



Federal Rural Health Update

3RNET Annual Conference

Tulsa, Oklahoma

September 13, 2023

Sarah O'Donnell
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Health Resources and Services Administration

Overview


Mission: To improve health outcomes and achieve health equity through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce, and innovative high value programs



TENS OF MILLIONS of
Americans receive quality,
affordable health care, and
other services through HRSA's
90-PLUS PROGRAMS and
more than **3,000 GRANTEES**

HHS, HRSA & FORHP

HHS.gov U.S. Department of Health & Human Services


I'm looking for...  A-Z Index

About HHS | Programs & Services | Grants & Contracts | Laws & Regulations


WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN YOU'RE FULLY VACCINATED

People who are fully vaccinated can start to do some things they stopped doing because of the pandemic.


[Learn More](#)




Coronavirus (COVID-19)




[COVID-19 Vaccine Updates](#)



[Coronavirus Response](#)



[Volunteer for a COVID-19 Clinical Trial](#)



[COVID-19 Treatments and Therapeutics](#)

HHS | MARCH 12, 2021

[Fast Sheet: The American Rescue Plan Reduces Health Care Costs, Expands Access to Insurance Coverage and Addresses Health Care Disparities](#)


ASPR | MARCH 12, 2021

[Biden Administration Takes Action Through HHS to Increase Number of Vaccinators](#)


HHS | MARCH 11, 2021

[Biden Administration to Expand COVID-19 Vaccine Program to 350 Community Health Centers](#)


Top Tasks & Priorities




Public Health
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Disease Prevention](#)
[Smoking Prevention](#)
[Physical Fitness & Nutrition](#)
[HIV/AIDS Prevention](#)



Human Services
[Help for Families](#)
[Head Start Center Locator](#)
[Poverty Guidelines](#)
[Adoption/Foster Care](#)
[Childcare](#)



Healthcare
[Health Insurance Reform](#)
[Drug Pricing](#)
[Value-Based Care](#)
[HHS and COVID-19](#)
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Inside HHS
[FY2020 Annual Financial Report](#)
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[Policies](#)
[Careers at HHS](#)
[HHS Blog](#)

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Get reimbursed for COVID-19 testing and treatment of uninsured individuals. [Learn more >](#)

HRSA

Health Resources & Services Administration

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



News and Announcements

[Biden Administration to Expand COVID-19 Vaccine Program to 350 Community Health Centers \(3/11/2021\)](#)

[HRSA Awards \\$99 Million to End the HIV Epidemic in the United States \(3/4/2021\)](#)

[HHS Awards \\$90 Million to Support Health Centers in Addressing Hypertension Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities \(1/19/2021\)](#)

[More HRSA News](#)

Step Up for Kidney Health

Celebrate National Kidney Month – sign up as an organ, eye, or tissue donor.

Find a Health Center

Find a health center near you for primary health care, telehealth services, and COVID-19 testing sites.

[Find a Health Center](#)



Funding Opportunities

 [Scholarships & Loan Repayment](#)

 [Grants](#)

HRSA Program Areas

- Health Centers
- Health Workforce
- HIV/AIDS & Ryan White
- Maternal & Child Health
- National Health Service Corps
- Organ Donation & Transplantation
- Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
- 340B Drug Pricing
- Injury Compensation
- data.HRSA.gov
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Poison Help

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Get reimbursed for COVID-19 testing and treatment of uninsured individuals. [Learn more >](#)

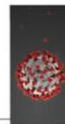
HRSA

Health Resources & Services Administration


FORHP Home | Find Funding | Resources | About Us

[Home](#) - Federal Office of Rural Health Policy


Federal Office of Rural Health Policy




Coronavirus Important Information From the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy




News & Announcements
[Rural Communities Online Response Program \(RCORP\) - Implementation](#) - Applications due March 12
[Evidence-Based Telehealth Grant Program](#) - Applications due April 2
[RCORP - Pyroxyphosphates Support](#) - Applications due April 12




Find Funding
Find upcoming and recent funding opportunities, and learn more about FORHP programs.




Rural Health Policy
FORHP prepares regular policy announcements focusing on the impact regulations may have on rural communities.
Updated: February 22, 2021




Rural Hospital Programs
More information on FORHP Rural Hospital programs, including the Medicare Rural Hospital Grant and Small Rural Hospital Transitions Project (SRHT).



Rural Community Programs
More information on FORHP programs focused on increasing rural communities' access to care.



Telehealth Programs
FORHP resources and funded programs for the promotion of health care delivery, education, and health information services through telehealth technologies.



Rural Health Research and Policy Programs
Learn more about FORHP research programs and access research results through the Rural Health Research Gateway.

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Established in Section 711 of the Social Security Act

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) collaborates with rural communities and partners to support community programs and shape policy that will improve health in rural America.

Cross Agency Collaboration

Works across HRSA, HHS, and several other federal partners to accomplish its goals

Capacity Building

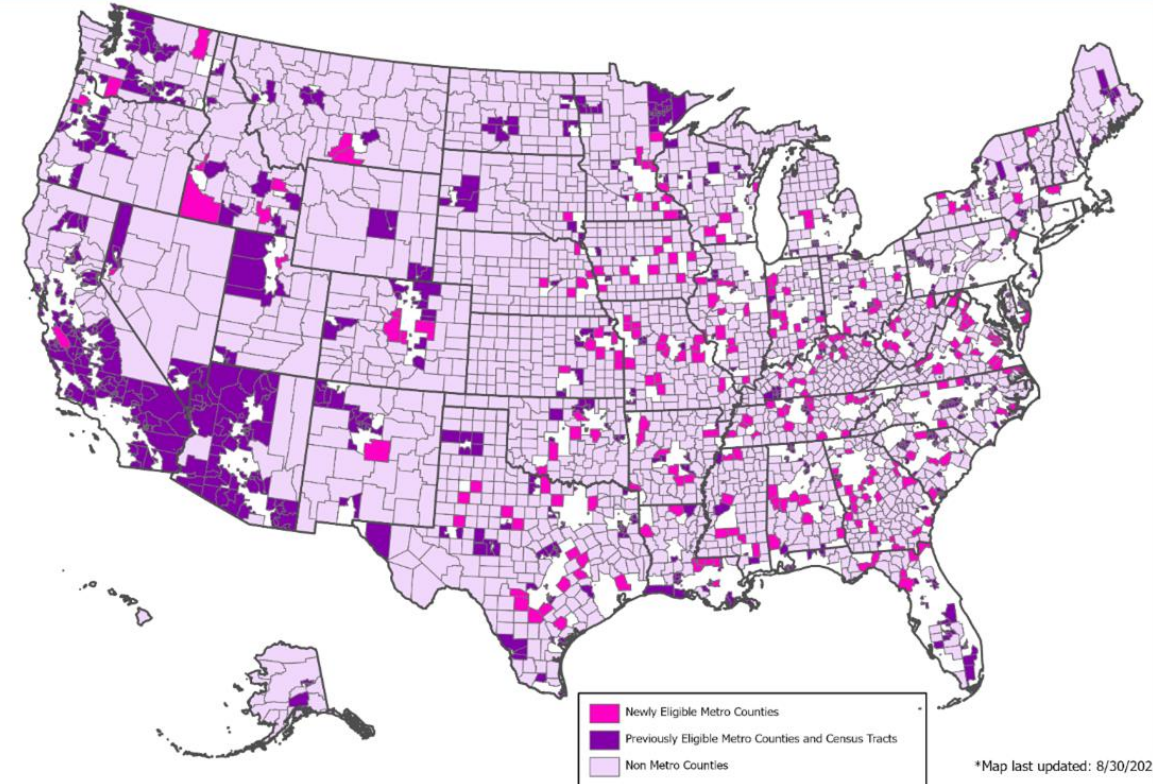
Increases access to health care for people in rural communities through grant programs and public partnerships

Voice for Rural

Advises the HHS Secretary on policy and regulation that affect rural areas



Counties and Census Tracts Eligible for FORHP Funding



FORHP Health Workforce Contributions



Research

FORHP funds various research products focused on health workforce in rural areas. Examples of recently published products include Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) waiver providers and racial/ethnic diversity of the rural family physician workforce.

