



Rural Health Update

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Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
Health Resources and Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Service

State Offices of Rural Health, Region D Partnership Meeting
Austin, Texas
May 19-20, 2015



Who are We?

■ Quick Background

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



■ Organizational Set up

- Community-Based Division (CBD)
- Hospital-State Division (HSD)
- Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT)
- Policy Research Division (PRD)





The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Sec. 711. [42 U.S.C. 912] (a) There shall be established in the Department of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Department”) an Office of Rural Health Policy (in this section referred to as the “Office”). The Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall advise the Secretary on the effects of current policies and proposed statutory, regulatory, administrative, and budgetary changes in the programs established under titles XVIII and XIX on the financial viability of small rural hospitals, the ability of rural areas (and rural hospitals in particular) to attract and retain physicians and other health professionals, and access to (and the quality of) health care in rural areas.

Challenging Regulatory Environment

- Payment Changes
- Proposed Reductions
- Changing Payer Mix

Department of Health and Human Services

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

**MEDICARE COULD HAVE
SAVED BILLIONS AT
CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS
IF SWING-BED SERVICES
WERE REIMBURSED USING
THE SKILLED NURSING
FACILITY PROSPECTIVE
PAYMENT SYSTEM RATES**

Inquiries about this report may be addressed to the Office of Public Affairs at
PublicAffairs@oig.hhs.gov



