitals and clinics working to keep rural people healthy and care for the sick in your district.
2. Meet the increased and growing demands for education and technical assistance from rural providers.
3. Adequately fund a responsible rural health safety net resource.
4. Support value — every dollar received by SORH is matched with 3 non-federal dollars.
5. Ensure innovation in rural communities and health care facilities.



## Time To Increase Capacity

The demands on SORH resources have increased over the years; yet funding for their vital work has not. SORH have not asked for nor received an increase in appropriations in more than 5 years.

SORH Funding History — Millions



**Rural health providers and populations need SORHs to be more, and this means SORHs need more funding. It is time for a reasonable and responsible increase of \$5.5 Million**

With additional funding, SORHs can develop alternative services which meet the unique needs of their state's rural communities and health care providers.

## RURAL MATTERS

### POPULATION:

**57** million Americans

**60%** of the nations counties are rural

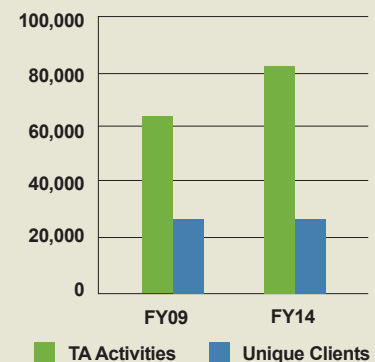
There are **2,157** Health Professions Shortage Areas in rural areas compared to 910 in urban areas.

**1330** Critical Access Hospitals make up **30%** of acute care hospitals but receive **5%** of Medicare payments



## Impact

SORH TA Activities  
5 Year Comparison



Examples include:

- Supporting state level quality improvement and data submission initiatives
- Provider recruitment and retention efforts
- Integration of primary and behavioral care

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