

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Background

- Part of HRSA & DHHS
- “Voice for Rural”
- Policy and Research Role
- Review HHS Regulations
- Administer Grant Programs
- Technical Assistance

Organizational Set up

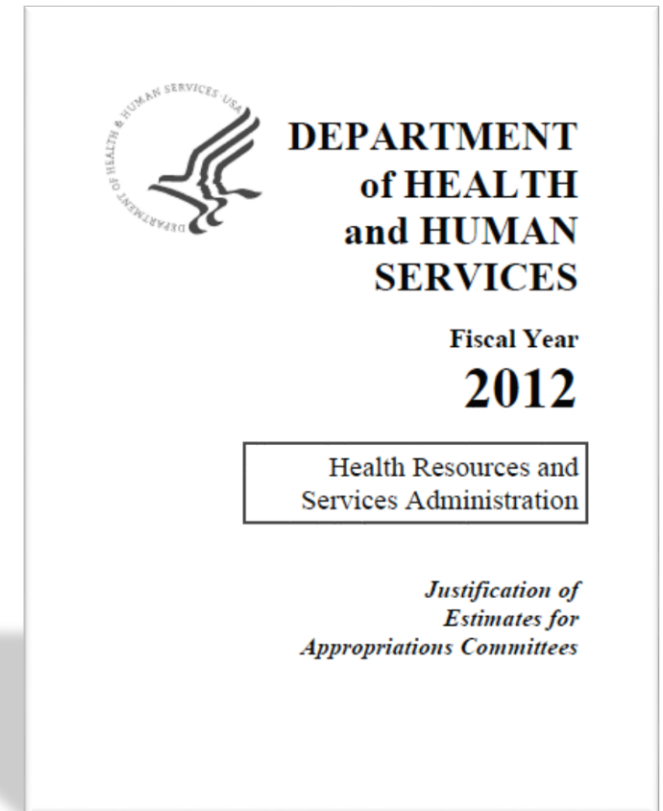
- Office of the Associate Administrator
- Administrative Operations Division
- Community-Based Division
- Hospital-State Division
- Policy Research Division
- Office for the Advancement of Telehealth



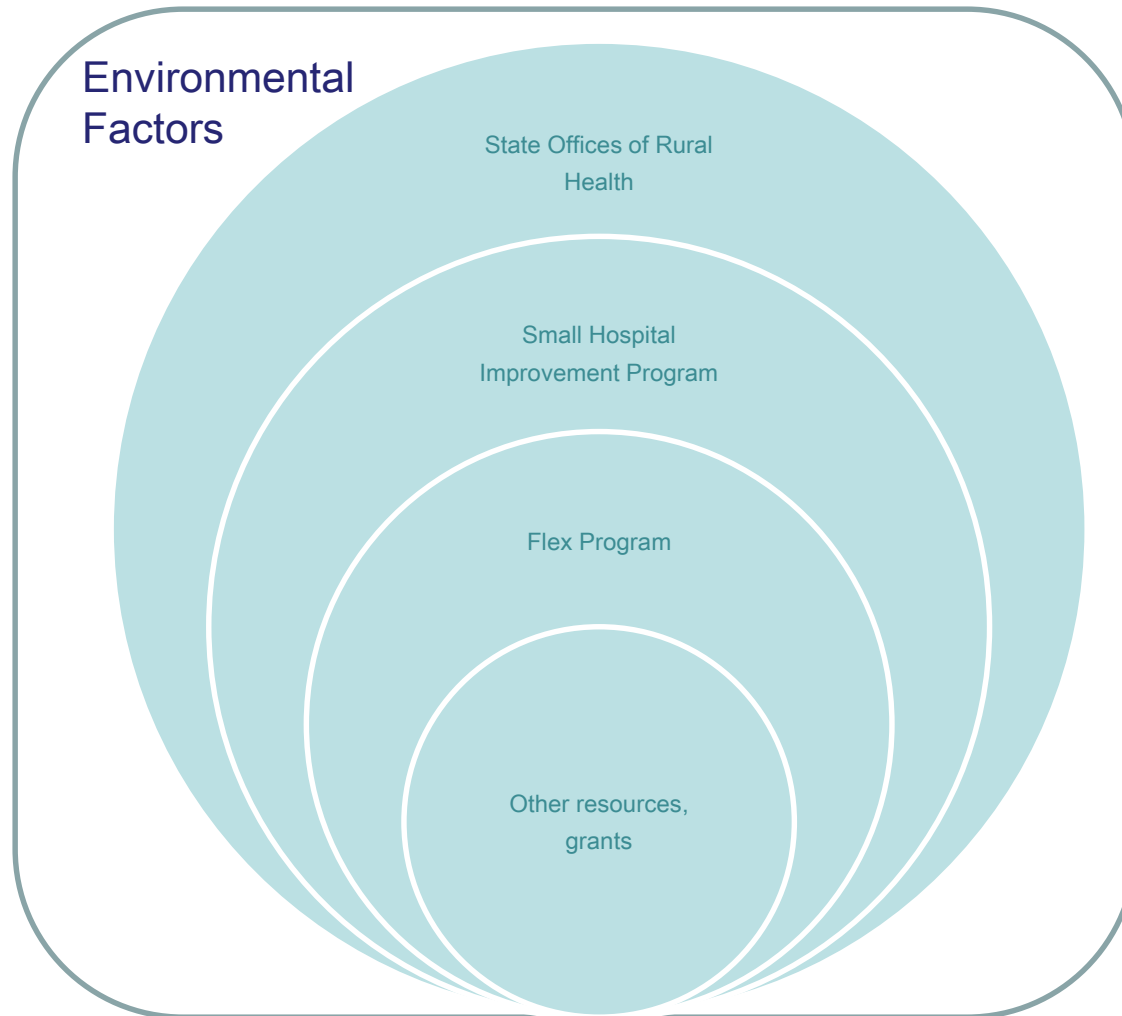
Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) Activities