Daniel R. Levinson
Inspector General

March 2015
A-05-12-00046

Department of Health and Human Services

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

**MOST CRITICAL ACCESS
HOSPITALS WOULD NOT
MEET THE LOCATION
REQUIREMENTS IF REQUIRED
TO RE-ENROLL IN MEDICARE**

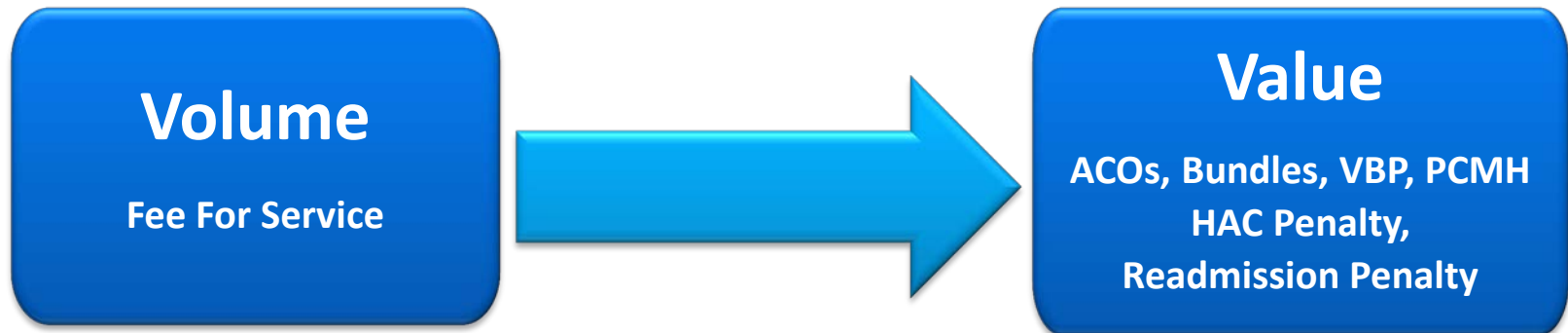


Daniel R. Levinson
Inspector General

August 2013
OEI-05-12-00080



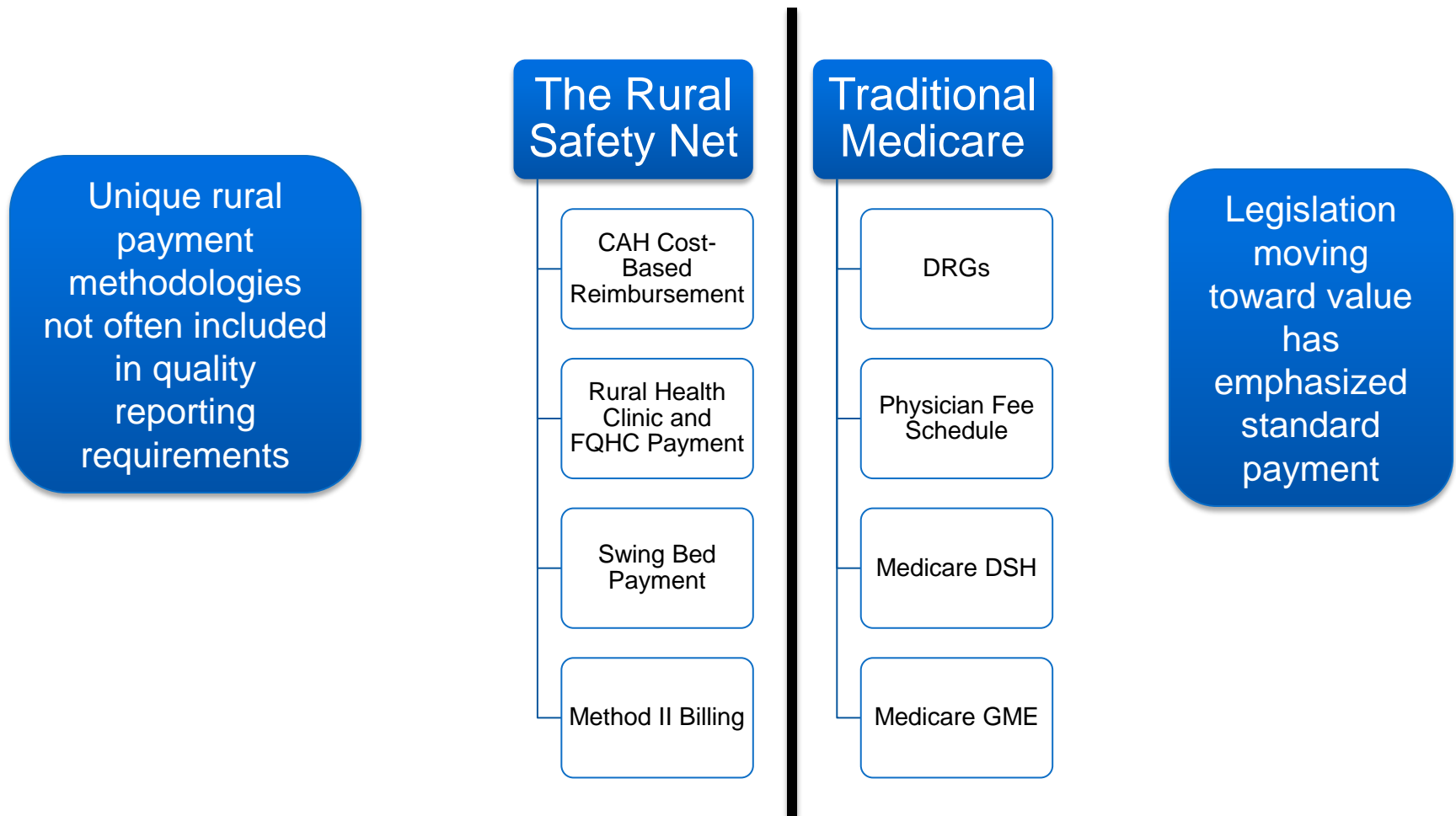
A Transitioning Landscape





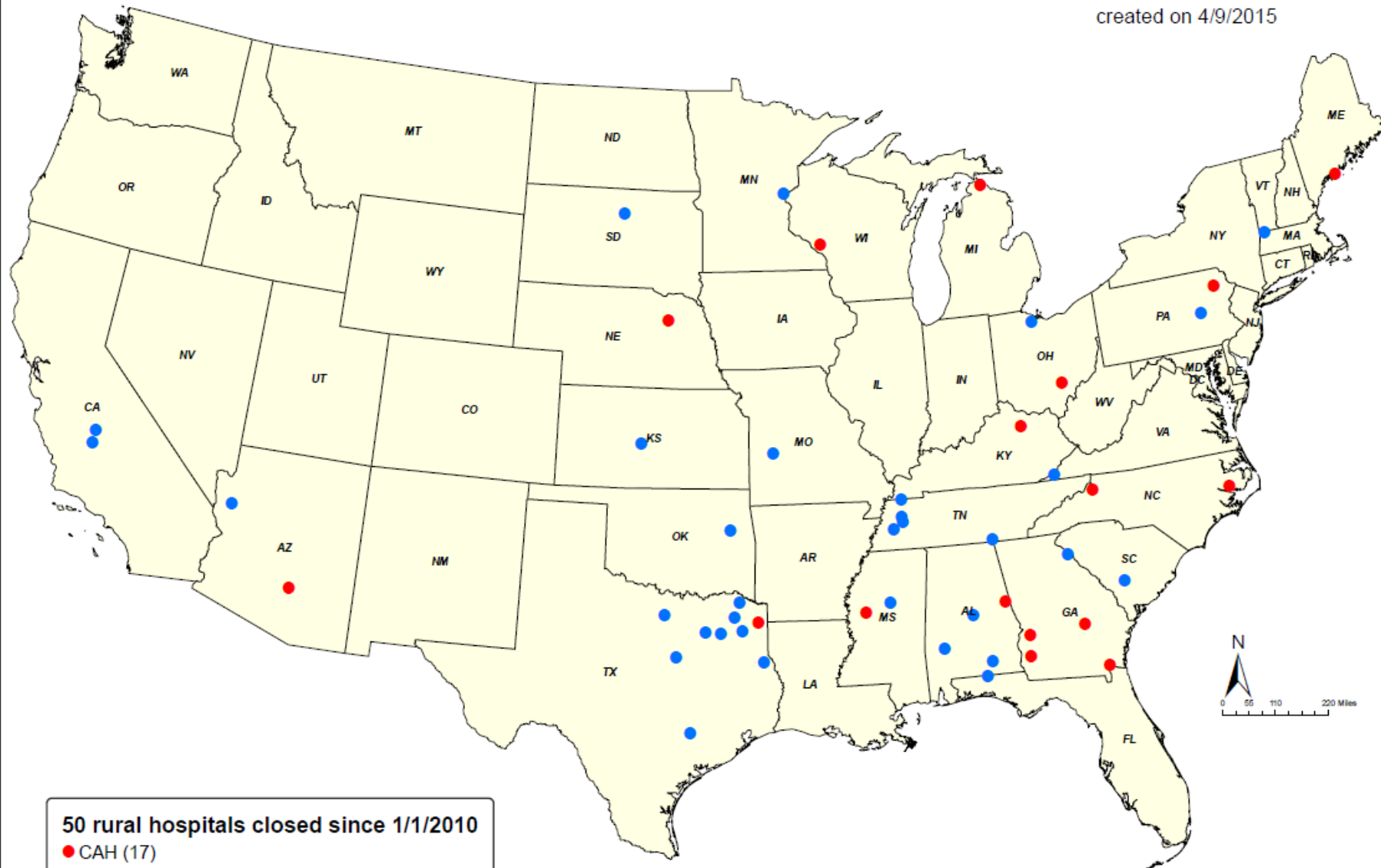
A Transitioning Landscape

Are the rural payment protections a dividing line?



Closed Rural Hospitals, 2010 – 2015

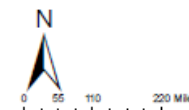
created on 4/9/2015



50 rural hospitals closed since 1/1/2010

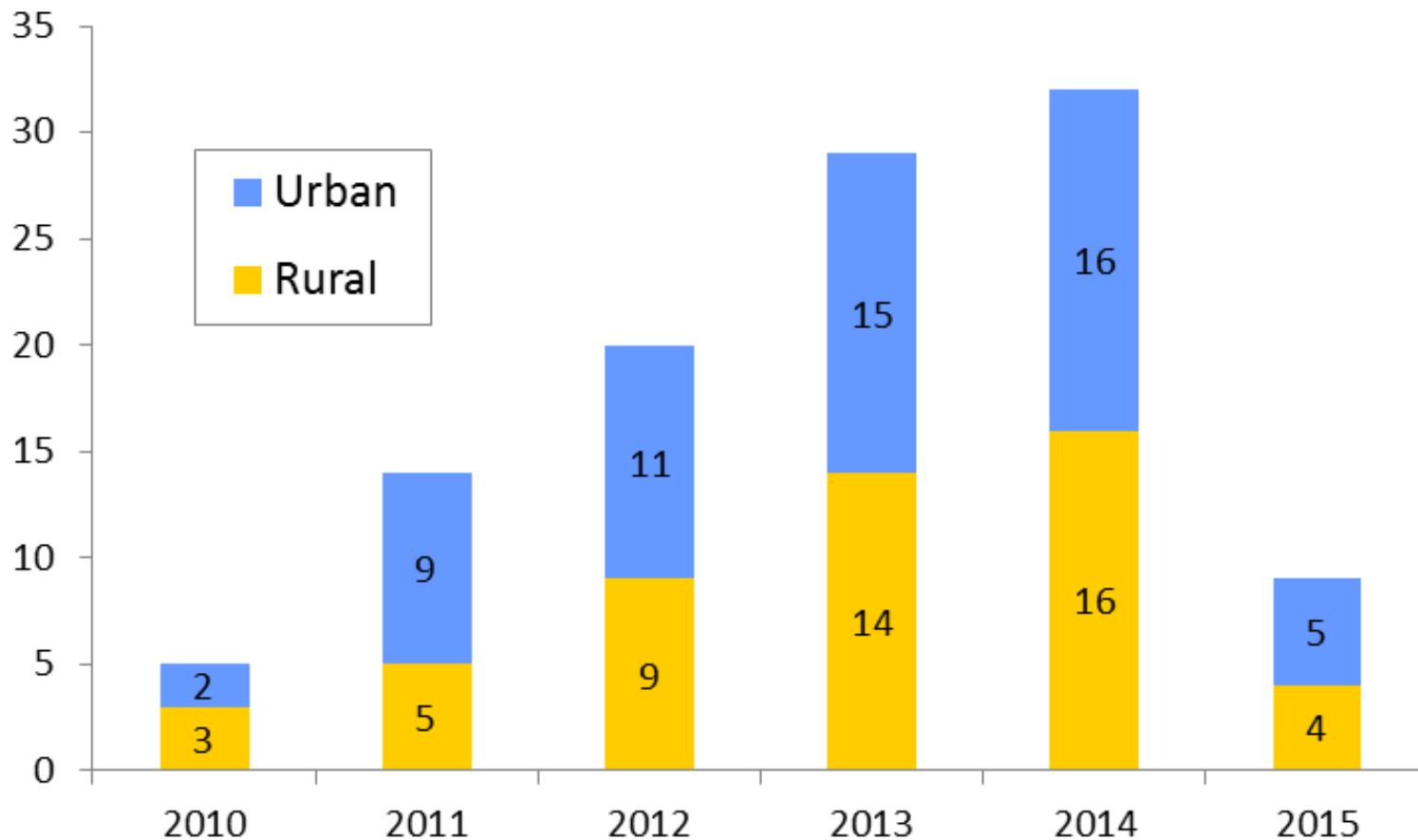
● CAH (17)

● Rural PPS (33)





Hospital closures are increasing





Assessing Current Risk



- Tracking Rural Hospital Closures
- Re-Thinking Mix of Models for Rural
- Leveraging and Learning from Current Pilots and Demonstrations



Federal Office of Rural Health Policy 2015 Budget

Rural Health Policy Development	\$9.3 million
Rural Health Outreach Program	\$59 million
Rural & Community Access to Emergency Devices	\$4.5 million
Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants	\$40.5 million
State Offices of Rural Health	\$9.4 million
Radiation Exposure & Screening	\$1.8 million
Black Lung Clinics	\$6.7 million
Telehealth	\$13.9 million
Total	\$143.9 million



Our Goal...Helping Rural Communities Make the Transition



Grants

- Supporting rural providers
- Addressing community health needs
- Addressing workforce needs
- Assisting state rural health efforts
- Leveraging telehealth & Health IT

Technical Assistance

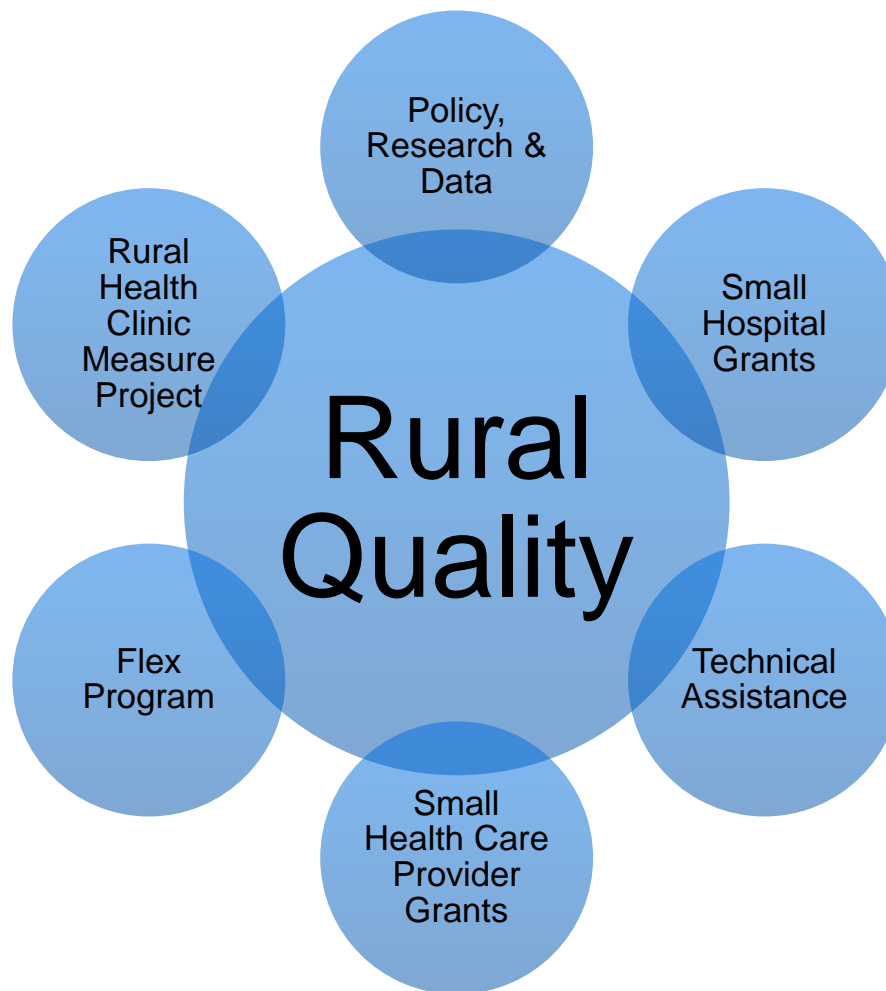
- Rural Hospitals
- Rural Health Clinics
- Rural Residencies
- Telehealth Services
- Workforce Recruitment & Retention