Policy Analysis

FORHP assesses the impact of current policies and proposed regulatory changes on the rural health workforce, such as Medicare Graduate Medical Education (GME) and provider payment models.

Programs

FORHP funds programs to support several workforce grant initiatives that bolster the physician, public health, health administration and health information technology (IT) workforce in rural communities.

Sampling of FORHP Workforce Programs



FORHP Programs

Workforce Portfolio

Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program



Expands workforce capacity by supporting public health job training, development, and placement in rural and tribal communities. In FY22, awarded \$47M to 32 community-based organizations.

Rural Residency Planning and Development Program



Provides start-up funding to establish new rural residency programs to train resident physicians in rural clinical settings. In FY22, awarded \$9.7M to 13 organizations.

Delta Region Rural Health Workforce Training Program



Enhances health care delivery by creating training programs for administrative support professionals in rural health care facilities. In FY22, awarded \$2.3M to 5 organizations.

Rural Telementoring Training Center Program



Provides training and supports academic medical centers and other centers of excellence to provide technology-enabled telementoring that will equip the health care workforce in rural communities to meet critical demands while improving access to health care.

Rural Health Research Center Program



Through FORHP-funded research centers, 150 research publications on health workforce have informed the public and decision-makers on issues related to workforce distribution, shortages and access to quality care. Currently, there is one research center that primarily focuses on workforce topics.

Other FORHP Workforce Activities



FORHP funds several projects through other program offerings (e.g., Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), 3RNet, State Offices of Rural Health (SORH), Outreach grants, Technical Assistance Centers) that either directly or indirectly support the rural health workforce.

To learn more about FORHP programs: <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/grants>.



Rural Community Health

Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program

Purpose: To expand public health capacity by supporting health care job development, training and placement in rural and tribal communities.

Overview

Project Award Date: July 1, 2022

Period of Performance: August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2025 (3 years)

Maximum Funding Amount: \$1,545,000

Estimated # of Awards: 31 Grants

Four (4) Workforce Tracks



Track #1: Community Health Support



Track #2: Health IT and/or Telehealth Technical Support



Track #3: Community Paramedicine



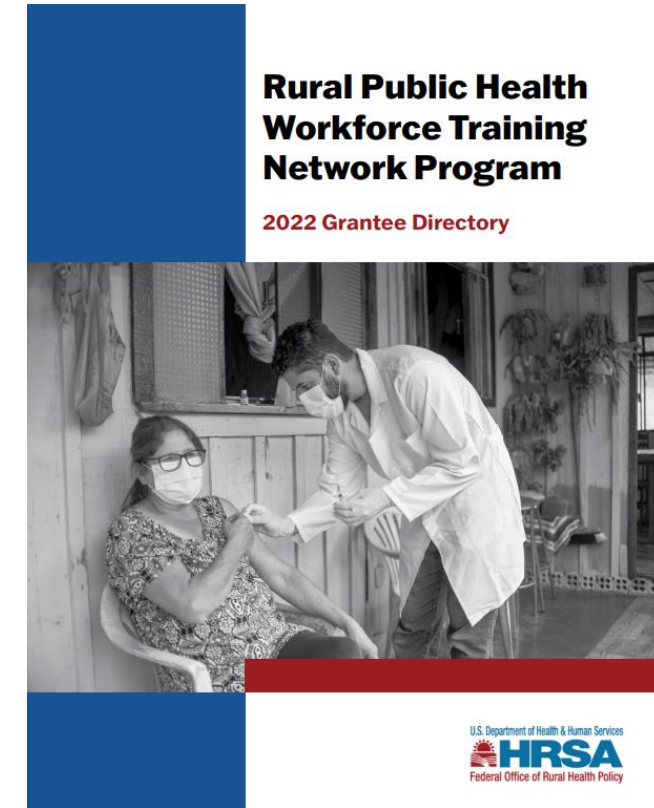
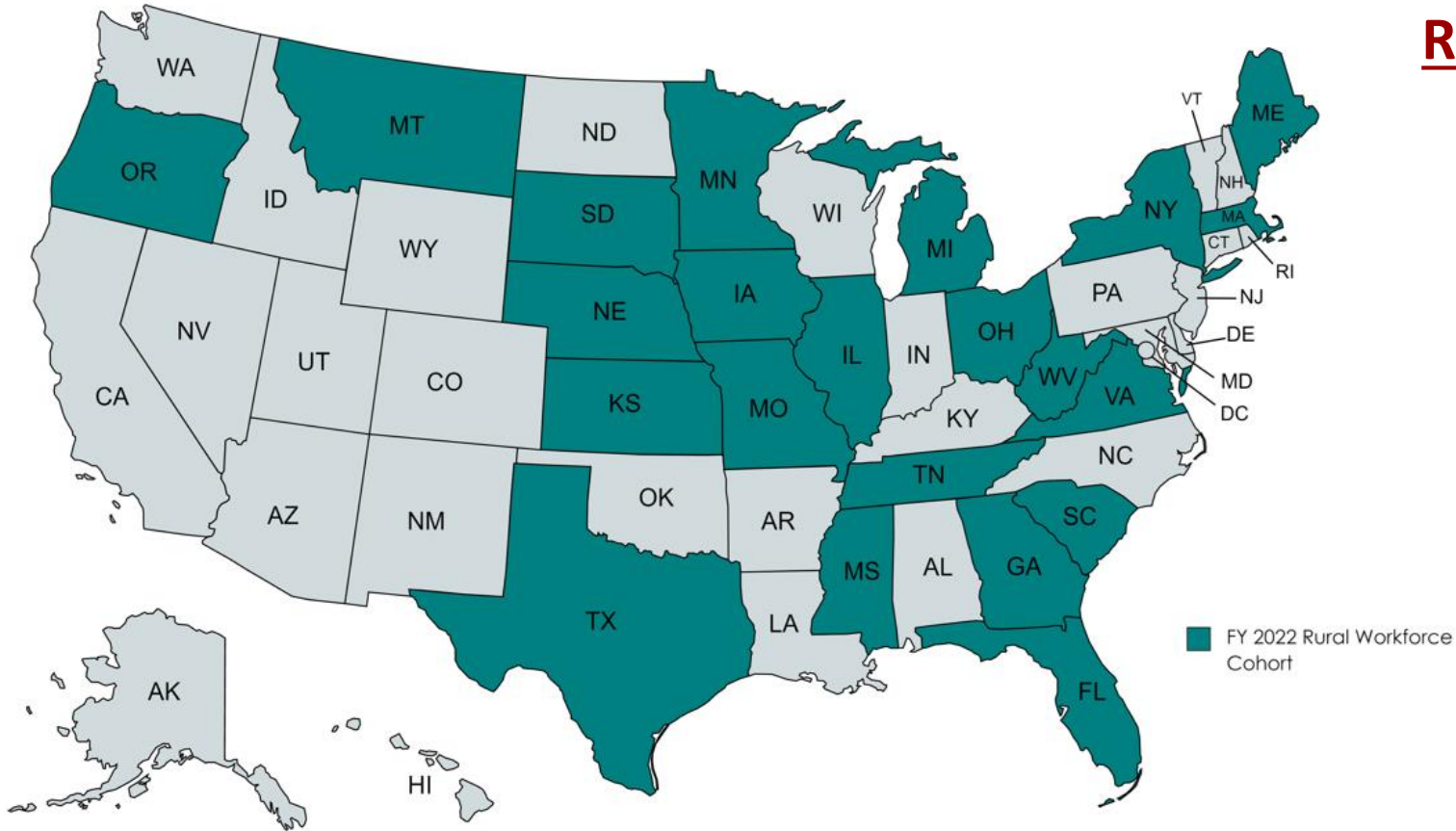
Track #4: Case Management and/or Respiratory Therapists



Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program

~~August 1, 2022 - July 31, 2025 | 32 Awards in 22 States | \$47M 4-year investment~~

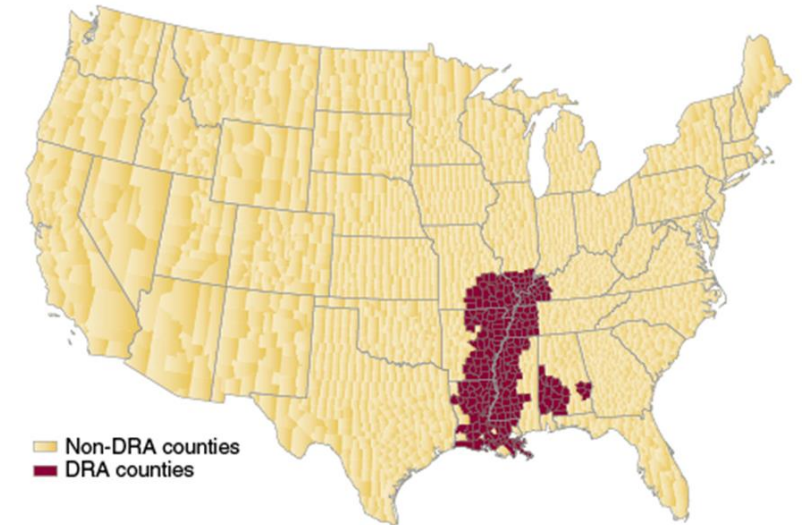
Rural Workforce Grantee Directory



Delta Region Rural Health Workforce Training Program

- **Program Purpose:** To improve health care delivery in rural areas by training health professionals for high-quality, good-paying jobs in rural counties and parishes of the Mississippi River Delta Region and Alabama Black Belt ([Delta Regional Authority](#) region) in critical administrative support professions
- **Total FY 2022 Funding:** \$2,336,292
- **# of Awards:** 5 awards

Delta Regional Authority (DRA) targets 252 economically distressed counties in 8 States



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the Delta Regional Authority.



Authorized by §711(b)(5) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 912(b)(5).

Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program

Next Competitive NOFO Anticipated: FY26 | August 1, 2026 Project Start

Purpose & Goals: To provide support to rural health care providers by funding grants for the planning and implementation of quality improvement activities in the primary care setting which address:

- Enhanced Chronic Disease Management
- Better Engagement of Patients & Caregivers
- Increased Quality & Delivery of Care
- Improved Patient Health Outcome

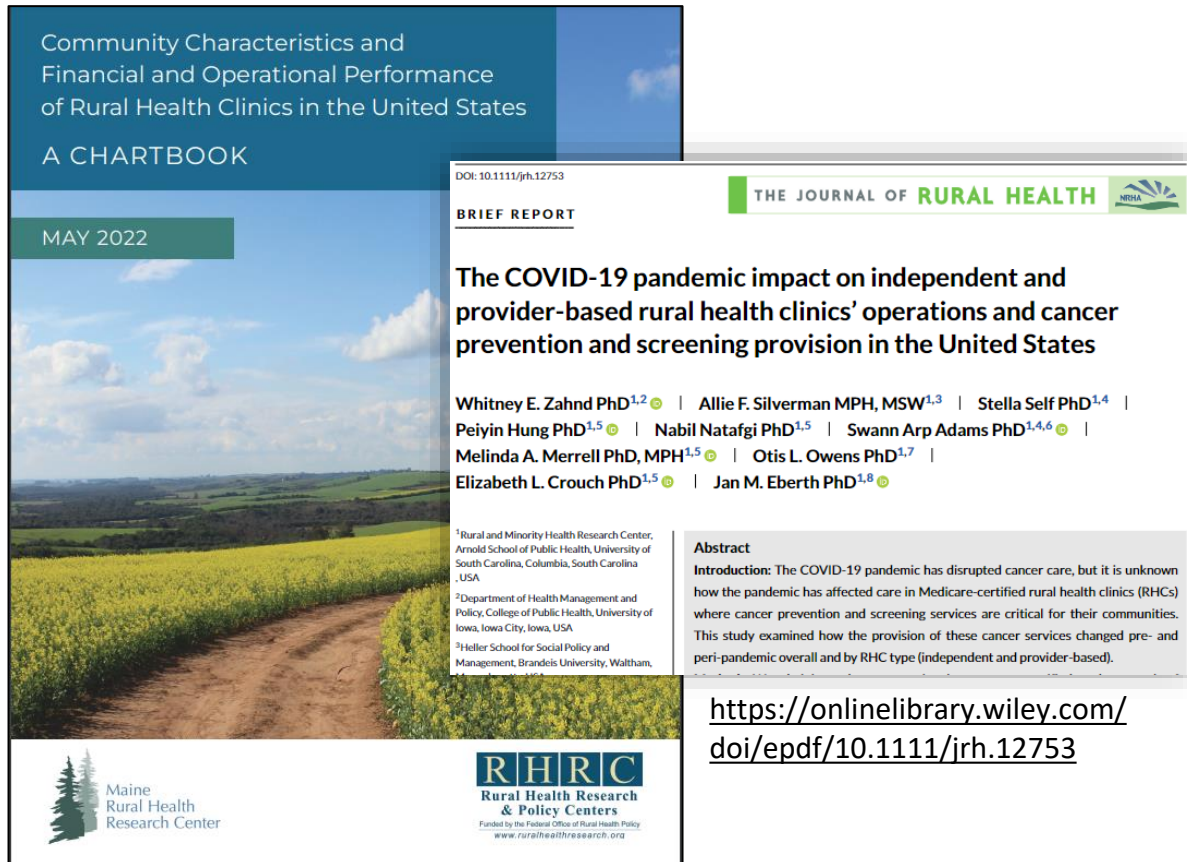
Period of Performance:

