



Federal Efforts to Combat COVID-19

State Office of Rural Health Region B Meeting

May 18, 2022

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Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People





Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

Overview

Community-Based Division

- Pilot Programs for Rural Communities
 - Expanding the Community Health Gateway
- Public Health Programs
 - Black Lung and Radiation Exposure



Policy Research Division

- Policy and Regulatory Analysis
- Research
- Rural Residency
- RHC COVID-19 Response Programs
 - RHC Vax Confidence
 - RHC COVID-19 Testing & Mitigation
 - RHC Vax Distribution
 - RHC COVID-19 Testing Supply

Hospital-State Division

- Grants Focusing on Performance and Quality Improvement for Small Rural Hospitals
- State Offices of Rural Health
- SHIP COVID-19 Testing & Mitigation

Rural Strategic Initiatives Division

- Rural Communities Opioid Response Program
- Rural Tribal COVID-19 Response Program

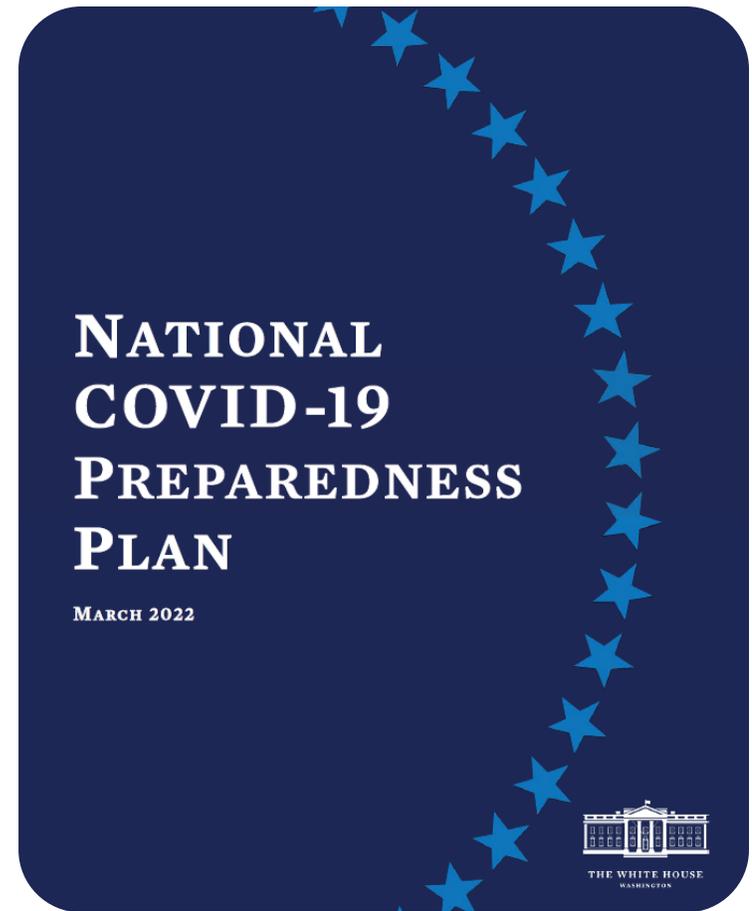


Responding to the Pandemic in Rural Communities

Coordinating with Key Rural Stakeholders

Leveraging Trusted Messengers

Continuing Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Efforts



RHC COVID-19 Program Website

<https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/rural-health-clinics>

The screenshot shows the HRSA website with the following content:

- Header: Health Resources & Services Administration | Bureaus & Offices | Newsroom | A...
- Banner: Get reimbursed for COVID-19 testing and treatment of uninsured individuals. [Learn more »](#)
- HRSA Logo: Health Resources & Services Administration
- Navigation: Grants, Loans & Scholarships, Data Warehouse, Training & TA Hub
- Breadcrumbs: [Home](#) > [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#) > Expanding COVID-19 Response in Rural Communities through Rural Health Clinics
- Section Header: Expanding COVID-19 Response in Rural Communities through Rural Health Clinics
- Text: To expand access to vaccines and ensure equity in COVID-19 response in rural communities, the Health Resources and Administration is working with Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) across the nation to strengthen vaccine allocation and expand COVID-19 testing and mitigation.
- Text: RHCs are a special certification given to health care practices in underserved rural areas by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). More than 4,600 Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) in 45 states make up a key part of the rural health care infrastructure and help address health equity gaps in medically underserved rural communities to improve health outcomes for rural residents.

Rural Health Clinic (RHC) COVID-19 Programs

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, four new programs are available to help RHCs meet community needs and improve rural health care services:

Expanding COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation

- [Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation \(RHCCTM\) Program](#) helps RHCs maintain and increase testing levels and establish and expand mitigation activities tailored to local community needs. The program builds upon HRSA's Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing Program.

Ensuring Equitable Distribution of Vaccines in Rural Areas

- [Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Distribution \(RHCVD\) Program](#) was launched in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Under the program, enrolled CMS-certified RHCs will receive direct COVID-19 vaccines in addition to their normal jurisdictions' weekly allocation.

Building Vaccine Confidence

- [Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Confidence \(RHCVC\) Program](#) supports outreach efforts to increase vaccinations in rural communities. Nearly 2,000 RHCs are using these resources to promote vaccine confidence and work to get more people vaccinated and protected from COVID-19 in medically underserved rural communities.

Expanding Access to COVID-19 Testing Supplies

- [Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing Supply Program](#) provides free COVID-19 testing supplies to CMS-certified RHCs. RHCs choosing to participate receive direct shipments of COVID-19 testing supplies to distribute in their communities. Supplies available through this program include: at-home self-test kits, point of care testing supplies (POC) and other COVID-19 specific supplies such as N95 masks, as available.