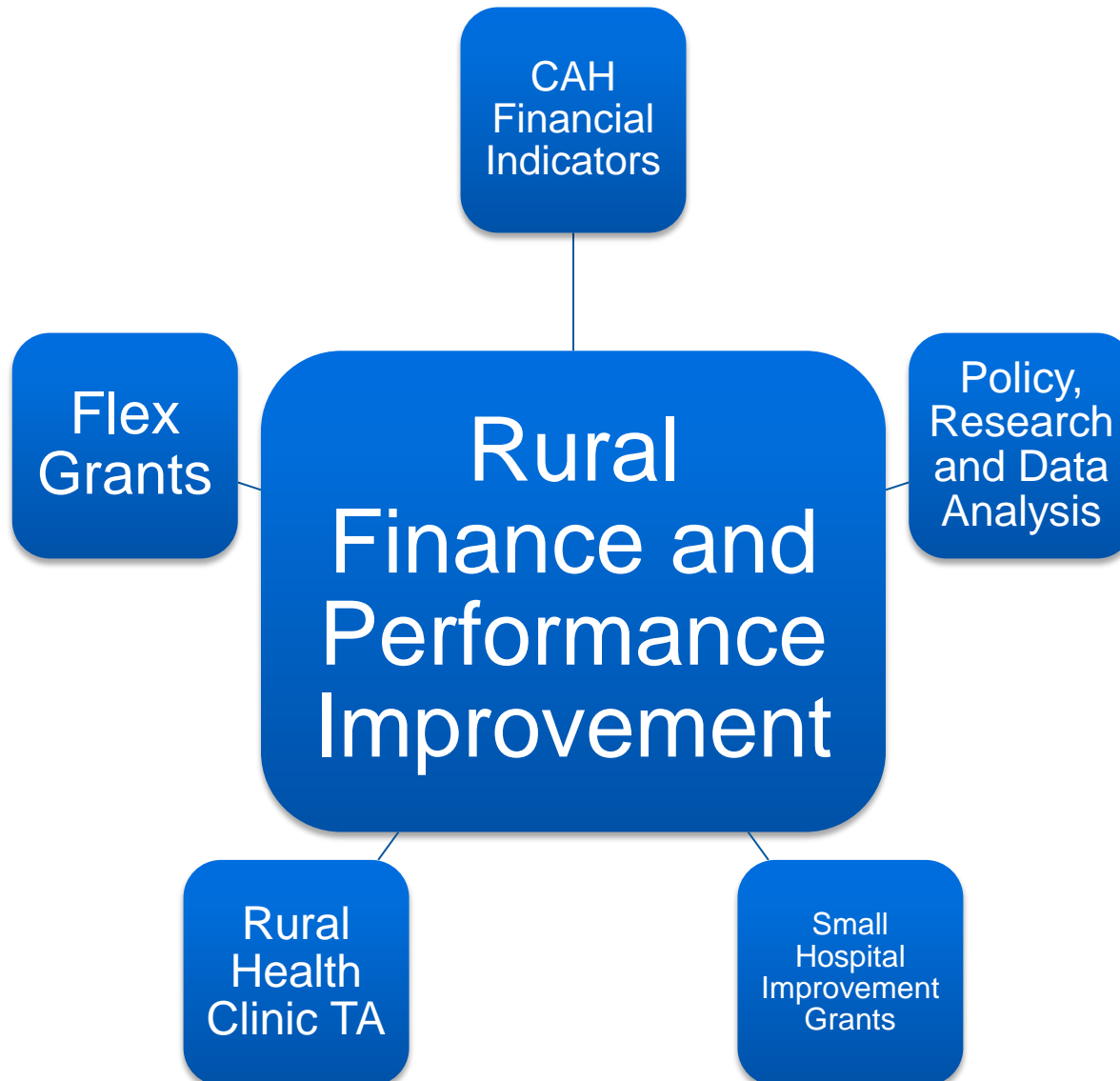
Policy & Research

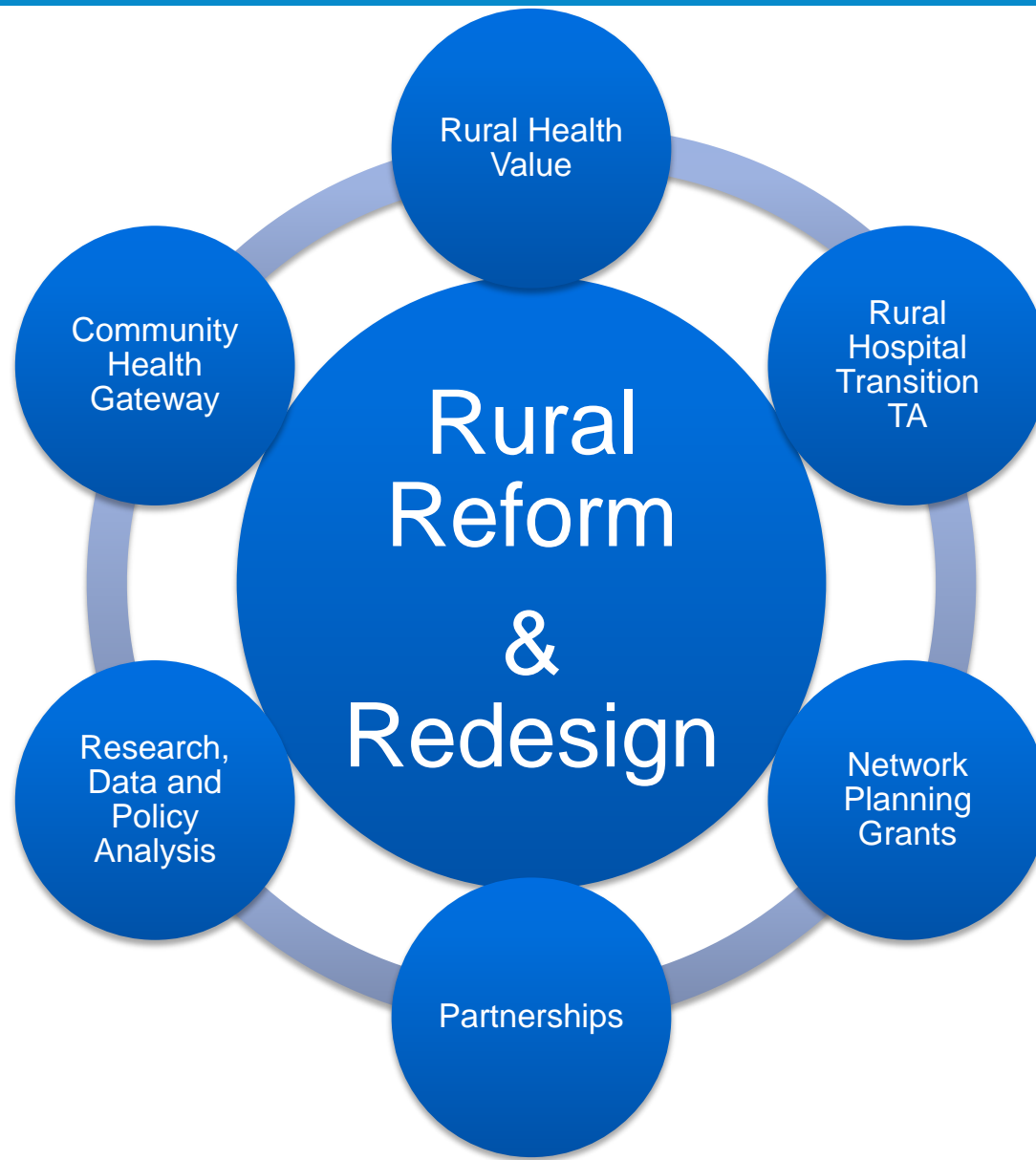
- Regulation Review
- White House Rural Council
- National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services
- Data analysis

