State Offices of Rural Health

What is a State Office of Rural Health?
The State Office of Rural Health (SORH) program is a unique, federal-state partnership through the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

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

SORHs connect state and federal resources to over 1,300 Critical Access Hospitals, thousands of rural health partners, and millions of rural people across the United States.

Goals of a State Office of Rural Health
SORHs have a core charge of providing TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to rural health organizations, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION of rural relevant information to key stakeholders and rural health entities, and providing COORDINATION efforts for rural health activities to reduce duplication.

SORH Technical Assistance Examples
• Assist and facilitate Community Health Needs Assessments in rural communities
• Quality initiative enrollment for certified Rural Health Clinics
• Alternative Payment Methodology initiatives
• Substance abuse and mental health initiatives
• Recruitment and retention programs
• Telehealth, community health workers, and other innovative health care delivery models

5 Reasons Why Your SORH is an important member of your team:
1. Builds capacity to support small town hospitals and clinics working to improve the health of their communities.
2. Meets the increased and growing demand for education and technical assistance to rural providers and administrators.
3. Serves as a responsive rural health safety net resource.
4. Encourages innovation in rural communities and health care facilities.
5. Collects and disseminates data and information on resources for rural communities.