Resources

- [Rural Health Clinic \(RHC\) COVID-19 Programs](#) (PDF - 527 KB)
- [Expanding COVID-19 Response in Rural Communities through Rural Health Clinics Fact Sheet | January 2022](#) (PDF - 193 KB)
- [RHInhub - Rural Health Clinics \(RHCs\)](#)
- [Rural Health Clinics and Federal Office of Rural Health Policy \(FORHP\) Rural Health Areas \(Map\)](#) (PDF - 1.7 MB)
- [Medicare Learning Network - Rural Health Clinic Fact Sheet](#) (PDF - 805 KB)
- [National Association of Rural Health Clinics \(NARHC\)](#)
- [Testing Supply Technical Assistance and Enrollment Resources](#)



Eligibility



CMS-certified RHCs and organizations that own and operate CMS-certified RHCs.



RHCs must have active CMS Certification Numbers (CCNs) and be listed in the CMS Survey & Certification's Quality, Certification and Oversight Reports (QCOR).



To verify eligibility, visit the [CMS Quality, Certification and Oversight Reports \(QCOR\) website](#).



RHC COVID-19 Programs

Goal and Objectives

Protect those most at risk of COVID-19, advance health equity, and improve health care by offering support and resources to medically underserved rural communities.



Tailor RHC COVID-19 Program efforts to the needs of rural communities and focus on populations with gaps in testing, mitigation, and vaccination coverage in rural areas.



Provide consistent, fact-based public health messaging for rural residents to make informed decisions about their health and COVID-19.



Increase and sustain COVID-19 testing, mitigation, vaccine confidence, accessibility, and vaccination rates beyond the end of the public health emergency.



FORHP RHC COVID-19 Programs

RHC COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation (RHCCTM) Program

- \$460 million in FY21 American Rescue Plan funding to maintain, increase, and expand COVID-19 testing and mitigation

RHC Vaccine Confidence (RHC Vax Confidence) Program

- \$98 million in FY21 American Rescue Plan grant funds to address vaccine confidence and combat vaccine hesitancy

RHC Vaccine Distribution (RHC Vax Distro) Program

- Direct access to COVID-19 vaccine of choice from the federal stockpile

RHC COVID-19 Testing Supply Program

- Direct access to COVID-19 testing supplies from the federal stockpile



2021 Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing & Mitigation Program

& 2020 Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing Program





RHC COVID-19 Testing & Mitigation Program

Purpose

Maintain and increase testing levels and establish and expand mitigation activities tailored to local community needs in the Rural Health Clinic service areas.

Establish, maintain, and expand COVID-19 testing, testing sites, test result processing, and at-home/OTC testing

Provide testing supplies and PPE

Community education and health behavior promotion

Activities and strategies to reduce or prevent local COVID-19 transmission

Case investigation, contact tracing, and screening

Post-COVID-19 conditions management

Workforce and digital technologies

Maintain healthy environments and facilities





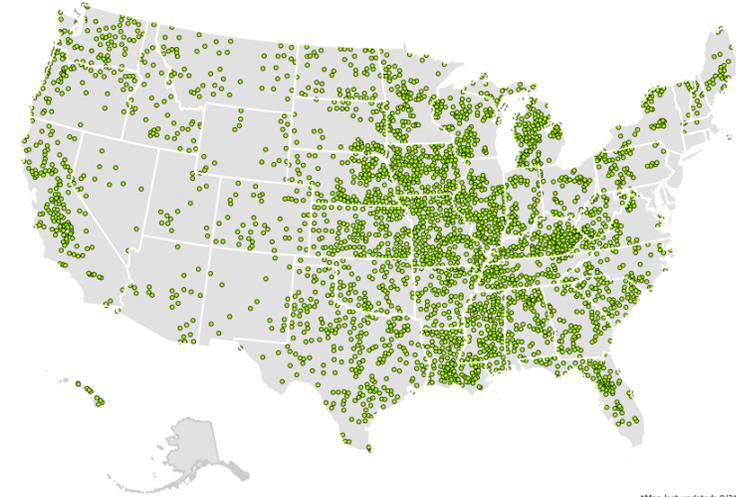
RHC COVID-19 Testing & Mitigation (RHCCTM) Program

Background

RHCCTM Program consists of two components:

- 1. RHCCTM Program** – funding to help RHCs maintain and increase testing levels and establish and expand mitigation activities tailored to local community needs. The program builds upon HRSA’s Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing (RHCCT) Program.
- 2. RHCCTM Technical Assistance (COVID TA)** – cooperative agreement with the National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) providing assistance to RHCCTM & RHCCT recipients.

Statutory authority: Section 711(b)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 912(b)(5))



*Map last updated: 8/31



RHC COVID-19 Testing & Mitigation Program Overview

& RHC COVID-19 Testing Program Overview

	RHC COVID-19 Testing (RHCCT)	RHC COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation (RHCCTM)
Period of Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 27, 2020 to December 31, 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022
Funding Amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$49,461.42 per RHC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100,000 per RHC
Number of Recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,493 RHCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,459 RHCs 2,301 TIN organizations
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMS-Certified RHC Organization that owns or operates a CMS-certified RHC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RHCs that met requirements for COVID-19 Testing Program
NARHC Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with recipients in RHCTM Program planning and development Collaborate with FORHP, NOSORH, to disseminate information and provide support to RHCs 	



SORH Region B RHCCTM Funding Amounts

State	Number of RHCs	Funding Amount
Alabama	126	\$12,600,000
Florida	150	\$150,000,000
Georgia	92	\$9,200,000
Kentucky	276	\$27,600,000
Mississippi	195	\$19,500,000
North Carolina	67	\$67,000,000
South Carolina	94	\$94,000,000
Tennessee	173	\$173,000,000