Improving Rural Health Initiative

“Within the total amount requested for Rural Health Activities, the Budget includes \$79 million to continue the President’s initiative to improve rural health. The goal of this initiative is to improve the access to and quality of health care in rural areas.”




Hospital State Programs



Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) Activities

Improving Rural Health Initiative: Key Elements

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- Four downward-pointing chevrons, each pointing to a key element. The chevrons are blue and purple, with a gradient effect from top to bottom.
- Building a Programmatic “Evidence Base”
 - Health Workforce Recruitment & Retention
 - Telehealth/ HIT Coordination
 - Cross Governmental Collaboration

Hospital State Division (HSD)

Overview

Focus

- *Improving Outcomes*
- Using and Sharing the Program Data
- Collaborating and Sharing Best Practices
- Aligning Programs to the Health Care Environment
- Program Integrity

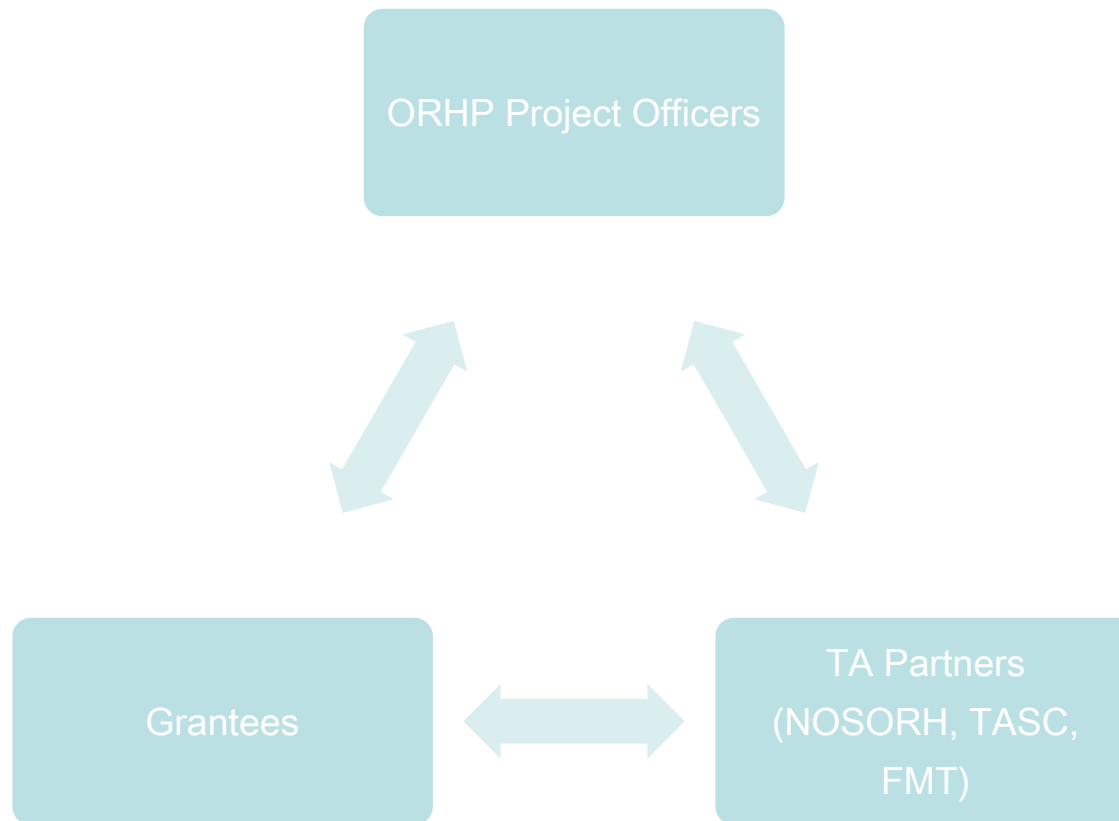
Programs

- Grants
 - State Offices of Rural Health (SORH)
 - Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (FLEX)
 - Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)
- Initiatives
 - Flex Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP)
 - Small Rural Hospital Transitions Project



Hospital State Division

Collaborative Partnership



Hospital State Division (HSD)

Grants: State Offices of Rural Health (SORH)

Purpose

- State / Federal partnership assist States in strengthening rural health care delivery systems
- Establish & maintain clearinghouse of information
- Coordinate activities within state to avoid duplication of effort & activities.
- Provide technical assistance
- Encourage recruitment & retention of health professionals

Awards

- FY 15 continuation awards
- Focus on key SORH activities for all 50 states
- \$177K average per state
- 3:1 state : federal match



Hospital State Division (HSD)

SORH Grant TA Partners

- National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health
 - Provide education, resources and TA to State SORH Programs