- 4 Years

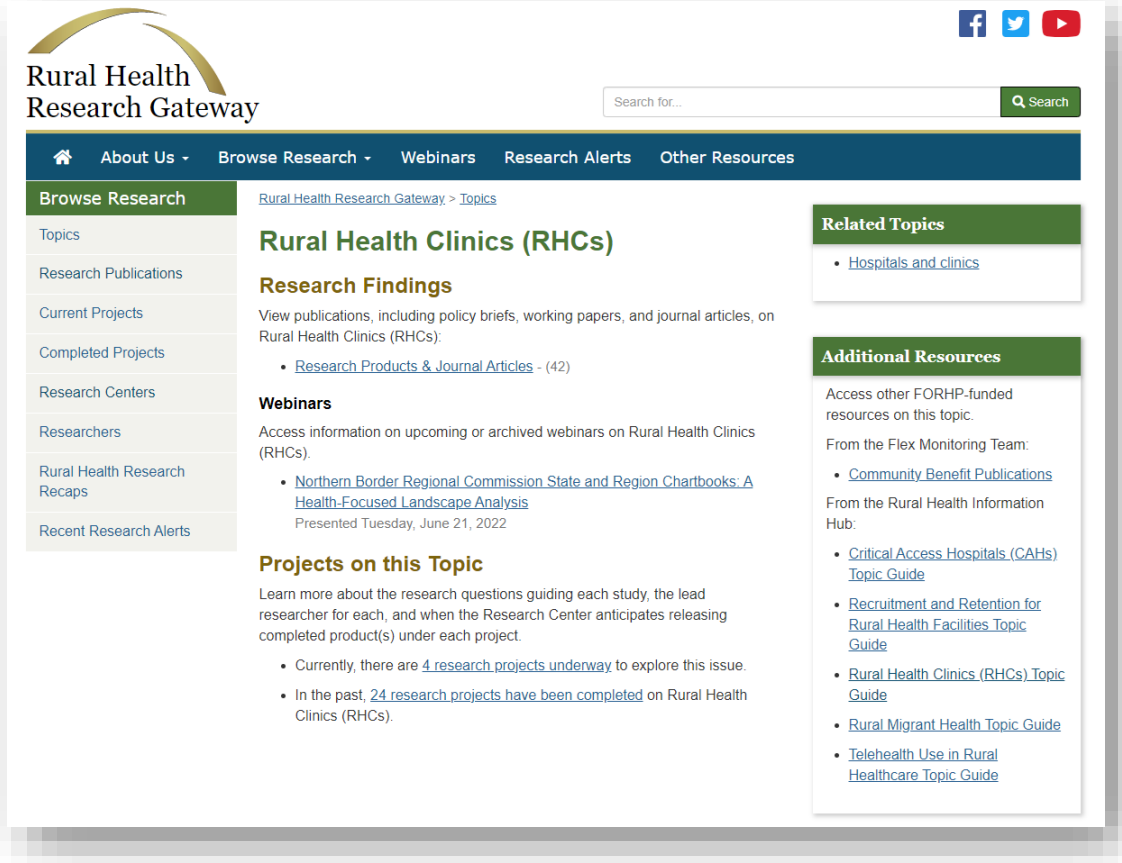


Health Policy & Research

Accessible and Through a Rural Lens



<https://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/topics/rural-health-clinics>

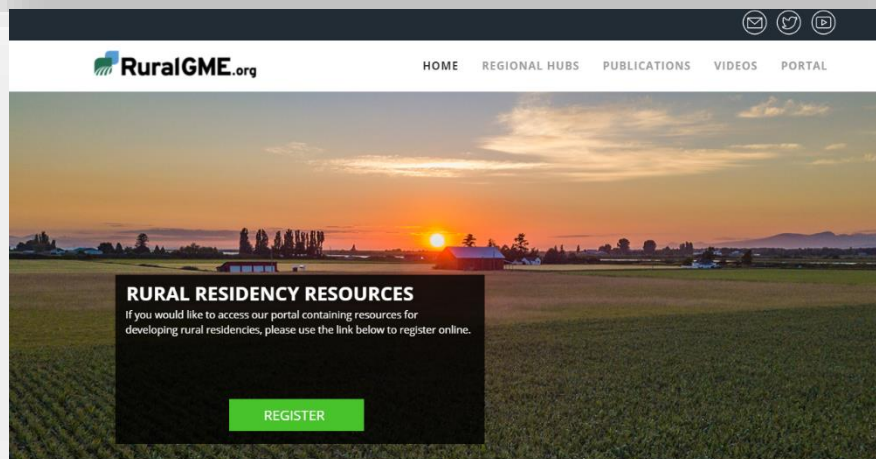


<https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1016&context=clinics>



Supporting Rural Hospitals and Rural Health Clinics

Grants and Technical Assistance



Ongoing Support

- [Rural Residency Training Program](#)
- [Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project](#)
- [State Office of Rural Health](#)
- [Rural Hospital Flex Program](#)
- [Flex Monitoring Team](#)

Targeted Technical Assistance

- Focusing on “At-Risk” Facilities
 - ✓ [Delta Region Community Health Systems Project](#)
 - ✓ [Targeted Technical Assistance for Rural Hospitals Program](#)

Lifting Rural Community-Based Health

Grants and Technical Assistance



Watch Video Profiles of Innovative FORHP Grantees:
<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/project-examples>

Direct Services

- [Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program](#)
- [Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program](#)
- [Delta States Rural Development Network Program](#)

Capacity Building

- [Rural Health Network Development Program](#)
- [Rural Health Network Development Planning Program](#)
- [Rural Maternal Obstetrics Management Strategies Program](#)

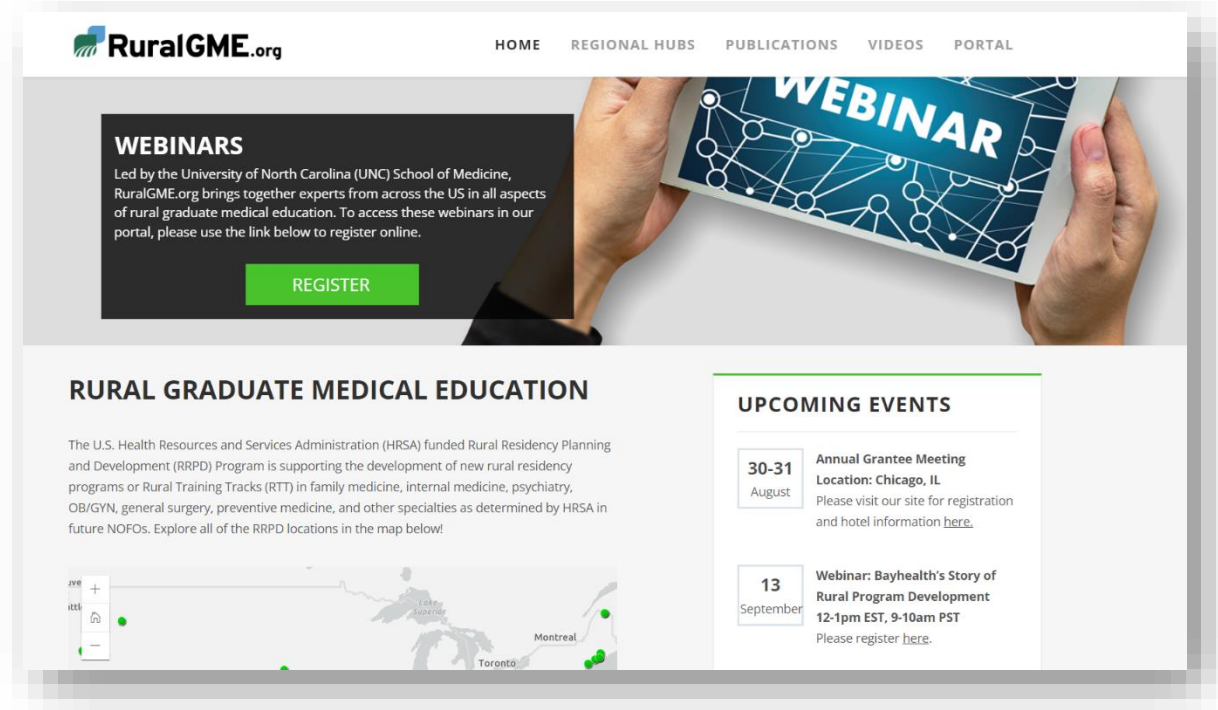
Rural Residency Planning & Development (RRPD) Program