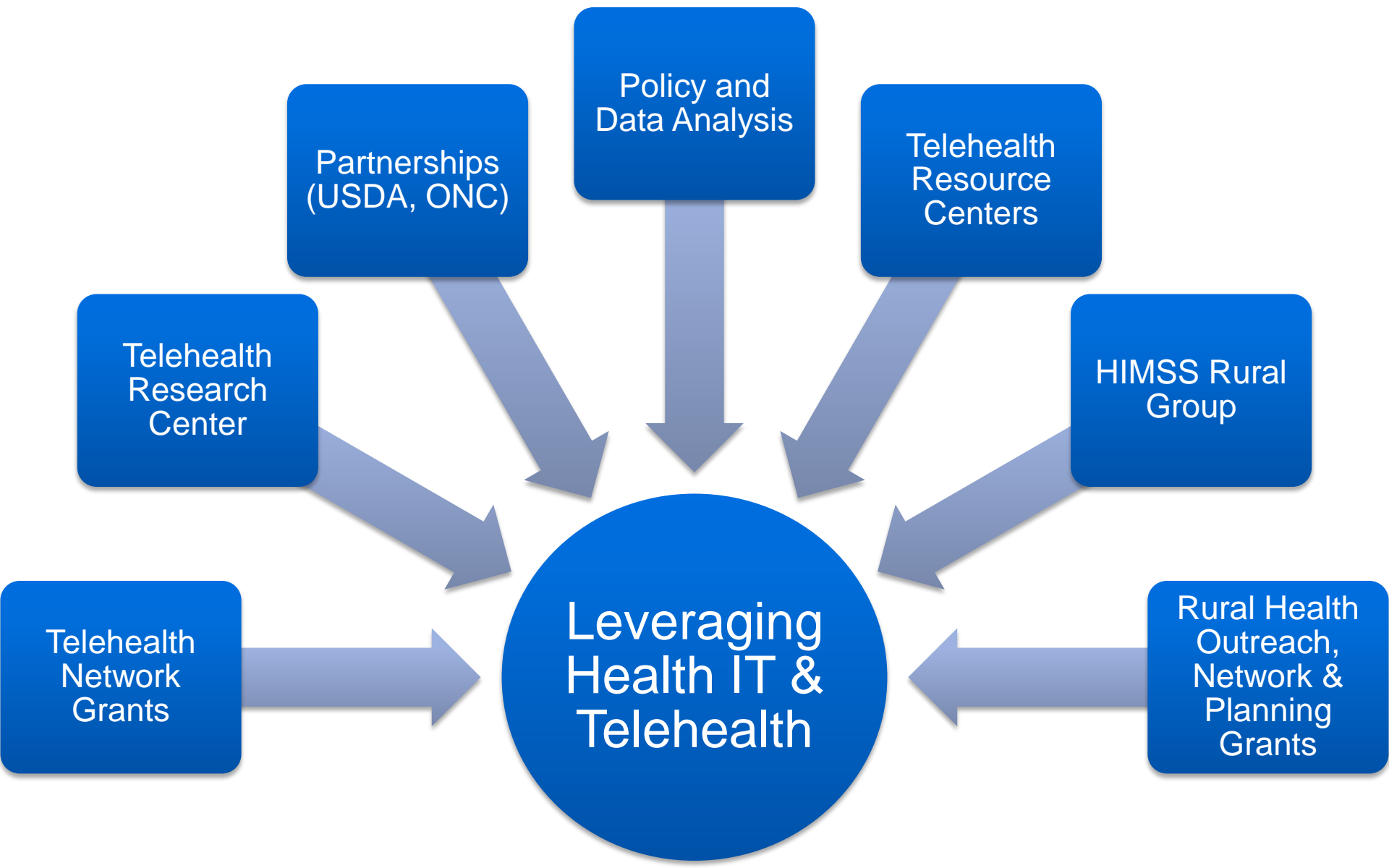
Funding & Resources

- Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project
- CAH Benchmarking Data
- Findings of the National Quality Forum









The Role Played by Rural Research



The screenshot shows the Rural Health Research Gateway website. The header includes the title "Rural Health Research Gateway", social media icons for RSS and Facebook, and links for "About" and "Contact Us". A search bar is also present. The main content area features a large image of a family in a field with the text "connecting research to diverse audiences". On the left, there is a sidebar with links to "Topics", "Centers", "Researchers", "Other Resources", and "Search". Below this, the "Research Alerts" section encourages staying on top of the latest federally-funded rural health research, with links for "E-mail", "RSS Feed", and "Facebook". The "Rural Health Research Centers" section welcomes visitors and provides access to publications and projects funded through the federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) as part of the Rural Health Research Centers and Analysis Initiatives grant program. It also includes a link to learn more about the Rural Health Research Gateway. The "Featured Resources" section lists two key documents: "Challenges for Improving Health Care Access in Rural America: A Compendium of Research and Policy Analysis Studies of Rural Health Research and Policy Analysis Centers 2009-2010" and "Toxics Release Inventory Discharges and Population Health Outcomes in Rural and Urban Areas of the United States (Final Report)". The footer contains a comprehensive list of navigation links: Home, Topics, Centers, Researchers, Other Resources, Research Alerts, About Us, Contact Us, Site Map, Disclaimer, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility.

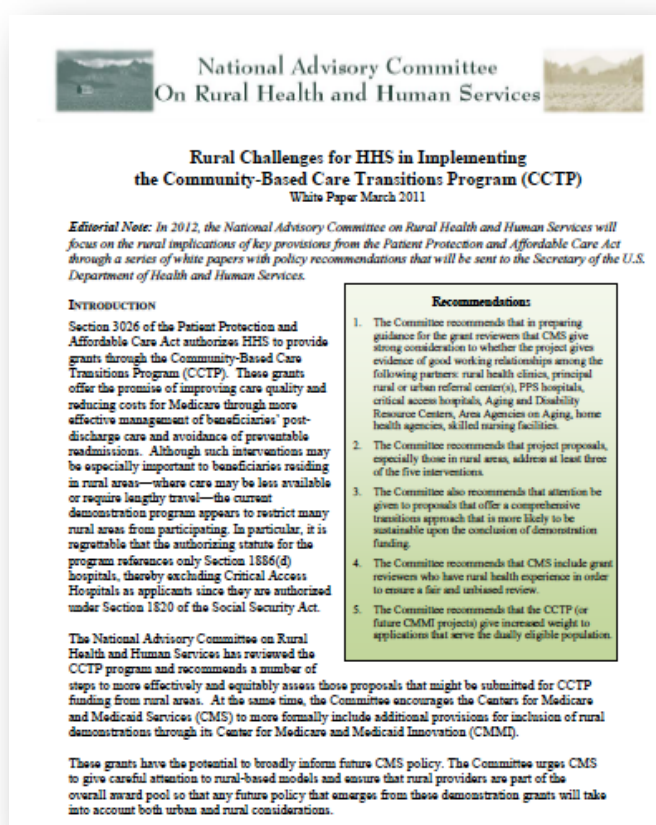
<http://bit.ly/ruralclosures/>

<http://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/>

Another Policy Voice

The National Advisory Committee on Rural Health & Human Services

- Policy Briefs and Recommendations Available online



<http://www.hrsa.gov/advisorycommittees/rural/publications/index.html>

Leveraging FORHP Funding and Resources



Improved Finances

- Flex funding supported better use of cost report
- SHIP funding improved ICD 10 coding

Reduced Bypass

- Expanded Telehealth Services
- Planning Grant focused on retaining patients
- MBQIP participation showed improved quality to community
- USDA funding led to new facility

Expanded Access

- Planning Grant led to new CHC
- Network Development Grant added behavioral health services
- Network grant established new service lines to meet community need and improve population health



Current Funding Opportunities

- HRSA-15-146 Rural Opioid Overdose Reversal Grant Program
 - [Apply by June 8](#)
- HRSA-15-150 Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance
 - [Apply by June 22](#)
- HRSA-15-145 Rural Child Poverty Telehealth Network Grant Program
 - [Apply by June 22](#)
- HRSA-15-149 Telehealth Focused Rural Health Research Center
 - [Apply by June 29](#)



Rural Opioid Overdose Reversal Grant Program

- Applications due June 8
- Start Date: September 1, 2015
- ~15 Awards
- Funding Amount: Up to \$100K (1 year)
- Program Contact:

Michele Pray

mpray@hrsa.gov

301.443.7320



White House Rural Council

[Home](#) | [About the Council](#) | [Blog Posts](#) | [Executive Order](#) | [Council Members](#) | [Policy Initiatives](#) | [Rural Tour](#) | [Email Updates](#)

Strong rural communities are key to a stronger America...that's why I've established the White House Rural Council to make sure we're working across government to strengthen rural communities and promote economic growth.

– President Barack Obama





Contact Information

Sarah Young
301-443-5905
syoung2@hrsa.gov

www.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov



Rural Health Resources

- Funding
- Resources
- Websites
- Tools
- Partners

www.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov



FORHP Programs



Community-Based Division

- Rural Health Outreach Program
- Rural Access to Emergency Devices
- Black Lung Clinic Program
- Radiation Exposure and Screening Education Program

Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

- The Telehealth Network Grant Program
- The Telehealth Resource Center Program
- The Telehealth Licensure and Portability Program

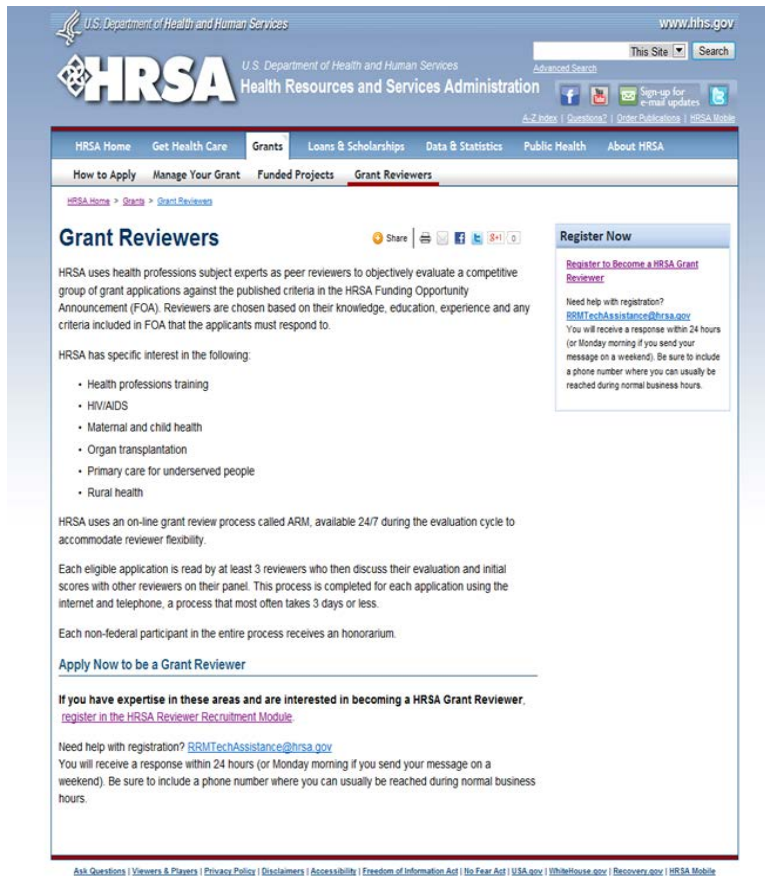
Hospital-State Division

- The State Offices of Rural Health Program
- The Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program
- The Small Hospital Improvement Program