2021 Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Confidence Program Overview





Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Confidence Program

Purpose

Support vaccine confidence outreach in rural communities by Rural Health Clinics

Helping to increase vaccine confidence and uptake

Improving health care in rural areas

Reinforcing basic messages about prevention and treatment of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases

Accessing vaccinations

Education and outreach efforts around vaccine benefits and safety

Vaccine promotion

Providing information to rural residents about how and where to get vaccinated

Coordinating with existing vaccination sites and public health partners to identify isolated and/or vaccine hesitant populations



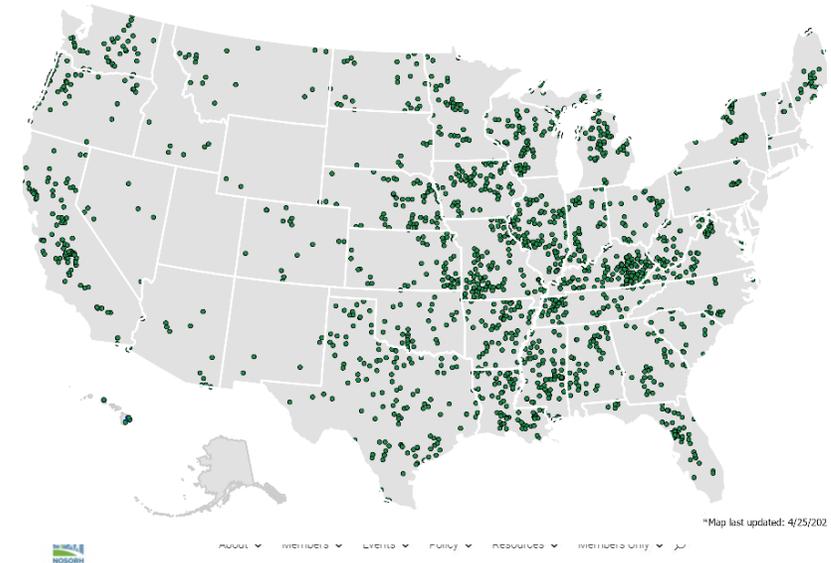
Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Confidence Program

Background

The Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Confidence Program consists of two components:

1. **RHC Vax Confidence Grant Program** –grant funding to support vaccine confidence and vaccine outreach in rural communities.
2. **RHC Vax Confidence Technical Assistance**– cooperative agreement with the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) providing assistance to RHC Vax Confidence award recipients and applicants.

Statutory authority: Section 711(b)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 912(b)(5))



RHC Vax Confidence Program Overview

Period of Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022
Award Amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$49,529 per RHC
Number of Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 783 NOAs• 1,976 RHCs
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMS-Certified RHC• Organization that owns or operates a CMS-certified RHC• Certified/Accredited RHC awaiting CMS Certification Number
Technical Assistance (TA) Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with grantees post-award in RHCVC Program planning and development• Collaborate with FORHP and NARHC to disseminate information and provide support to RHCs



SORH Region B RHC Vaccine Confidence Participation

State	Number of RHCs	Funding Amount
Alabama	50	\$2,476,450
Florida	58	\$2,872,682
Georgia	41	\$2,030,689
Kentucky	130	\$6,379,712
Mississippi	87	\$4,309,023
North Carolina	19	\$941,051
South Carolina	17	\$841,993
Tennessee	60	\$2,971,740



2021 Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Program





RHC COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution (RHCVD) Program

Background

The Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution (RHCVD) Program consists of two components:

- 1. RHCVD Program** –partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide enrolled CMS-certified RHCs direct COVID-19 vaccine of choice in addition to their normal jurisdictions' weekly allocation to increase the availability of COVID-19 vaccines in rural communities.
- 2. RHCVD Technical Assistance (RHCVD TA)** – cooperative agreement with the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) providing assistance to RHCVD recipients.





RHC COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Program

Purpose

Improve COVID-19 vaccine access and vaccination rates to medically underserved rural communities.

Direct, federal allocation of COVID-19 vaccines

Provide COVID-19 vaccine, constituent products, and supplies at no cost

Improving health care in rural areas

Accessing vaccinations in hard-to-reach areas



RHC Vaccine Distribution Program Overview

Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct, weekly federal allocation of COVID-19 vaccine of choice
Vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pfizer• Moderna• Jansen (Johnson & Johnson)
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 202 RHCs• Over 300,000 doses distributed
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMS-Certified RHCs
Technical Assistance (TA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist RHCs with enrollment and planning throughout participation• Collaborate with FORHP, GHPC, NARHC, and NOSORH to disseminate information and provide support to RHCs



SORH Region B RHC Vaccine Distribution Participation

State	Number of Rural Health Clinics
Alabama	10
Florida	5
Georgia	2
Kentucky	28
Mississippi	6
North Carolina	1
South Carolina	2
Tennessee	13



2021 Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing Supply Program



RHC COVID-19 Testing Supply Program

Background

The RHC COVID-19 Testing Supply Program consists of two components:

- 1. RHC COVID-19 Testing Supply Program** – supplies free COVID-19 testing supplies from the national stockpile to CMS-certified RHCs. RHCs choosing to participate in the HRSA COVID-19 Testing Supply Program can receive free, direct shipments of COVID-19 testing supplies.
- 2. RHC COVID-19 Testing Supply Program Technical Assistance** – cooperative agreement with the National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) providing assistance to participating and interested RHCs.