Creating Sustainable Rural Residencies

RRPD Technical Assistance (RRPD-TA), a cooperative agreement

- Awarded \$2M in FY18 to establish the RRPD-TA Center and again \$4.3M in FY21 to provide direct technical assistance and resources to RRPD awardees and applicants.
- Consortium led by the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill consists of **experts in all aspects of rural residency development** and structured into 3 regional hubs (central, eastern, and western).
- Free resources and tools (e.g., webinars, presentations) are available on the RuralGME.org portal for key topics such as **program accreditation, financing, faculty development, and resident recruitment and training.**

Website: <https://www.ruralgme.org/>

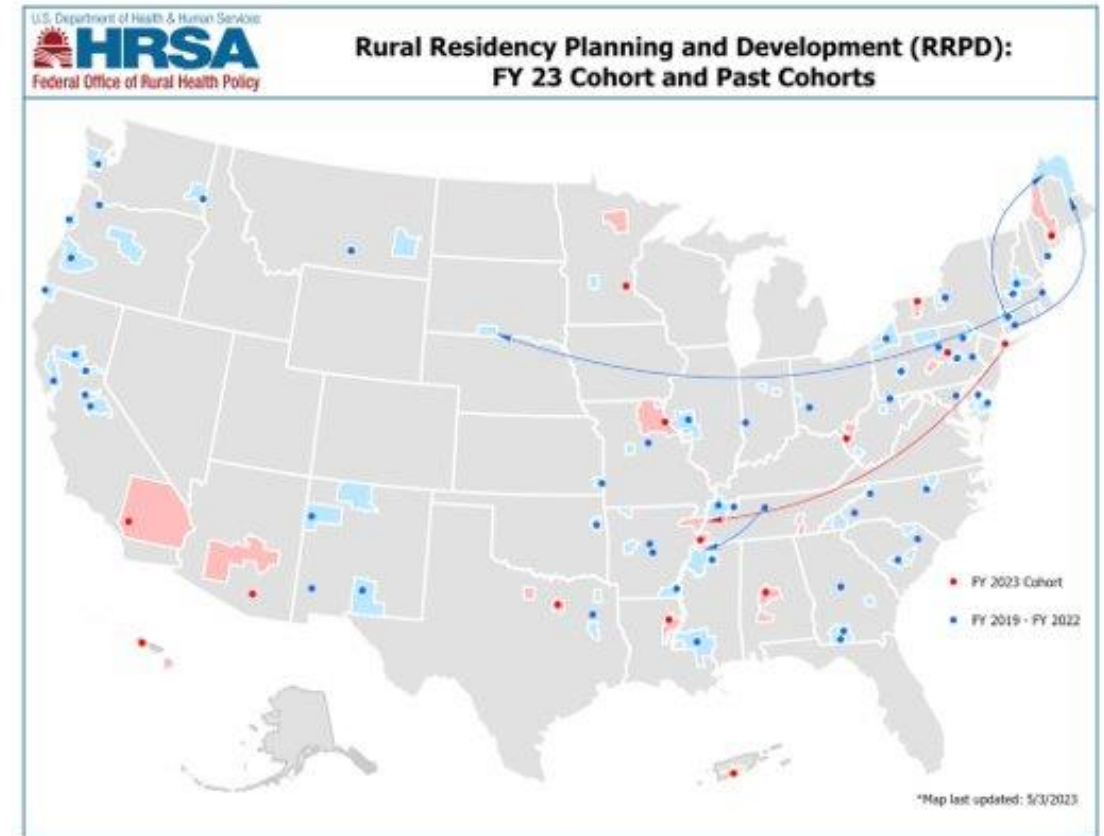


RRPD Program

Creating Sustainable Rural Residencies

FY19-FY23 RRPD Grant Program

- Since 2019, HRSA awarded **\$54M** to 73 award recipients spanning across 36 state, 1 U.S. Territory and 6 medicine disciplines.
- Awards up to \$750,000 total to organizations to establish **new, accredited and sustainable rural residency programs** in family medicine, internal medicine, psychiatry, general surgery, preventive medicine, and obstetrics and gynecology, over a 3-year grant period.
- Supports planning and development costs, such as accreditation, faculty development and recruitment, curriculum development and resident recruitment.
- HRSA Anticipates FY24 RRPD NOFO – [Forecast available on grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)



RRPD Program Goals & Outcomes To-Date

Objective 1: *By the end of the period of performance, RRPD award recipients are required to establish new rural residency programs or RTPs that is ACGME accredited and has a strong sustainability plan for a stable future financial outlook.*



41 programs applied for ACGME Accreditation.



38 received ACGME Accredited for a total of 503 approved residency positions.

Objective 2: *RRPD award recipients are expected to matriculate residents by the academic year (AY) following the end of the grant period of performance (e.g., FY20 RRPD Cohort must start matriculating residents by AY 2024).*



From AY20 through AY22, 22 programs matriculated **180+ residents** in family medicine, internal medicine and psychiatry.