Policy and Research Division

- Rural Health Research Center Program
- Rural Training Track Technical Assistance Center
- Rural Assistance Center
- Rural Policy Analysis
- Rapid Response Data Analysis

How to be a Grant Reviewer



The screenshot shows the HRSA website's "Grant Reviewers" page. The header includes the HRSA logo and navigation links. The main content area is titled "Grant Reviewers" and explains that HRSA uses health professions subject experts as peer reviewers. It lists areas of interest: Health professions training, HIV/AIDS, Maternal and child health, Organ transplantation, Primary care for underserved people, and Rural health. A "Register Now" sidebar on the right provides a link to "Register to Become a HRSA Grant Reviewer" and contact information for registration assistance. The footer contains various links including "About HRSA", "Grants", "Loans & Scholarships", "Data & Statistics", "Public Health", and "About HRSA".

- ORHP has multiple grant program reviews each year
- We need reviewers with rural experience to be a part of our Objective Review Committee panels
- You must register to be a reviewer:
<http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/reviewers/>
- Indicate “rural health” as one of your specialties in the background information

FY 2016 Competitive Grant Programs

Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grant Program

- 3 years, \$150,000 per year
- ~ 30 awards
- To deliver health care services in rural communities
 - Evidence-based
 - Outcomes oriented
- Eligibility: rural, non-profit or public entity, partner with 2 other entities
- FOA available Winter 2015
- Start date: August 2016
- Contact: Ann Ferrero, aferrero@hrsa.gov; 301-443-3999

Rural Health Network Development Planning Program

- 1 year, \$100,000
- ~ 15 awards
- Help to promote the planning and development of healthcare networks
- Eligibility: rural, non-profit or public entity
- FOA available Fall 2015
- Start date: June 2016
- Contact: Amber Berrian, aberrian@hrsa.gov, 301-443-0845



FY 2016 Competitive Grant Programs

Delta States Rural Development Network Grant Program

- 3 years, \$460,000 per year, ~12 awards
- To deliver health care services in rural communities
 - Evidence-based
 - Outcomes oriented
 - Applicants are responsible for covering a defined service area
- Eligibility: rural, non-profit or public entity, partner with two other consortia members
- FOA available Winter 2015
- Start date: August 2016
- Contact: Valerie Darden,
vdarden@hrsa.gov



FY 2016 Competitive Grant Programs

Telehealth Network Grant Program

- 3 years
- \$250,000 per year
- To demonstrate the use of telehealth networks that improve health care for medically underserved people
- Eligibility: nonprofit entities that will provide services to rural communities through a telehealth network
- FOA available: Winter 2016
- Start date: September 2016
- Contact: Carlos Mena, cmena@hrsa.gov, 301-443-3198

Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program

- 3 years
- \$350,000 per year
- To support Telehealth Resource Centers to provide TA for telehealth implementation
- Eligibility: nonprofit entities, including faith-based, community-based, and tribal nonprofit organizations
- FOA available: Winter 2016
- Start date: September 2016
- Contact: Monica Cowan
mcowan@hrsa.gov, 301-443-0076

National Health Service Corps

- www.NHSC.hrsa.gov
- Facebook.com/NationalHealthServiceCorps
- Twitter.com/NHSCorps



NURSE Corps

- www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/nurse corps/
- Facebook.com/HRSANURSECorps





Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)

- Created in May 2014, the Bureau of Health Workforce brings together HRSA's key workforce programs previously housed in two bureaus: Health Professions and Clinician Recruitment and Service
- Better meets the need for a well-trained, well-distributed 21st century workforce through realignment and built in connectivity
- Annual Appropriation of more than \$1 Billion that supports over 40 workforce programs and a staff of more than 450 people
- Supports the health care workforce across the entire training continuum – from academic training of nurses, physicians, and other clinicians to clinicians currently providing health care in underserved and rural communities across the United States

Bureau's Area of Support/Programs

- National Center for Health Workforce Analysis
- Medical & Dental Residency Programs
- Public Health
- National Practitioner Data Bank
- Nursing Training, Faculty, Infrastructure
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Allied Health
- Scholarship & Loan Repayment Programs
 - National Health Service Corps (NHSC); NURSE Corps; Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students
- Pipeline Programs
 - Centers for Excellence; Health Careers Opportunity Program; Area Health Education Program
- Oral Health Programs
- Geriatrics

Health Workforce Priorities

- Increase health care workforce and align training and education with changing practice environment
- Inter-professional training:
 - Drive the integration of practice and training
 - Bring practice and academia together
- Integrate mental and oral health into primary care
- Focus on diversity and culturally competent care
- Support placement in underserved communities
- Increase availability and timeliness of workforce projections and analyses

Web Resources

- General information about the Bureau:
<http://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/bhw>
- Reports from the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis:
<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce>
- National Health Service Corps Jobs Center:
<http://nhscjobs.hrsa.gov>

The Rural Assistance Center



Rural Assistance Center

Health and Human Services Information for Rural America

[About](#) | [Contact](#)

[Search Options](#)

[Online Library](#) ▾
 [Topics & States](#) ▾
 [Tools for Success](#) ▾
 [RAC Publications & Updates](#) ▾

Browse by

- [Topic Guides](#)
- [State Guides](#)

Online Library

- [Funding & Opportunities](#)
- [News](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Organizations](#)
- [Maps](#)
- [Publications](#)

Get Rural Updates

- [Health & Human Services Update](#)
- [Rural Monitor](#)
- [RSS Feeds](#)

Call Center

Need help finding information? RAC can provide free assistance customized to your needs.



Phone: 1-800-270-1898
 Email: info@raconline.org

Tools for Success

What Works
 Improve your community with innovation and education.

- [Rural Community Health Gateway Toolkits](#)
 - [Care Coordination](#)
 - [Community Health Workers](#)
 - [Mental Health](#) **NEW!**
 - [Obesity Prevention](#)
 - [Oral Health](#)
- [Health Information Technology Toolkit](#)
- [Rural Training Tracks](#)



Testing New Approaches
 Learn about rural demonstration projects that test new approaches and models of care.

- [Frontier Extended Stay Clinics](#)
- [Frontier Community Health Integration Program Demonstration](#)

Demonstrating Need & Impact
 Tools for grantwriting and demonstrating program impact.

- [Am I Rural?](#)
- [RAC Custom Mapping](#)
- [Economic Impact Analysis](#)
- [Planning for Sustainability](#)

Rural Health Models and Innovations Hub
 Need ideas for starting or growing your project? Get insights from the success of others.

News Headlines

- [FAQ On ACOs: Accountable Care Organizations, Explained](#)
 Kaiser Health News
- [CMS Revises Application Request for ESRD Payment, Care Delivery Model](#)
 American Hospital Association

[More News >>](#)

Features

- [A Qualitative Study of Medical Students in a Rural Track: Views on Eventual Rural Practice](#)
 Source: Family Medicine
- [Federal Grant Writing Manual](#)
 Source: TASC, National Rural Health Resource Center

Community Health Gateway



The screenshot shows the Rural Assistance Center (RAC) website. The header includes the RAC logo and the text "Rural Assistance Center" and "Health and Human Services Information for Rural America". Navigation links include "Online Library", "Topics & States", "Tools for Success", and "RAC Publications & Updates". The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Browse by:**
 - Topic Guides
 - State Guides
- Online Library:**
 - Funding & Opportunities
 - News
 - Calendar of Events
 - Organizations
 - Maps
 - Publications
- Get Rural Updates:**
 - Health & Human Services Update
 - Rural Monitor
 - RSS Feeds
- Call Center:**

Need help finding information? RAC can provide free assistance customized to your needs.

Phone: 1-800-270-1898
 Email: info@raconline.org
- Tools for Success:**

What Works: Improve your community with innovation and education.

 - Rural Community Health Gateway Toolkits
 - Care Coordination
 - Community Health Workers
 - Mental Health **NEW!**
 - Obesity Prevention
 - Oral Health
 - Health Information Technology Toolkit
 - Rural Training Tracks

Testing New Approaches: Learn about rural demonstration projects that test new approaches and models of care.

 - Frontier Extended Stay Clinics
 - Frontier Community Health Integration Program Demonstration

Demonstrating Need & Impact: Tools for grantwriting and demonstrating program impact.