RHC Testing Supply Program

Purpose

Ensure access to COVID-19 tests and N95 masks to medically underserved rural communities.

Direct, federal allocation of COVID-19 testing supplies

Provide COVID-19 at-home self-tests, point-of-care (POC) analyzers and test strips, N95 masks and other supplies at no cost

Improving health care in rural areas

Accessing COVID-19 testing supplies in hard-to-reach areas



RHC COVID-19 Testing Supply Program Overview

Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct, weekly federal allocation of free COVID-19 at-home self-testing supplies, point-of-care (POC) analyzers and test strips, N95 masks
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quidel QuickVue® at-home self-test kits• Point of care (POC) analyzers and test strips• NIOSH-approved N95 masks
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,710 RHCs
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMS-Certified RHCs
Technical Assistance (TA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist RHCs with enrollment and planning throughout participation• Collaborate with FORHP, NARHC, and NOSORH to disseminate information and provide support to RHCs



SORH Region B RHC COVID-19 Testing Supply Participation

State	Number of Rural Health Clinics
Alabama	50
Florida	52
Georgia	23
Kentucky	136
Mississippi	74
North Carolina	10
South Carolina	33
Tennessee	57



FORHP COVID-19 Program Challenges



Foundations for the RHC COVID-19 Programs

Challenge

No HRSA RHC database

- The RHC Program is a CMS payment status not a HRSA grant
- Eligible TINs/RHCs identified through CMS data (POS; QCOR)
- RHCCT & RHCCTM funds allocated through Provider Relief Fund mechanism

Solutions

Outreach to State Offices of Rural Health (SORHs)

Created a RHCCT Program Mailing Listserv

- Over 6000 RHC subscribers to the email listing
- Over 40 program related emails sent covering program updates, reporting reminders, upcoming deadlines, and action requests

Established individual program email addresses for RHC inquires

- RHCCT & RHCCTM (RHCCOVID-19Testing@hrsa.gov)
- RHC Vax Confidence (RHCVaxConfidence@hrsa.gov)
- RHC Vax Distro (RHCVaxDistribution@hrsa.gov)
- RHC Testing Supply (RHCTestKit@hrsa.gov)





RHCCT Additional TA Outreach

RHC COVID-19 Reporting Portal Communication Efforts

Challenge

Funds allocated through Provider Relief Fund mechanism

- Direct, automatic provider payments
- Eligible providers who diagnose, test, or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19, and have health care related expenses and lost revenues attributable to COVID-19

Solutions

Utilize email box & listserv to provide HRSA assistance and updates to TINs/RHCs

Engage 45/45 State Offices of Rural Health (SORHs)

NOSORH/NARHC Direct Outreach to Support Data Collection

- 99.6% of non-reporting RHC/TINs contacted in 90 days
- Outreach to 1582 RHCs/923 TINs
- 2,701 RHC/TIN “touches” (call, email, fax, hard-mail)



Other Sources Obligated to Reimburse

RHC COVID-19 Testing Program Terms and Conditions

Challenge

CANNOT use funds to reimburse expenses or losses reimbursed from other sources or that other sources are obligated to reimburse

- PRF payments
- COVID-19 Uninsured Fund
- Insurance providers
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Other payers

Solutions

Use funds for remaining expenses or indirect costs attributable to testing expenses

- Hiring bonuses and retention payments
- Child care
- Transportation
- Temporary housing
- At-home COVID-19 tests

Remove language from RHCCTM Terms and Conditions



RHC Vax Confidence Challenges and Solutions

Challenges

Grantees unfamiliar with grant administration process

Staffing shortages and vaccine hesitant staff

Community vaccine promotion pushback

Solutions

FORHP facilitated TA webinars

- Grants.gov Applicant Overview
- Financial Management Review
- Fiscal TA
- Payment Management System Training
- Quarterly Calls

NOSORH engagement of 8 SORH Champions across 5 regions

- Monthly Regional RHCVC (SEED) Sessions
- Direct RHC outreach

No-cost extensions

Encourage use of incentives and encourage RHCs information sharing

RHCs tailor messaging to individual communities



RHC Vaccine Distribution Challenges and Solutions

Challenges

Grantees required to be enrolled in state immunization program (VTrcks pins)

Vaccine storage, expiration dates, and administration questions

Reporting burden

Changing landscape/gap filling program

Solutions

GHPC TA and partnerships

- Translate & implement federal requirements for smaller systems
- GHPC Webinars
 - NOSORH Emergency Preparedness & CEUs
 - NRHA/NARHC Cost Reimbursement for Vaccines
- Assisting RHCs in navigating different systems
 - 17 RHCs connected with state immunization systems
 - Acted as liaison between RHC and state systems 45 times
- Partner network Q&A connections

Minimize/de-duplicate reporting and program processes resources

Direct HRSA/RHC communication

- RHC Vax Distro listserv updates on vaccines, need, & requirements
- CDC & FDA information sharing



RHC Testing Supply Challenges and Solutions

Challenges

Rapid program launch and high enrollment volume

HHS Coordination

- Concurrent BPHC COVID-19 Testing Supply Program
- Diagnostic Provider Ordering Portal (DPOP) technical difficulties
- Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (ASPR)

Changing supply and demand

Solutions

Streamline processes

- Utilize previous RHC COVID-19 Program infrastructure
- NARHC COVID TA
- Communication development & dissemination