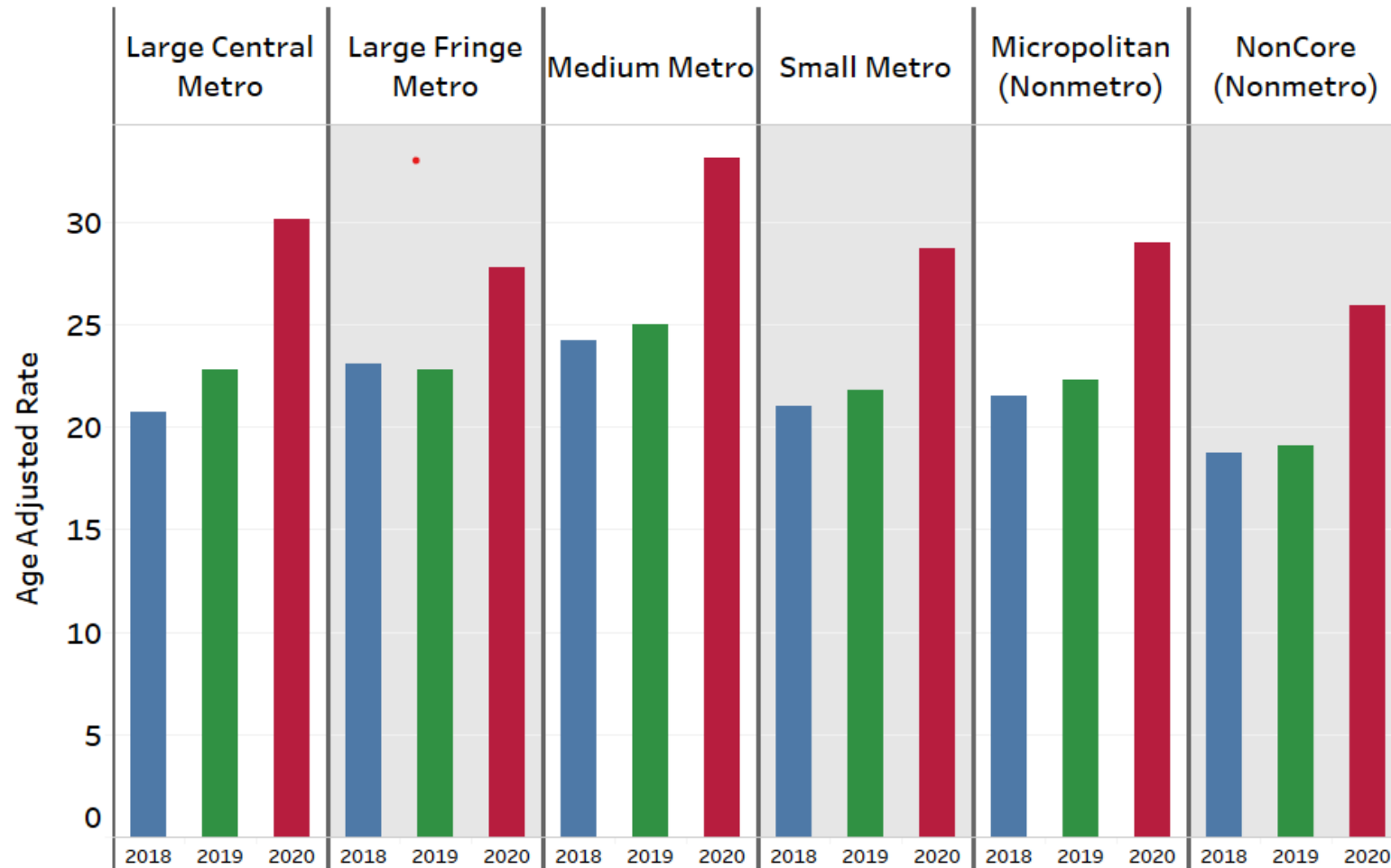
For the 2023 MATCH, **30** programs participated in NRMP MATCH and anticipate matriculating **122** residents for Academic Year 2023.

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program



The Implications of the Opioid Crisis on Rural Communities

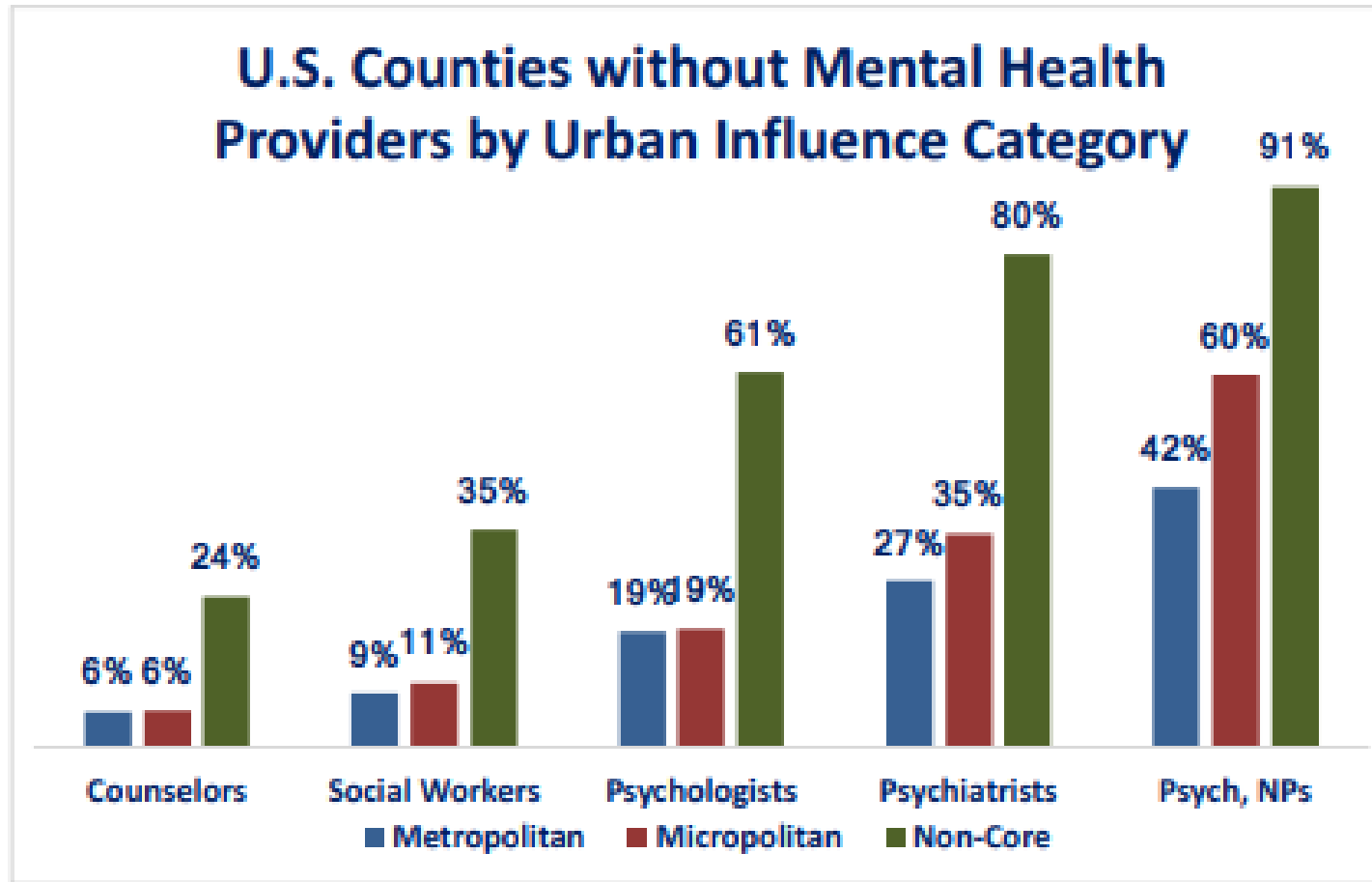
Age-Adjusted Death Rates of Drug-Related Overdose 2018-2020



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2020, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html> on Mar 8, 2022 12:55:57 PM

Assessing the Current Landscape

Behavioral Health Workforce



Source: <https://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/assets/411-1089/071817-behavioral-health-workforce-supply-webinar-ppt.pdf>

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)

Reduce morbidity and mortality

associated with SUD, including OUD, in high-risk rural communities.