 - Am I Rural?
 - RAC Custom Mapping
 - Economic Impact Analysis
 - Planning for Sustainability

Rural Health Models and Innovations Hub: Need ideas for starting or growing your project? Get insights from the success of others.
- News Headlines:**
 - Budget Chief Is Obama's Choice as New Health Secretary: The New York Times
 - NORSOR Announces Grant Writing Institute 2014: Beyond the Basics: National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health
- Features:**
 - Realizing Rural Care Coordination: Considerations and Action Steps for State Policy-Makers: Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
 - Medicare Accountable Care Organizations: Program Eligibility, Beneficiary Assignment, and Quality Measures: Source: RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis
 - Policy Brief: Streamlining Telemedicine Licensure to Improve Rural America: Source: National Rural Health Association

Toolkits

- Resources and best practices to help you identify and implement public health programs

Rural Health Models and Innovations Hub

- Find examples of approaches you can adapt for your program, including models shown to be effective, as well as new and emerging ideas.

Sustainability Tools

- The tools provided here are intended to help you consider the sustainability of programs that address community needs and to engage your partners and stakeholders in this planning process.

Economic Impact Tool

- Show how your program's grant funding affects your community's economic well-being

<http://www.raconline.org/communityhealth/>



Studies and Data on Critical Access Hospital Issues and State Flex Programs

<http://www.flexmonitoring.org/indicators.shtml>



RHC TA Series

- ORHP funded through the National Association of Rural Health Clinics
- Listserv
 - Exchange info, ask questions
 - Sign up at http://03672e4.netsolhost.com/?page_id=712
- Conference Calls
 - 6 per year on range of topics
 - Sign up and review previous calls at <http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/policy/confcall/index.html>

A New Resource ...



Rural Health Value
UNDERSTANDING
AND FACILITATING
RURAL HEALTH
TRANSFORMATION.

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [News](#) [Contact Us](#) [Share Your Rural Innovation](#)

We build knowledge through research and collaboration to effect change toward a high performance rural health system.
[Learn More >](#)

[Tools & Resources](#) [Innovations & Demonstrations](#)

www.ruralhealthvalue.org



Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Quality Improvement Organization

Special Project: Emergency Department Transfer Communication Measure

Participating States: ME, WV, WI,
MN, IA, MO, NE, OK, WY

The screenshot shows the Stratis Health website. At the top, there are logos for 'Quality Improvement Organizations' and 'Stratis Health'. Below the logos is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Contact Us', and a search bar. The main content area features a news article titled 'NATIONAL PILOT PROJECT TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TRANSFER COMMUNICATION'. The article is dated 'Published Thursday, October 3, 2013'. The text of the article describes a pilot project to improve emergency department (ED) transfers, involving eight states: Iowa, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. It mentions that Stratis Health is supporting the project by working with state Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (Flex) offices to test CAH collection and submission of Emergency Department Transfer Communication Measures, and to develop improvement action plans based on the data. The article also notes that while emergency care is important in all hospitals, it is particularly critical in rural hospitals where the distance from urban medical centers makes the effective triage, stabilization, and transfer of patients essential. A new pilot project will provide and support rural hospitals to be trained to collect information on emergency department transfer communication, and use the data to improve quality of care, safety, and outcomes for patients transferred from their emergency departments. The article concludes by stating that the project aligns with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Office of Rural Health Policy's (ORHP) Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (Flex) Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP). The Emergency Department Transfer Communication Measures will be included in phase three of MBQIP, which rolls out in fall 2013.

For More Information:

[http://www.stratishealth.org/providers/ED_Transfer.h
tml](http://www.stratishealth.org/providers/ED_Transfer.html)

Rural Affinity Group

<http://partnershipforpatients.cms.gov/about-the-partnership/aboutthepartn>

For More Information: Contact Paul Moore, ORHP

pmoore2@hrsa.gov



1. Keep patients from getting injured or sicker.

By the end of 2013, preventable hospital-acquired conditions would **decrease by 40%** compared to 2010.

2. Help patients heal without complication.

By the end of 2013, preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another would be decreased so that all hospital readmissions would be **reduced by 20%** compared to 2010.


Potential to save up to \$35 billion dollars over three years.

National Rural Health Resource Center & Technical Assistance and Services Center



<http://www.ruralcenter.org>

Rural Recruitment & Retention Network




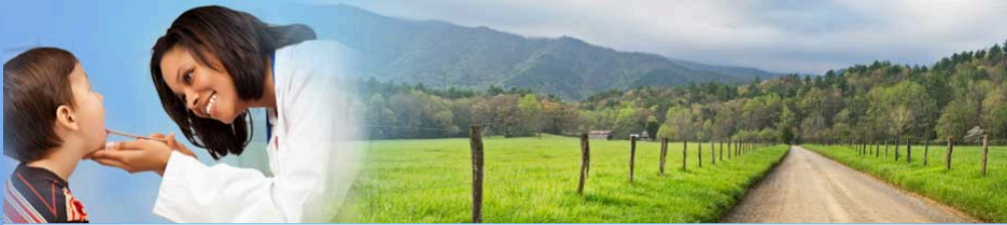
Healthcare Jobs Across the Nation

[Forgot Password?](#)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[Search Opportunities](#)
[Locations](#)
[Resources](#)
[Sponsors](#)
[About](#)
[Contact](#)



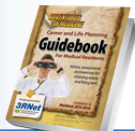


a national nonprofit network of members *working for you*
 matching *health professionals* with rural & underserved jobs

Search Job Opportunities


Profession: << Any Profession >>

Adventures in Medicine



3RNet proudly presents the 2013-2014 "Adventures in Medicine Guidebook," a 188-page career and life planning guide for medical residents. This valuable guide offers advice, assessments, and exercises for choosing wisely and

Featured State
New Jersey
 New Jersey is the place to go! When you aren't working, NJ has many sights close by: amusement parks, historical attractions, beaches, rivers, biking, birding, boating, fishing, wildlife, farms, orchards, gardens, golfing, state and national parks, tours and sightseeing, lighthouses, parks and forests, shopping centers, major metropolitan hubs and villages. [Learn More.](#)



3RNet Blog
Nebraska: Countless Ways to Work in Rural & Underserved Areas
 Nebraska has many options if you're considering working in a rural or underserved area. We've compiled information on several pertinent recruitment and retention topics from the [Nebraska Office of Rural Health's website](#) including information on:

National Center for Rural Health Works

National Center for Rural Health Works

Improving the health of rural communities



[Home](#) [About](#) ["The Products"](#) [Workshops](#) [Technical Assistance](#) [Resources](#)

Welcome to The National Center for Rural Health Works

The National Center for Rural Health Works provides tools and templates by which community residents can evaluate their health systems. This is typically accomplished by training state teams to assist rural communities. The National Center (or RHW) provides training, tools, templates, and technical assistance in the following areas:

- [Economic Impact](#)
- [Community Health Needs Assessment](#)
- [Rural Health Needs Assessment](#)
- [Rural Health Service Profitability](#)

The tools and templates for each of these focus areas are referred to as ["The Products"](#). To share the tools and templates, the National Center provides [workshops](#) to train potential users. [Technical assistance](#) is available to assist users with development of the tools and templates for their organizations.

Ultimately, the success of the National Center for Rural Health Works must be measured through the outcomes at the local, regional, and/or state level. The tools are



Select a state below to view information

Search

"The Latest" from RHW

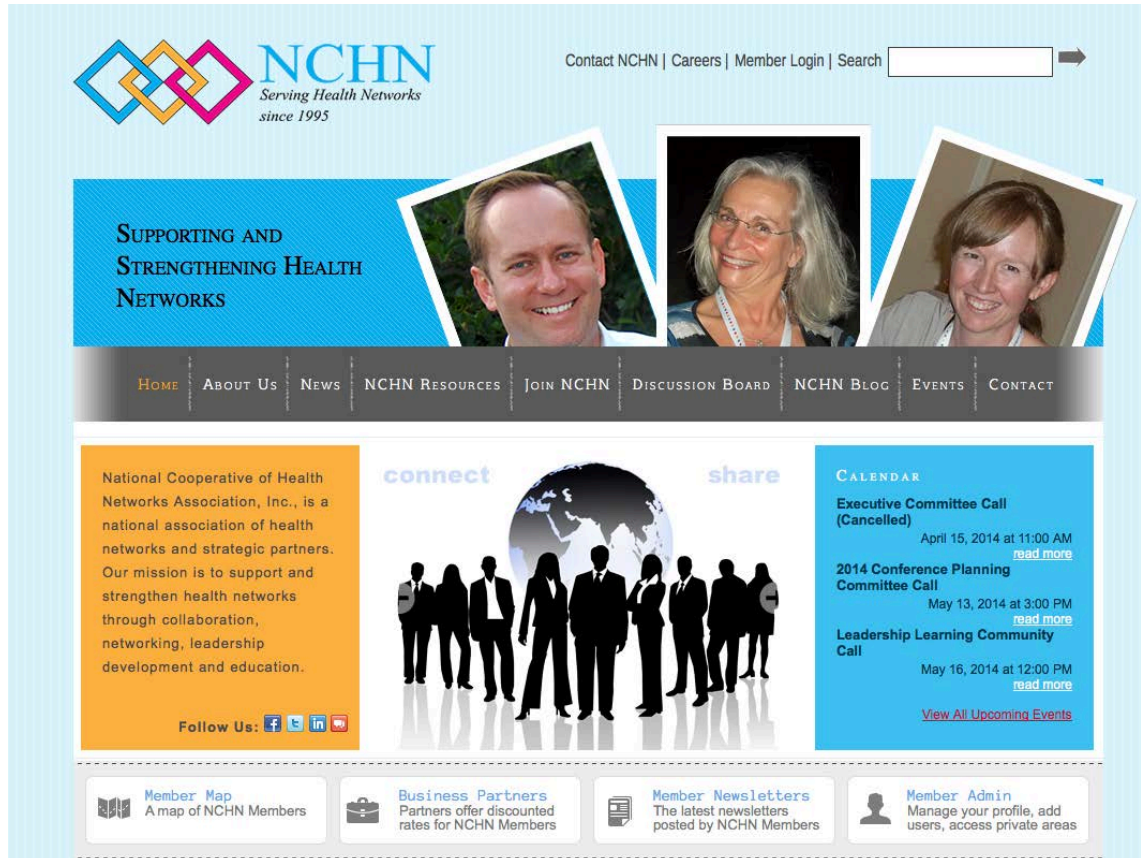
- [Regional RHW Workshop, August 6, 2014, in Austin, Texas. Hosted by the Texas Department of Agriculture, State Office of Rural Health.](#)
- [Regional RHW Workshop, October 22, 2014, in Terre Haute, Indiana. Hosted by Rural Health Innovation Collaborative.](#)