Tailor & adjust for RHC COVID-19 Testing Supply Program

- [RHC FAQs](#)
- [NARHC “How to” videos](#)
- RHC specific order messaging

Proactive RHC enrollment for emergency preparedness



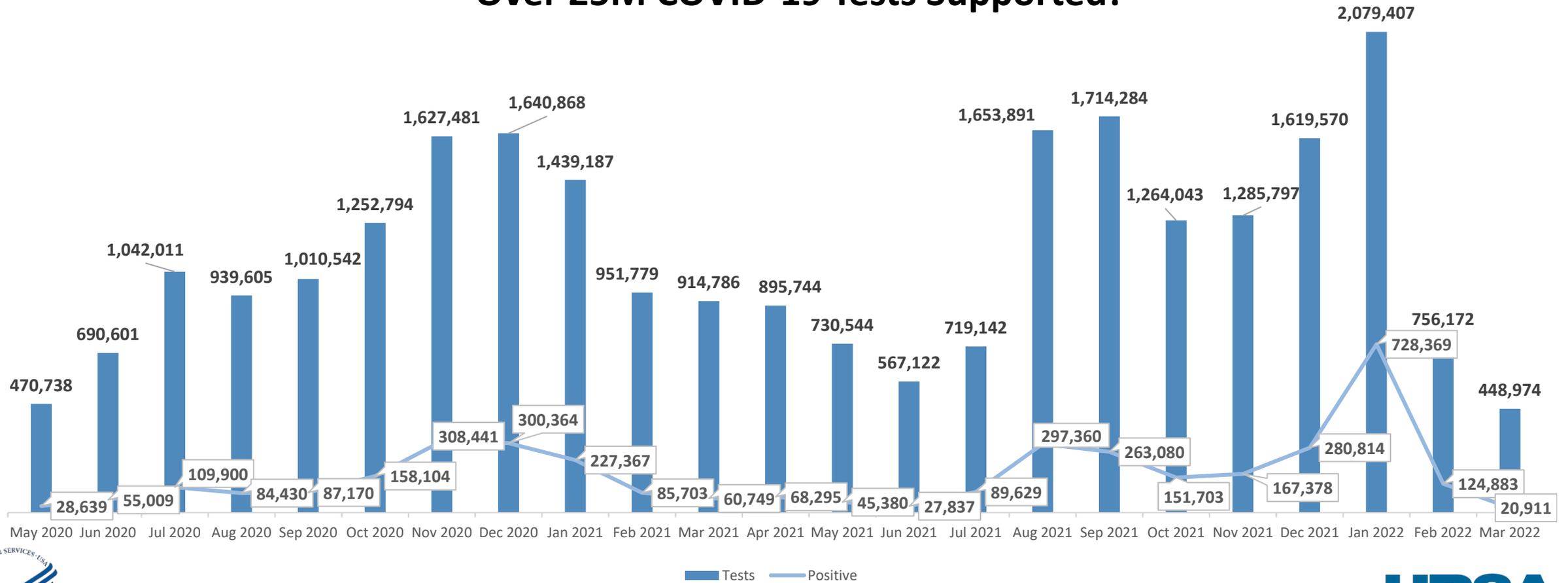
Early Successes and Best Practices



Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Reporting Portal

rhccovidreporting.com

Over 25M COVID-19 Tests Supported!



SORH Region B RHCCTM COVID-19 Tests Supported

State	Number of RHCs	COVID-19 Tests Supported
Alabama	126	386,384
Florida	150	409,964
Georgia	92	511,522
Kentucky	276	1,803,949
Mississippi	195	904,441
North Carolina	67	461,843
South Carolina	94	761,687
Tennessee	173	731,605
TOTAL	334	5,971,395

