



Reauthorization: Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program

25 YEARS OF SUPPORTING RURAL HOSPITALS

What Congress should do:

Pass **H.R. 6400**, the Save America's Rural Hospital Act, introduced by Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO) and Jared Huffman (D-CA). Title IV of this bill reauthorizes and modernizes the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program.

Modernization helps rural communities, hospitals, clinics, and 57 million rural Americans in all 50 states by:

- Ensuring resources and responses for a rural public health crisis in all 50 states.
- Providing funding and support for rural communities, certified Rural Health Clinics, rural hospitals, EMS and other providers for:
 - Quality improvement
 - Community-based initiatives for health equity and behavioral health
 - Telehealth
 - New models of care
 - Implementation and support
- Providing technical assistance to support communities to consider the Rural Emergency Hospital option.

Track record in improving the health of rural people and places:



— Over 1,300 Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) working to improve the health of 57 million rural Americans.



— 72% of Critical Access Hospitals voluntarily working with the state Flex program saw improvement.



— \$150 million in CARES Act relief was rapidly distributed to 1,717 small rural hospitals by State Flex programs.

[Click to find your State Office of Rural Health](#)



What does a modernized program and appropriation support?

PROGRAM	ACTIVITIES
Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program	Continue the work and funding for grants from states to small rural hospitals or networks of eligible hospitals (with less than 49 beds) for operational improvements including improving data collection, quality, and payment bundling.
Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance	Ensure the implementation of the new Rural Emergency Hospital model with technical assistance from existing State Flex Programs and other stakeholders.
Rural Provider Modernization Technical Assistance	Expand current Flex technical assistance program to support hospitals, clinics and communities in implementing new sustainable models of care. These models of care will address health equity, social determinants of health, and build collaborative approaches to improve health.
Rural Provider Modernization Grants	Provide grants to support hospitals, public health departments, clinics, and community-based organizations to plan and implement emerging, sustainable models of care.
Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants	Continue the work and funding for technical assistance for hospital conversion, quality, operational, financial, population health, EMS, and innovation for CAH.