Support prevention, treatment, and recovery

related to SUD, including OUD, in high-risk rural communities.



Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)

Reducing OUD and SUD in Rural Communities

- The [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program](#) is a multi-year initiative launched in FY 2018 that provides direct funding and technical assistance to rural communities to improve access to behavioral health care services, including SUD/ODU prevention, treatment, and recovery.
- Since 2018, FORHP has made RCORP investments across **47 states** and **2 territories**, reaching **1,800+ rural counties**
- In 2023, HRSA awarded **over \$80 million** through **more than 120 grants and cooperative agreements** that will directly support the behavioral health needs of rural communities across the country.



RCORP – Workforce Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

- In our most recent year of grantee data:
 - More than **2 million** rural individuals received direct prevention, treatment, and recovery services,
 - More than **112,000 individuals** received medication assisted treatment.
 - Nearly **635,000** individuals trained through RCORP (stigma, naloxone, mental health first aid, opioid prescribing guidelines, other topics)



RCORP – Workforce Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

- In the 6 months from March – August 2022, over **2800 providers** in RCORP consortiums prescribed MAT.
- At the same time, a general unwillingness to provide MAT was the most cited barrier when assessing provider barriers to MAT.
- Other barriers include:
 - MAT not being seen as a best practice
 - Perceived case complexity
 - Stereotypes about individuals with SUD/OD



RCORP – Workforce Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

- Almost 90% of grantees utilize peer recovery workers in their RCORP consortiums.
 - In the Implementation 1 cohort, having a peer support worker was found to be related to meeting a community's need for MAT
- Grantees have identified the following barriers to utilizing peers:
 - Lack of education among SUD treatment professionals to on how to optimally use the peer recovery workforce
 - Struggle to properly monitor/support peers
 - Stigma against peers related to their recovery status, criminal status, lack of education/training, etc.
 - Large case loads
 - Lack of funding for peer programs, low pay for workers, billing/reimbursement issues for peer services



Rural Health Resources

Rural Community Opioids Response Program

Capacity Building

- Previously funded Planning Grants to support networks of community partners
- Ensuring diverse cohorts that help build economies of scale in rural communities.

Expanding Access and Building Infrastructure

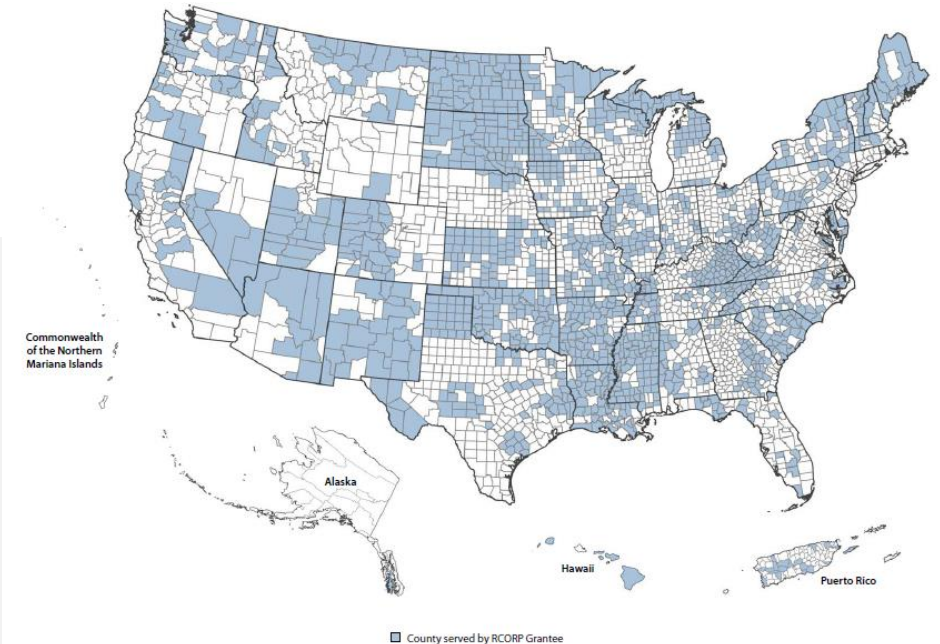
- Flexible funding to adapt to unique community needs.
- Focus on prevention and treatment.

Targeted Approaches

- Medication Assisted Treatment
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Addressing Psycho-Stimulants
- BH Integration

Centers of Excellence

- VT: Evidence-based practices
- Fletcher: Supporting Recovery Housing Efforts
- Rochester: Synthetic Opioid Overdose Mortality



RCORP – Opioid focused

SUD more broadly

Behavioral Health



RCORP-Rural Centers of Excellence

Focus Area 1:

Innovative and effective treatment interventions for SUD, particularly OUD, in rural communities

- Patient-centered and family-based approaches to address the generational impacts of substance abuse
- Workforce and service delivery challenges common in rural communities and unique to rural health care providers
- E.g. Hub-and-spoke model, etc.

University of Vermont
Center on Rural Addiction
<https://uvmcora.org/>



Focus Area 2:

Best practices in recovery housing programs for SUD, particularly OUD, intervention among low-income, high-risk individuals in rural communities

- Other prevention and treatment services for low-income, high-risk rural residents, including criminal justice-involved persons

Fletcher Group
Rural Center of Excellence
<https://www.fletchergroup.org/rcoe/>

Focus Area 3:

Addressing synthetic opioid-related overdose mortality in rural communities in the Delta and/or Appalachian regions

- Unique factors that may contribute to rural synthetic opioid use, including underlying social, economic, and environmental conditions

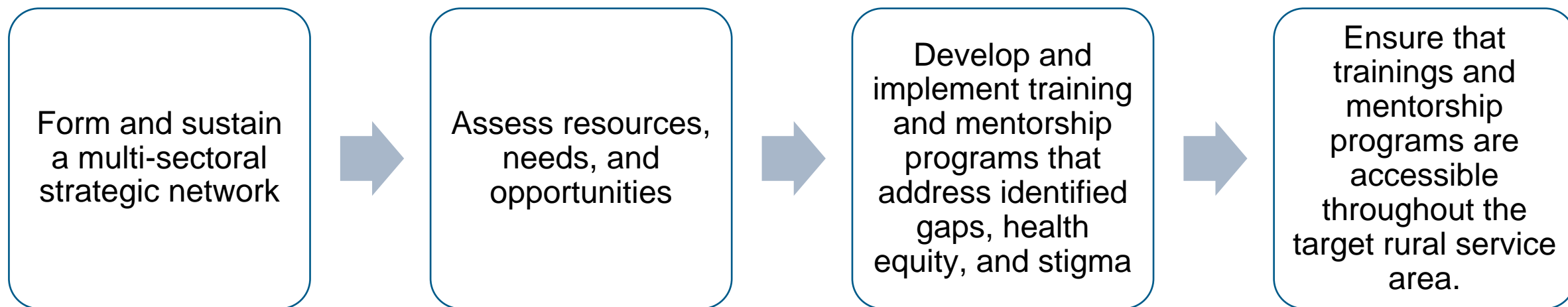
University of Rochester
Recovery Center of Excellence
<https://recoverycenterofexcellence.org/>