State Resources



Select a state below to view information

The National Cooperative of Health Networks



The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Cooperative of Health Networks (NCHN). At the top left is the NCHN logo, which consists of three interlocking diamond shapes in blue, orange, and pink, followed by the text "NCHN" and "Serving Health Networks since 1993". To the right of the logo is a navigation bar with links for "Contact NCHN", "Careers", "Member Login", and a search box. Below the navigation bar is a banner featuring three photographs of NCHN members and the text "SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING HEALTH NETWORKS". Underneath the banner is a horizontal menu with links: "HOME", "ABOUT US", "NEWS", "NCHN RESOURCES", "JOIN NCHN", "DISCUSSION BOARD", "NCHN BLOG", "EVENTS", and "CONTACT". The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column has an orange background and contains text about the NCHN's mission. The middle column features a graphic with silhouettes of people standing in front of a globe, with the words "connect" and "share" on either side. The right column has a blue background and contains a "CALENDAR" section with upcoming events. At the bottom of the page is a footer with four boxes: "Member Map", "Business Partners", "Member Newsletters", and "Member Admin".


NCHN
Serving Health Networks
since 1993

Contact NCHN | Careers | Member Login | Search

SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING HEALTH NETWORKS

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT US](#) | [NEWS](#) | [NCHN RESOURCES](#) | [JOIN NCHN](#) | [DISCUSSION BOARD](#) | [NCHN BLOG](#) | [EVENTS](#) | [CONTACT](#)

National Cooperative of Health Networks Association, Inc., is a national association of health networks and strategic partners. Our mission is to support and strengthen health networks through collaboration, networking, leadership development and education.

connect  **share**

CALENDAR

- Executive Committee Call (Cancelled)**
April 15, 2014 at 11:00 AM [read more](#)
- 2014 Conference Planning Committee Call**
May 13, 2014 at 3:00 PM [read more](#)
- Leadership Learning Community Call**
May 16, 2014 at 12:00 PM [read more](#)

[View All Upcoming Events](#)

Follow Us: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [v](#)

Member Map
A map of NCHN Members

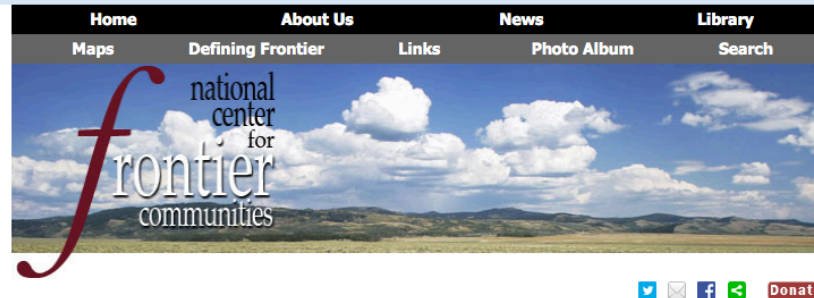
Business Partners
Partners offer discounted rates for NCHN Members

Member Newsletters
The latest newsletters posted by NCHN Members

Member Admin
Manage your profile, add users, access private areas

<http://www.nchn.org>

National Center for Frontier Communities



The National Center for Frontier Communities is the only national organization dedicated to the smallest, most geographically isolated communities in the United States - the Frontier.

Support NCFC on National "Give Local" Day

On May 6, 2014, NCFC is joining more than 300 nonprofits in New Mexico and more than 100 other communities throughout the United States for a national day of local giving. "[Give Grande New Mexico](#)" is New Mexico's first Day of Giving and is part of a larger campaign called Give Local America. Everyone can be a philanthropist, right here in Frontier America. [Click here to learn more!](#)

Newsletter

Check out our [quarterly newsletter](#), Frontier News & Updates!

Donate

Help support the Center's work: [make a tax deductible donation](#).

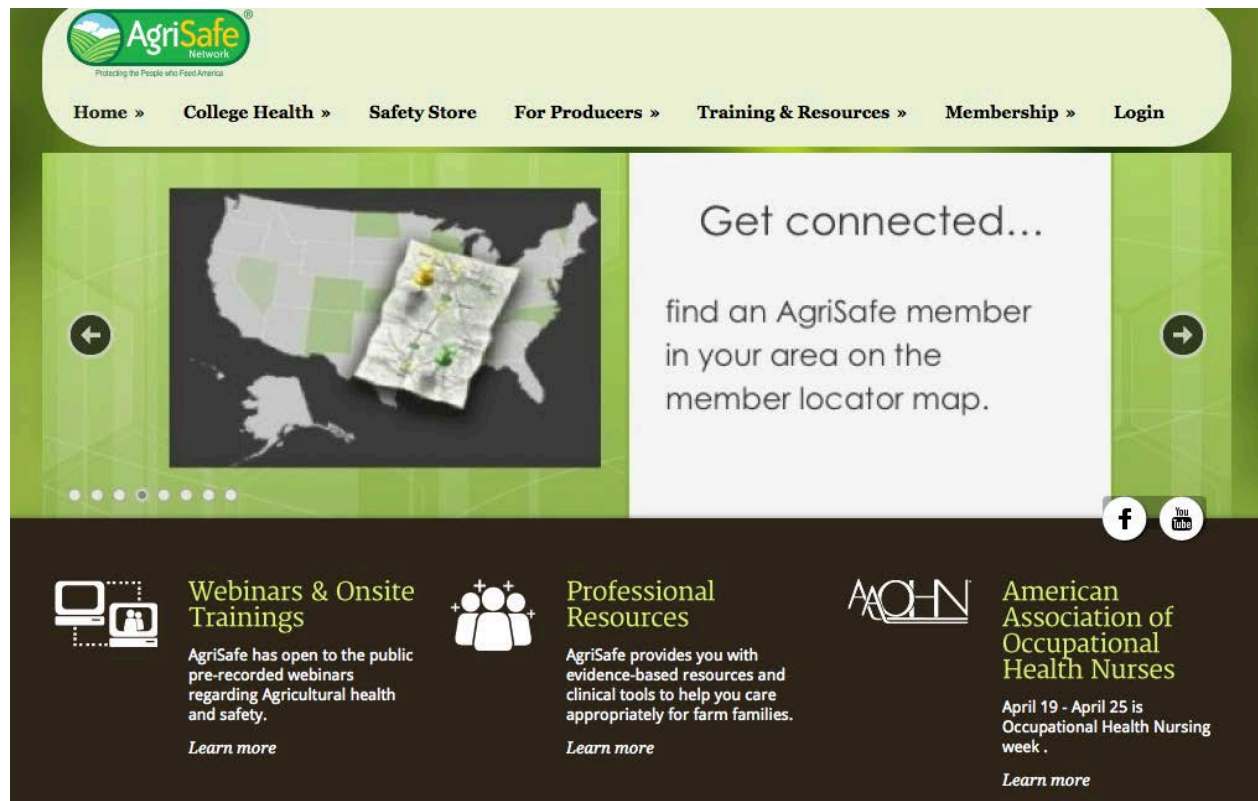
Internships

NCFC offers [internships](#) for students and recent graduates. [Learn more...](#)



Frontier areas are a vital, integral and significant component of our national fabric.

Agrisafe



The screenshot shows the AgriSafe Network website. At the top is the AgriSafe Network logo with the tagline "Protecting the People who Feed America". Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: Home, College Health, Safety Store, For Producers, Training & Resources, Membership, and Login. The main content area features a large map of the United States with a smaller inset map showing a detailed view of a specific region. To the right of the map, the text reads "Get connected... find an AgriSafe member in your area on the member locator map." Below the map and text are social media icons for Facebook and YouTube. The footer section is divided into three columns. The first column is titled "Webinars & Onsite Trainings" and includes a description of public access to pre-recorded webinars and a "Learn more" link. The second column is titled "Professional Resources" and describes evidence-based resources for farm families, also with a "Learn more" link. The third column is titled "American Association of Occupational Health Nurses" and mentions Occupational Health Nursing week from April 19 to April 25, with a "Learn more" link.

AgriSafe Network
Protecting the People who Feed America

Home » College Health » Safety Store For Producers » Training & Resources » Membership » Login

Get connected...
find an AgriSafe member
in your area on the
member locator map.