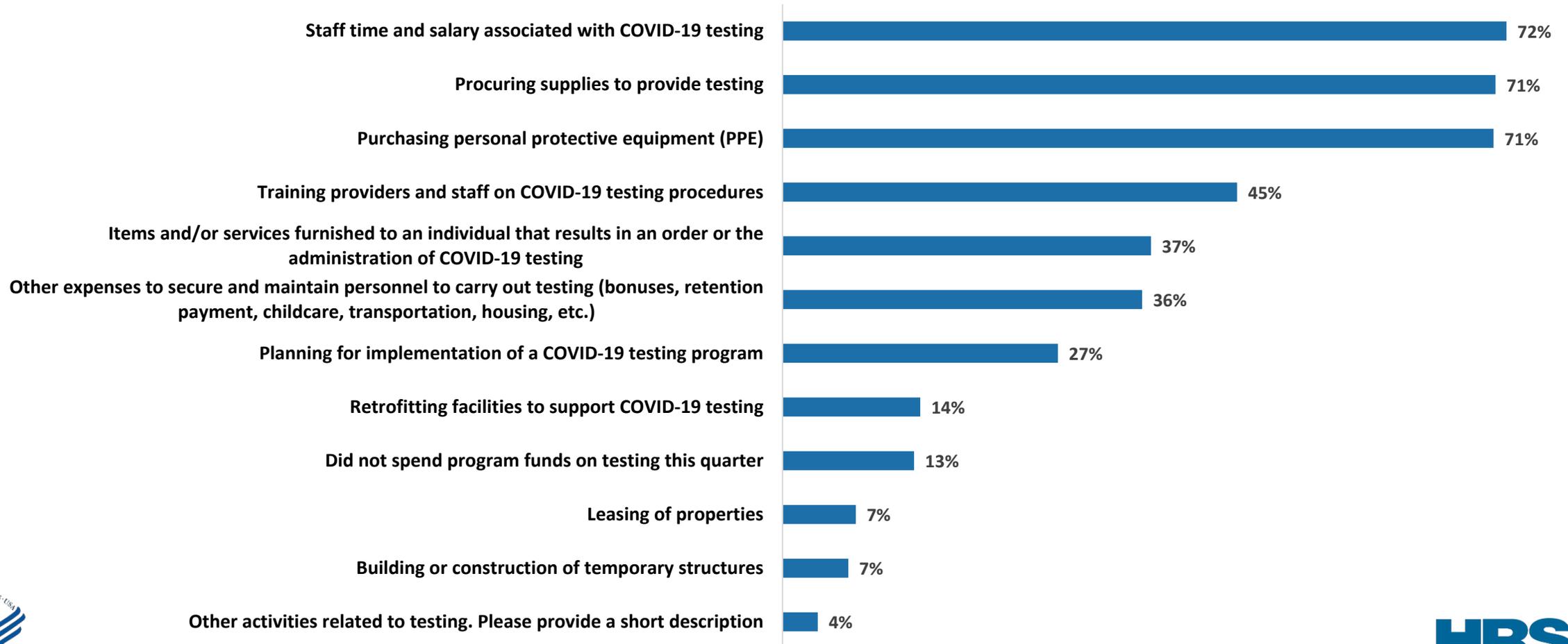
As of May 15, 2022



Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Reporting Portal

rhccovidreporting.com

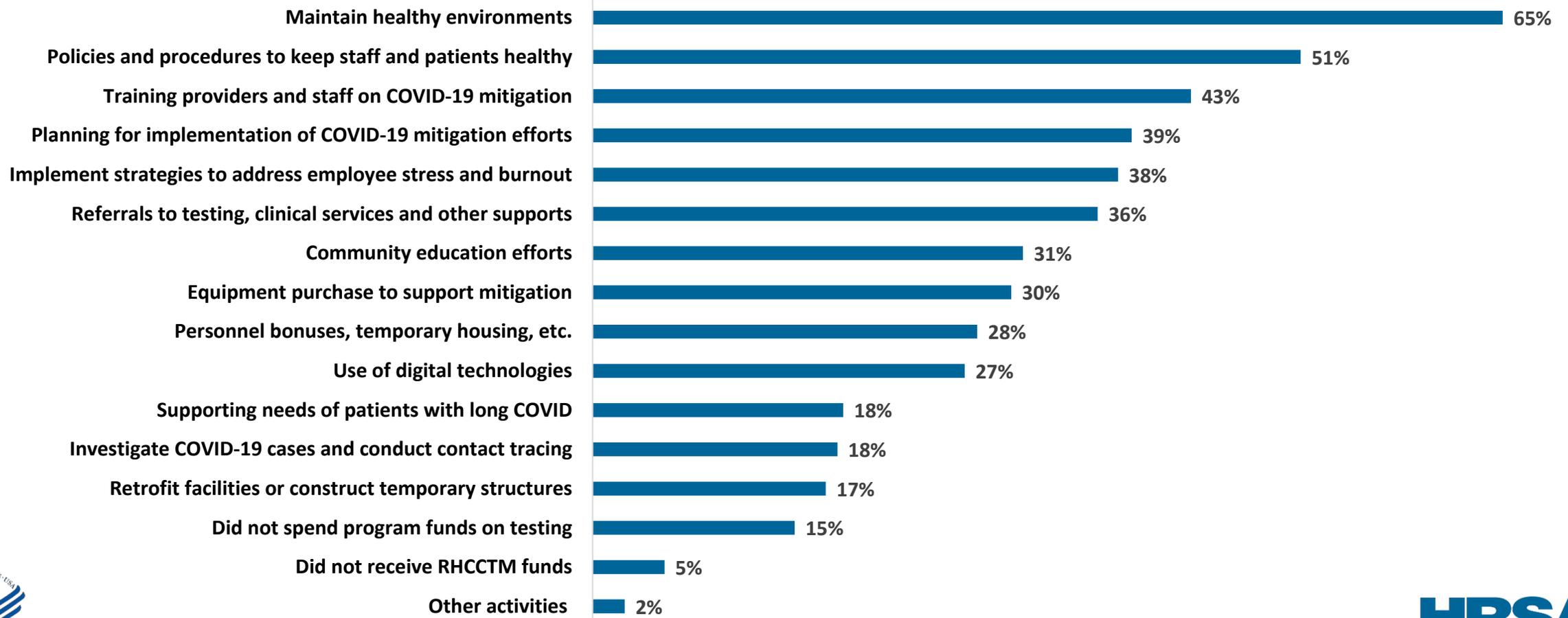
RHC COVID-19 Testing and Testing Related Use of Funds



Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Reporting Portal

rhccovidreporting.com

RHC COVID-19 Mitigation and Mitigation Related Use of Funds



Tailored Messaging in RHC Vax Confidence

Why Not ^{Get} The Shot?

Call To Schedule Your COVID-19 Vaccine Today
361.275.0170

CUERO FAMILY CLINICS

- Cuero Medical Clinic
- Goliad Family Practice
- Kenedy Family Practice
- Parkside Family Clinic
- Yorktown Medical Clinic

What's Your Why?
To protect myself, teammates and family.

Get Vaccinated: www.WhyVaxNow.com

Vaccinated workers make our community Stronger

VACUNADOS CONTRA EL COVID-19

slwic.com

PROTEGELOS.