 - <http://www.nosorh.org>

Hospital State Division (HSD)

Grants: Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)

Purpose and Priorities

- Purpose: Support to rural hospitals with fewer than 50 beds for to assist with meeting new requirements of payment reform through:
 - Equipment purchase
 - Training related to equipment
- Priorities
 - Encouraging Networking
 - Quality Reporting
 - ICD 10 Updates: <http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/>

Awards

- \$14 million/\$9000 per hospital
- 47 states receive awards (not DE, RI or NJ)
- Eligible rural hospitals fewer than 50 beds
- Grant is awarded per eligible hospital in the state, but awarded through the State Office of Rural Health to manage/disseminate.



Hospital State Division (HSD)

SHIP Grant TA Partners

- Technical Assistance and Services Center
 - Provide education, resources and TA to State SHIP Programs
 - <http://www.ruralcenter.org/tasc>

Hospital State Division (HSD)

Grants: Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant

Purpose and Priorities

- Assist states with designating facilities as Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and providing support for quality improvement and performance improvement activities within those CAHs.
- Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP)
- Focus on meeting needs of CAHs
- Focus on demonstrating improvements

Awards

- \$22 million/\$500K avg per state
- 45 States eligible (CT, DE, MD, NJ, or RI do not have Critical Access Hospitals)
- Awards to the State Office of Rural Health
- FY15 is a competing continuation – refining focus of grant even further and prioritizing quality reporting and improvement activities.



Hospital State Division (HSD)

Flex Grant TA Partners

- Technical Assistance and Services Center
 - Provide education, resources and TA to State Flex Programs and CAHs
- <http://www.ruralcenter.org/tasc>
- Flex Monitoring Team
 - CAH Financial Indicator Reports
 - State Hospital Compare & Quality Measure Reports
 - Other briefs & reports yearly on quality, finance, and community engagement
- www.flexmonitoring.org