

# Expanding COVID-19 Response in Rural Communities through Rural Health Clinics Fact Sheet | October 2022

To expand access and ensure equity in COVID-19 response in rural communities, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is working with Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) across the nation to distribute vaccines, strengthen vaccine confidence, expand COVID-19 testing and mitigation efforts, and ensure access to COVID-19 antiviral medications.

## RURAL HEALTH CLINIC COVID-19 THERAPEUTICS PROGRAM (RHCTH)

The Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Therapeutics Program provides access to COVID-19 oral antiviral medications (i.e., therapeutics) to eligible CMS-certified RHCs. The Program supplements state and jurisdictional allocations of COVID-19 antiviral medications to ensure equitable access. Distribution sites are subject to state scope of practice guidelines.

## **RHC COVID-19 Therapeutics Program Technical Assistance**

HRSA funded the <u>National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC)</u> to provide participating RHCs technical assistance support.

- Email HRSA for Program Information
- Email NARHC for technical assistance
- NARHC RHC Therapeutics Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

# RURAL HEALTH CLINIC COVID-19 TESTING SUPPLY PROGRAM (RHCCTS)

The 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)
- Other COVID-19 specific supplies such as N95 masks, as available

OVER 1800 RHCs
PARTICIPATING IN
COVID-19 DISTRIBUTION
PROGRAMS

# **RHCCTS Program Technical Assistance**

HRSA funded the <u>National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC)</u> to provide participating RHCs one-on-one technical assistance.

- Email HRSA for Program Information
- Email NARHC for technical assistance
- NARHC Testing Supply Program Webpage

#### RURAL HEALTH CLINIC VACCINE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (RHCVD)

The RHCVD Program, developed in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, distributes COVID-19 vaccines directly to RHCs to increase the availability of COVID-19 vaccines and constituent products and supplies in rural communities at no cost.

• Visit the <u>HRSA RHCVD Program website</u> for additional details

## **RHCVD Program Technical Assistance**

HRSA previously funded the <u>Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC)</u> to provide RHCs one-on-one technical assistance.

- Email HRSA for Technical Assistance
- Previous GHPC Resources and Webinars

## RURAL HEALTH CLINIC COVID-19 TESTING AND MITIGATION PROGRAM (RHCCTM)

Through the American Rescue Plan, HRSA provided over \$460 million provided to RHCs nationwide to maintain and increase COVID-19 testing efforts and expand access to COVID-19 testing and mitigation. Eligible CMS-certified RHCs received a one-time allocation of \$100,000 per RHC beginning in June 2021. As of October 2022, the RHCCTM Program and the previous Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing (RHCCT) Program, first funded in May 2020, have supported over 29 million COVID-19 tests in rural communities.

### **RHCCTM Program Allowable Expenses**

- <u>COVID-19 testing-related expenses</u> Supplies to provide testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), workforce retention and hiring efforts, health care setting/facility retrofitting
- <u>COVID-19 mitigation</u> Contact tracing, screening, post-COVID conditions management, community education, maintaining healthy environment
- <u>COVID-19 mitigation-related expenses</u> Workforce retention and hiring, health care setting/facility retrofitting, digital technologies updates
- COVID-19 testing Viral tests (including at-home tests) and antibody tests
- Visit the <a href="HRSA RHCCTM Program website">HRSA RHCCTM Program website</a> for additional details, including important dates, allowable expenses, insurance and reimbursement, reporting, and payment process

### **RHCCTM Program Technical Assistance**

HRSA funded the <u>National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC)</u> to provide participating RHCs one-on-one technical assistance.

- Email HRSA for Program Information
- Email NARHC for Technical Assistance
- Subscribe to the RHCCTM HRSA Listserv
- View Previous NARHC RHCCTM Webinars

#### RURAL HEALTH CLINIC VACCINE CONFIDENCE PROGRAM (RHCVC)

Through the American Rescue Plan, HRSA provided over \$97 million in grant funding to 1,975 CMS-certified RHCs across 44states to strengthen vaccine confidence in rural communities. Each recipient received \$49,529 per RHC.

## **RHCVC Program Purpose**

- Reinforce key messages about prevention and treatment of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases
- Provide information to rural residents about why, where, and how to get vaccinated
- Identify isolated and/or vaccine hesitant populations
- Provide education and outreach efforts around vaccine benefits and safety
- Visit the <u>HRSA RHCVC Program website</u> for additional details, including frequently asked questions, allowable expenses, important dates, and links to previous webinars

OVER
\$97 MILLION
TO SUPPORT
1,975 RHCs

# **RHCVC Program Technical Assistance**

HRSA funded the <u>National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health</u> (NOSORH) to provide RHCs one-on-one technical assistance.

- Email HRSA for Program Information
- Email NOSORH for technical assistance
- Subscribe to the HRSA RHCVC Listserv
- NOSORH COVID-19 Resources