NUESTROS ABUELOS NECESITAN DE TÍ.
#FAMILIASVACUNADAS

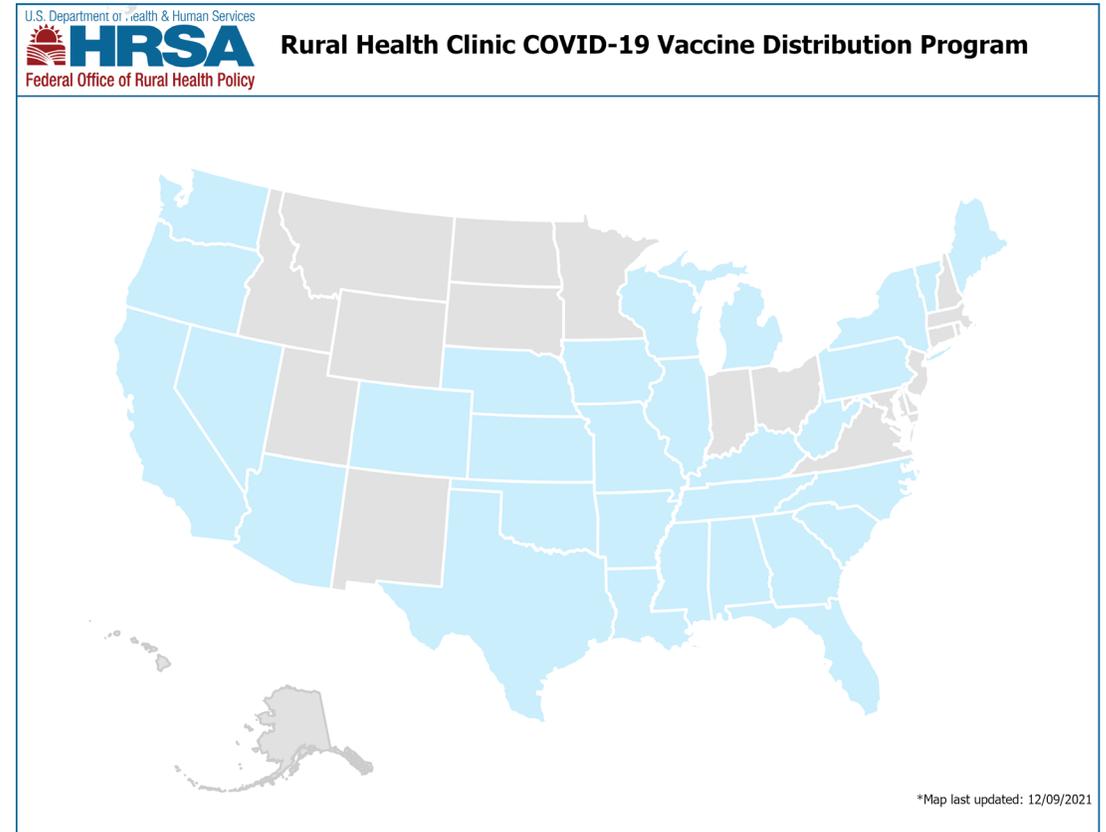


option 1



Success in Vax Distro

- Success stories
 - Tailor vaccine type to community
 - Reallocation of vaccine to community partners
- Future focused webinars



RHC Spotlights and Community Partnerships

- [RHC Spotlights](#)
 - Valley Health
 - San Luis Walk-In Clinic
- Facilitating health systems & community partnerships
 - Health system (e.g. hospital) at-home testing access via RHC
 - Houseless
 - Migrant workers
 - Municipality committee
 - Food banks
 - Churches

“ We’ve given [test-kits] to about **150 businesses**. Usually our bigger **factories**. First and foremost, we really concentrated on our **law enforcement** and **first responders** in **each of the counties that we serve**...because they really struggled to access [sic] the test-kits. They encounter so many **underserved people** that couldn’t afford test-kits...and helped distribute to people who they interact with. ”

-Michelle Miller, Coordinator of RHCs, Valley Health



Contact Information



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RHC COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation Program
RHCCOVID-19Testing@hrsa.gov



RHC Vaccine Confidence Program
RHCVaxProgram@hrsa.gov



RHC Vaccine Distribution Program
RHCVaxDistribution@hrsa.gov



RHC COVID-19 Testing Supply Program
RHCTestKit@hrsa.gov

FORHP RHC COVID-19 Program Communication

Contact Us! Additional Info

RHCCTM

FORHP

RHCCOVID19Testing@hrsa.gov

Listserv

[here](#)

HRSA Webpage

<https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/rural-health-clinics/testing>

NARHC TA

RHCcovidreporting@narhc.org

WEBINARS

https://www.narhc.org/narhc/TA_Webinars1.asp

RHC Vax Confidence

FORHP

RHCVaxConfidence@hrsa.gov

Listserv

[here](#)

HRSA Webpage

<https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/rural-health-clinics/confidence>

NOSORH TA

rhcvoxconfidenceinfo@nosorh.org

[h.org](#)

RHC Vax Distro

FORHP

RHCVaxDistribution@hrsa.gov

[v](#)

HRSA Webpage

<https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/rural-health-clinics/distribution>