Webinars & Onsite Trainings
AgriSafe has open to the public pre-recorded webinars regarding Agricultural health and safety.
Learn more

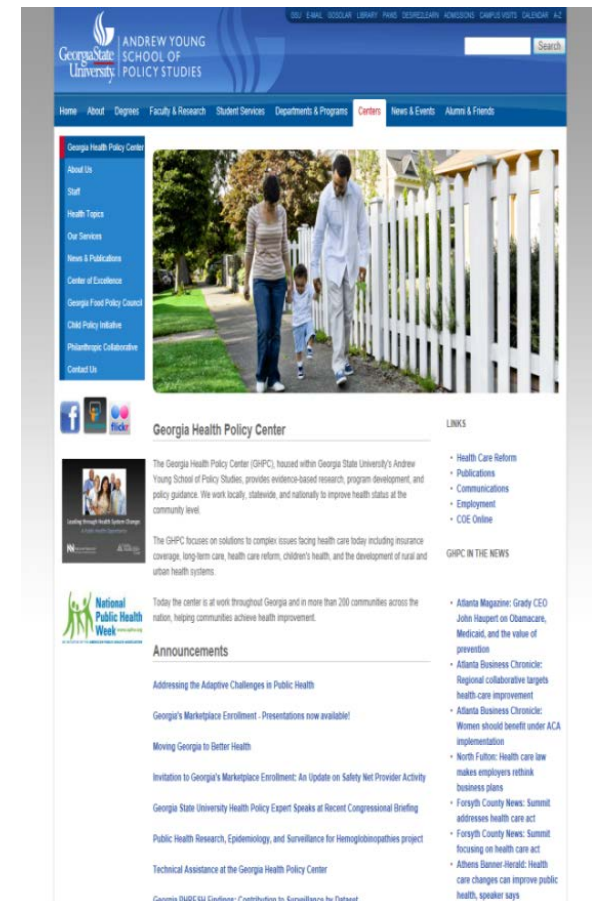
Professional Resources
AgriSafe provides you with evidence-based resources and clinical tools to help you care appropriately for farm families.
Learn more

AAOHN
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
April 19 - April 25 is Occupational Health Nursing week.
Learn more

<http://www.agrisafe.org>

Georgia Health Policy Center

- Technical Assistance contractor for the Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program, Delta State Rural Development Network Grant Program, Rural Health Network Development Program, and Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program grantees
- Technical Assistance supports grantees with strategic planning, evaluation, consortium and network development, program implementation, and sustainability
- Focus on peer-to-peer connections and learning
- Technical assistance delivered through monthly contacts, site visits, e-learning, and webinars
- Tools, resources, and e-learning modules available at www.ruralhealthlink.org



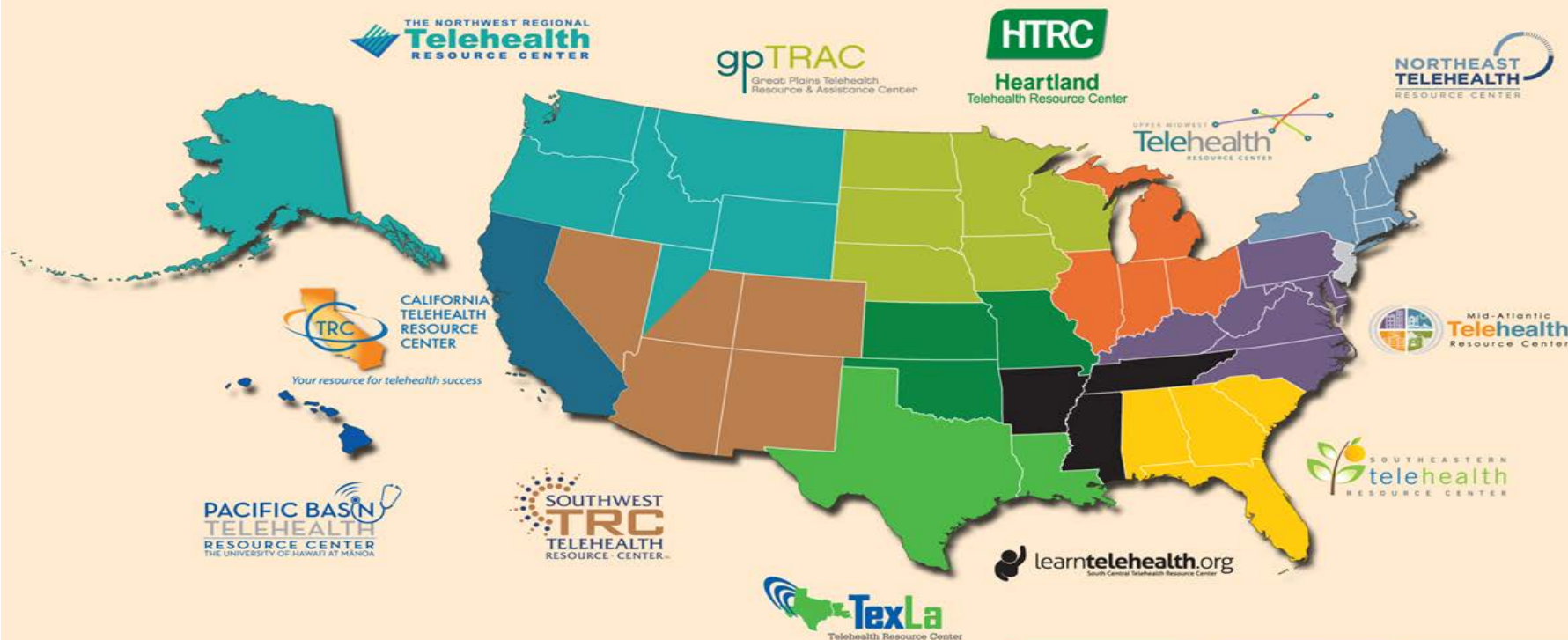
USDA's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program

- Funds Telehealth Equipment



http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP_DLT.html

TelehealthResourceCenters.org



NRTRC	gpTRAC	NETRC
CTRC	HTRC	UMTRC
SWTRC	SCTRC	MATRC
PBTRC	TexLa	SETRC

2 National Resource Centers

12 Regional Resource Centers

<http://www.telehealthresourcecenter.org>

Telehealth, Health Information Exchange & Broadband



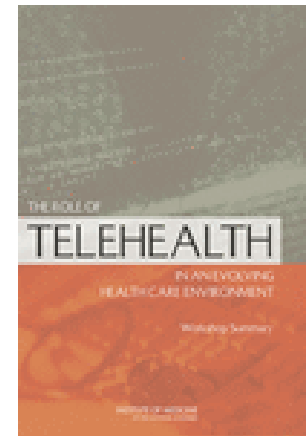
Two Key Federal Programs

- FCC's Healthcare Connect
 - Revised program
 - <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/rural-health-care>
- USDA Broadband
 - Annual program
 - <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RUSTelecomPrograms.html>

Both Provide Support for Improving Access to Affordable Broadband Services

The Role of Telehealth in an Evolving Health Care Environment

- IOM Meeting held in summer of 2012
 - Workshop Summary published November 2012
 - Key Findings:
 - Limited evidence base for telehealth
 - Increase telehealth training for providers and patients
 - Improve payment mechanisms
 - New applications emerging
 - Streamline licensure and credentialing processes
 - Payment focused on Value may increase incentives for telehealth utilization
- <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2012/The-Role-of-Telehealth-in-an-Evolving-Health-Care-Environment.aspx>



Telehealth, Health Information Exchange & Broadband



Two Key Federal Programs

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FCC 2015 Broadband Report

- FCC updated its broadband benchmark speeds from 4 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloads and 3 Mbps for uploads in 2010, to 25 Mbps/ 3 Mbps in 2015.
- Since the updated benchmark, 55 million Americans or 17% of the population lack access to advanced broadband
- Over half of those, 22 million, are Rural Americans, causing a significant digital divide.
- The divide is even larger in Tribal lands and U.S. territories where nearly 2/3 lack access to today's speeds.

<http://www.fcc.gov/reports/2015-broadband-progress-report>

Federal Capital Programs

Quick Reference Guide on Capital Programs and Eligibility

<http://www.raconline.org/pdf/financing-capital-investments-resource-overview.pdf>

Program	Who Qualifies ¹	Use of Funds	Type of Funding	Maximum Maturity	Maximum Amount	Structure	Benefit ²
USDA Community Facilities	Public and not-for-profit organizations serving rural communities with fewer than 20,000 people	Land, buildings, equipment including HIT equipment	Loans, some grants (with priority to small & low income communities)	40 years	None (grants typically less than \$1 million)	Loan secured by assets. Either direct (USDA) loan or loan guaranty.	Predictable costs, reduced interest rates, full amortization
USDA Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program	Public, not-for-profit, or profit-motivated organizations serving rural communities with fewer than 50,000 people	Real estate, equipment, working capital	Loans	20 years for real estate, 15 for equipment, 7 for working capital	\$10 million with certain exceptions up to \$25 million	Fixed or variable rate loan as negotiated with lender. USDA guaranty of up to 80% of balance.	Reduced interest rates. Can enable small banks to do additional community lending.
HUD Section 242 Hospital Mortgage Insurance	Public, government-owned, private, not-for-profit, or profit-motivated acute care hospitals	Land, buildings, equipment. May refinance existing debt	Loans	25 years	None	Fixed rate loan secured by first mortgage. 99% loan guaranty	Predictable costs, reduced interest rates, full amortization