Rural Behavioral Health Workforce Centers – Northern Border Region

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*Enhance behavioral health care delivery **within rural portions of the Northern Border Regional Commission service area**, by developing and implementing training and mentorship programs focused on building the skills and capacity of rural health care providers, paraprofessionals, non-clinical staff, and community members to care for individuals with behavioral health care needs.*

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Medical Care Development	Vermont Association for Mental Health Care	Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital	Friends of Recovery New York
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Use learning collaboratives and Project ECHO to provide training/mentorship programs → Training focus includes individuals in recovery interested in pursuing a career in behavioral health → Culturally competent care for under-served populations woven throughout program content and processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Increase numbers of rural SUD recovery service providers through gateway career trainings and continuing education. → Create steps of ladderred credentials for the growth of the broader rural behavioral health workforce. → Emphasis on underserved populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Design trainings and mentoring opportunities to improve skills and confidence of providers to provide effective care at all levels of behavioral health needs. → Link academic expertise of faculty with rural New Hampshire providers through virtual trainings; coaching, use of Project ECHO, and other training approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Utilize a statewide network of rural recovery providers to provide education, awareness, advocacy, treatment and prevention services to address addiction and showcase the power of recovery.

RCORP-Technical Assistance

- **RCORP-TA Portal provides:**
 - Upcoming Events
 - Webinars
 - Toolkits
 - Videos
 - Resource Guides
 - Manuals and Briefs
 - Trainings
 - Funding Opportunities
 - Grantee Contacts
-
- <https://www.rcorp-ta.org/>



Other HRSA Workforce Programs



Federal Workforce Support

Addressing rural workforce needs by tapping into other HRSA programs



National Health Service Corps and Nurse Corps

support primary care and mental health providers

> 8,000 serve in rural communities



Public Health Scholarships

\$39 Million available now with applications due June 1, 2022

Community Health Worker Training

\$226 million available now with applications due June 14th, 2022



Area Health Education Centers Program

builds a pipeline of trainees with experience in rural and underserved areas



Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program

trains in community-based outpatient settings

> 93% train in medically underserved or rural communities



Pre-doctoral Training in General, Pediatric, and Public Health Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

improves oral health care for those with complex conditions and special health care needs



Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention; Advanced Nursing Education Workforce Program; Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention and Nurse Practitioner Residencies:

A range of programs to support the training of nurses and broader nurse education needs.



Behavioral Health Workforce Development Programs

enhance training for professionals and paraprofessionals

52% gain experience in treating substance use disorders

<https://bhw.hrsa.gov>





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



Announcements from the
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

July 15, 2021

What's New

[HHS Boosts Funding for COVID-19 Response in Rural Areas](#). On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) announced \$398 Million for COVID-19 testing and mitigation. The funds will be distributed by State Offices of Rural Health to 1,540 rural hospitals through the [Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program](#).

[One Month Left to Enroll in, or Change, Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage](#). Last week, HHS released a report on current [trends and challenges to accessing affordable health care in rural America](#). Analysts found that, although uninsured rates have fallen in rural areas, other barriers to care such as geographic distances, infrastructure limitations, and provider shortages contribute to rural health disparities. The report comes one month before the special enrollment period [for qualified individuals and families](#) ends on August 15. As noted in the HHS brief, 65 percent of the 1.9 million rural uninsured individuals in [HealthCare.gov states](#) may be able to find a zero-premium plan on the platform.

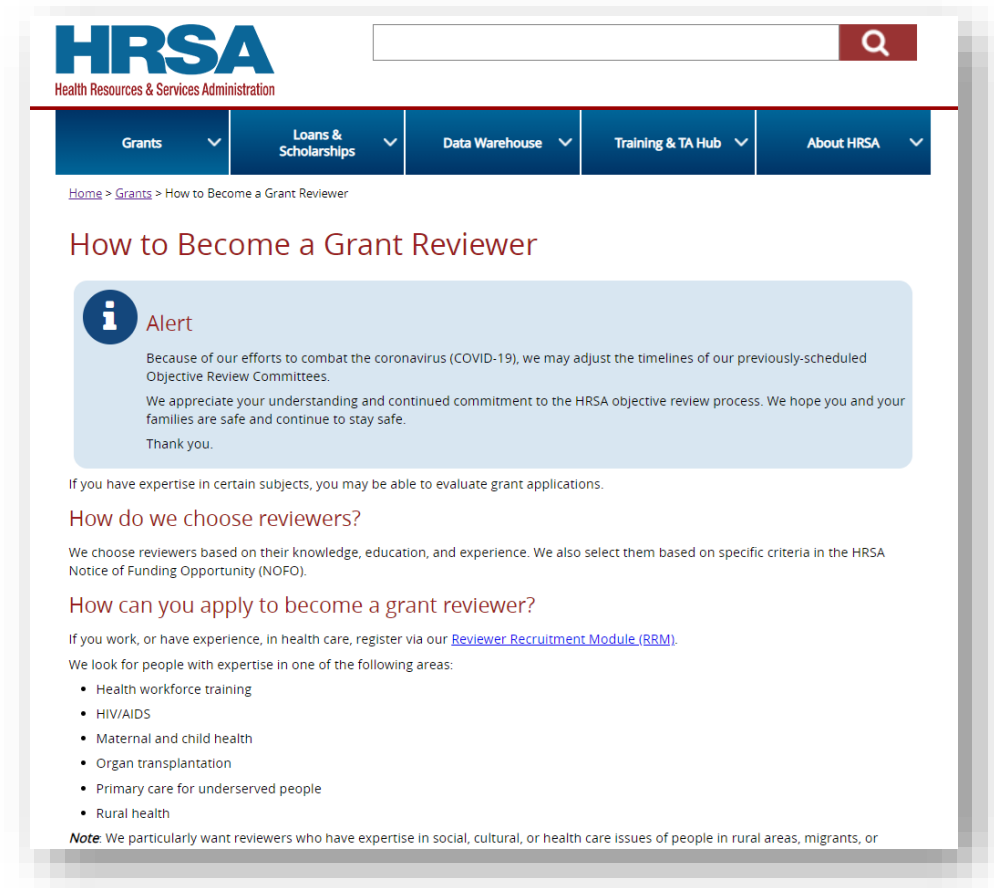
[NOSORH Accepting 2021 Community Star Nominations](#). The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) seeks nominations until August 2 of individuals, organizations, or consortia making a big difference in the health of rural communities.

COVID-19 Resources

[Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Distribution \(RHCVD\) Program](#). Under the program, Medicare-certified RHCs will receive direct COVID-19 vaccines in addition to their normal jurisdictions' weekly allocation. Contact RHCvaxDistribution@hrsa.gov for more information.

HRSA Needs Your Help!

Consider Being a HRSA Grant Reviewer



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



Contact Information

Sarah O'Donnell

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Email: sodonnell@hrsa.gov

General Rural Health Questions? Email FORHP@hrsa.gov

Phone: 240-393-5750

Web: HRSA.gov/ruralhealth/

Twitter: twitter.com/HRSAgov

Facebook: facebook.com/HHS.HRSA

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