RHC COVID-19 Testing Supply

FORHP

RHCTestKit@hrsa.gov

HRSA Webpage

NARHC TA

rhccovidsupplies@narhc.org

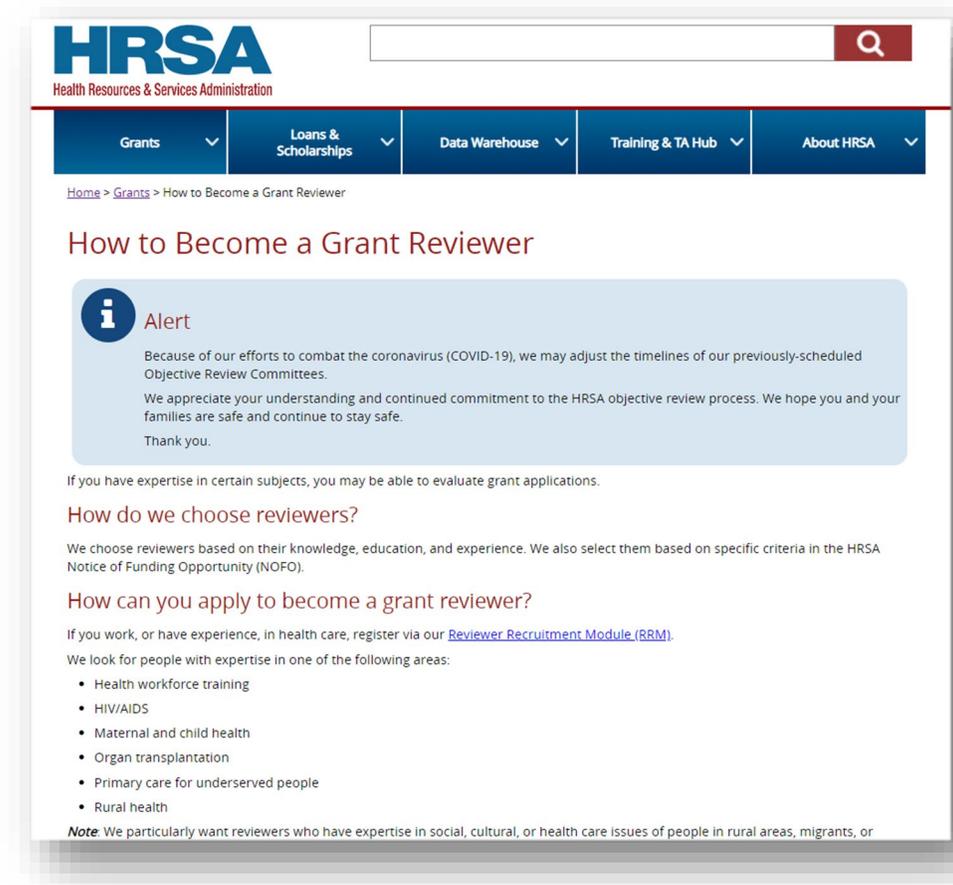
FAQS

https://www.narhc.org/narhc/COVID-19_At-Home_Tests.asp



HRSA Needs Your Help!

Consider Being a HRSA Grant Reviewer



The screenshot shows the HRSA website header with the logo and navigation menu. The main content area is titled "How to Become a Grant Reviewer" and includes an "Alert" box with information about COVID-19 adjustments to review timelines. Below the alert, there are sections for "How do we choose reviewers?" and "How can you apply to become a grant reviewer?" with a list of expertise areas.

HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

Grants | Loans & Scholarships | Data Warehouse | Training & TA Hub | About HRSA

Home > Grants > How to Become a Grant Reviewer

How to Become a Grant Reviewer

i Alert

Because of our efforts to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19), we may adjust the timelines of our previously-scheduled Objective Review Committees.

We appreciate your understanding and continued commitment to the HRSA objective review process. We hope you and your families are safe and continue to stay safe.

Thank you.

If you have expertise in certain subjects, you may be able to evaluate grant applications.

How do we choose reviewers?

We choose reviewers based on their knowledge, education, and experience. We also select them based on specific criteria in the HRSA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

How can you apply to become a grant reviewer?

If you work, or have experience, in health care, register via our [Reviewer Recruitment Module \(RRM\)](#).

We look for people with expertise in one of the following areas:

- Health workforce training
- HIV/AIDS
- Maternal and child health
- Organ transplantation
- Primary care for underserved people
- Rural health

Note: We particularly want reviewers who have expertise in social, cultural, or health care issues of people in rural areas, migrants, or

<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/reviewers>



FORHP Weekly Announcements

Focus on ...

- ✓ Rural-focused Funding opportunities
- ✓ Policy and Regulatory Developments Affecting Rural Providers and Communities
- ✓ Rural Research findings
- ✓ Policy updates from a Rural Perspective

To sign up: Email Michelle Daniels at
mdaniels@hrsa.gov



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
HRSA
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Announcements from the
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

August 22, 2019

What's New

Comments Requested: Rural Access to Health Care Services – October 9. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) seeks information from the public about measuring access to health care in rural communities. This Request for Information (RFI) supports the ongoing work of the [HHS Rural Health Task Force](#) that is seeking to identify the needs of rural communities, how to meet those needs, and what HHS policy changes can address those needs. Questions for public comment specific to rural communities include: what are the core health care services needed, what types and numbers of health care professionals are needed, what factors are important to identify core health services, and how should access to health care services be measured. People in rural communities [face a range of health disparities](#), including greater obesity and disease burden in children and adults, higher mortality rates, and shorter life expectancy. Rural areas also have [fewer health professionals per person](#) compared to urban areas.

Agrisafe: Nurse Scholar Distance Education Program – Early Registration Ends August 23. Calling all nurses serving rural communities! Get the tools necessary to help farmers and ranchers in your community, while earning 18 Continuing Nursing Education hours. The Nurse Scholar program is a distance learning opportunity available to rural nurses provided by experienced health and safety educators. Increase your knowledge base in prevention, identification, and assessment of diseases related to agricultural work exposures. Classes are in the form of webinars from September 4 – December 6, 2019 that can be viewed live or On Demand.

Funding Opportunities

Rural Health Network Development Program – November 25. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced a new Notice of Funding Opportunity for The Rural Health Network Development Program (Network Development). This program will support up to 46 applicant organizations, which are either public or nonprofit private rural entities who represent a network of three or more separate, existing health care entities. HRSA expects to invest approximately \$13 million for this program to support integrated rural health care networks that combine the functions of the network entities and include skilled, experienced staff, with a high functioning network board, to address the health care needs of the targeted rural community.





Connect with HRSA

Learn more about our agency at:

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