

CHARTER

National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services Charter

1. Advisory Committee's Official Designation: The Committee shall be known as the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services (NACRHHS).
2. Authority: NACRHHS is authorized by Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a). NACRHHS is governed by provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Chapter 10). NACRHHS is being re-established.
3. Objectives and Scope of Activities: NACRHHS provides advice and recommendations on issues related to how the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS or the Department) and its programs serve rural communities. The Committee will focus attention and existing resources on rural health and human service problems, such as the provision and financing of health care and human services in rural areas.
4. Description of Duties: NACRHHS shall have the option to produce reports or other relevant documents on key rural issues along with recommendations for possible solutions and may solicit input from the Department and the field regarding issues on which to focus. The Committee also may confer with and coordinate its activities with other advisory groups in the fields of rural health and human services.
5. Agency or Federal Official Receiving the Committee's Advice/Recommendations: NACRHHS provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of HHS (Secretary).
6. Support: Management and support services are provided by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years: Annual budget is \$492,358. Expected costs are broken into:
 - (i) Federal personnel (based on full-time equivalent (FTE) usage basis) is 1.5 and other federal internal costs are \$285,358.
 - (ii) Proposed payments to members are \$27,000 and the number of members is 15.
 - (iii) Reimbursable costs are \$30,000.
8. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings: NACRHHS may meet up-to two times a year. Each meeting must be called or approved by the Designated Federal Officer responsible for NACRHHS oversight. Meetings may be in person or virtual. NACRHHS may hold meetings in the field to gather input from rural citizens and providers. Meetings shall be open to the public except where a closed or partially-closed meeting has been determined proper and consistent with the exemption(s) of the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)) as the basis for closure. Notice of all meetings shall be given to the public. Meetings shall be conducted, and records of the proceedings kept, as required by applicable laws and regulations.

9. Duration: Continuing.
10. Termination: Unless renewed by appropriate action prior to its expiration, the committee will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed.
11. Membership and Designation: NACRHHS consists of up to 15 members, including the Chair, appointed by the Secretary. Members represent a variety of health and human service issues in rural America. Approximately two thirds of the members should be rural health experts, and approximately one third should be rural human services experts.

The NACRHHS composition shall reflect a geographic mix from across the country, with knowledge in the fields of health care delivery, financing, research, development, and administration of health care and human services in rural areas. NACRHHS shall include representatives from state and local governments, foundations, provider associations, community-based organizations, rural health care and human service providers and administrators, and other rural interest groups. NACRHHS members should reflect a broad array of expertise, including Titles XVIII, IX, and XXI of the Social Security Act, and be knowledgeable with the range of rural-focused health programs under the purview of the Secretary, as well as knowledgeable in the fields of rural human and social services, including issues related to Native Americans, transportation, children and family services, social work, services for the elderly, and rural economic development.

The NACRHHS rural health experts should include the following: rural hospital representatives, physicians with experience practicing in rural areas, nurses with experience practicing in rural areas, rural health clinic clinicians, community health center administrators or clinicians, rural health researchers, mental health clinicians with experience practicing in rural areas, and State Office of Rural Health executives.

The NACRHHS rural human service experts should include the following: State health and human service department executives, Area Agencies on Aging representatives, Head Start centers representatives, rural human service research experts, and community action agency executives.

The Secretary has the option of appointing ex-officio members from across the federal government who represent an area of expertise needed to support and enhance NACRHHS' activities. These positions will be filled by senior policy experts from the HHS operating divisions.

Non-federal members will serve as Special Government Employees. Special Government Employees shall be invited to each serve a 4-year term. Ex-officio members shall serve under no fixed term.

A majority of the appointed members of the NACRHHS, including the Chair, constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings. Any vacancy in NACRHHS does not affect

its power to function.

12. Subcommittees: Standing and ad hoc subcommittees, composed of members of the parent Committee, may be established to perform specific functions within the NACRHHS jurisdiction. Subcommittees must report back to the Committee, and do not provide advice or work products directly to the Department or HRSA. The Department's Committee Management Officer will be notified upon the establishment of each subcommittee and will be provided information on the subcommittee's name, membership, function, and estimated frequency of meetings.

13. Filing Date:

Approved:

June 22, 2026
Date

/s/ Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary