



Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Investments

Fact Sheet | November 2025

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) serves as the primary federal agency responsible for directly supporting rural communities. The Office directly serves rural communities across the country to increase access to health care on Administration priorities and advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services on rural issues.

Since its establishment in 1987, FORHP has supported innovative efforts to address health care needs in rural communities. In Fiscal Year 2025, FORHP invested approximately \$365 million in rural America by funding efforts to strengthen health care delivery systems, reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorder, and improve the financial viability of rural hospitals.

ADDRESSING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Through grants, technical assistance to over 210 community-based organizations and building the evidence base, FORHP strengthens the capacity of rural communities to plan for, and provide behavioral health care services, including mental health and opioid and substance use disorder (OUD/SUD) prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

FUNDING: \$145 million through the [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program \(RCORP\)](#)

■ Program Activities Summary:

- \$19 million to address the most pressing SUD needs in rural communities, establish peer support resources for rural youth, and help build the behavioral health workforce in rural areas.
- \$95 million to support the continuation of behavioral health and SUD services in rural communities, including the establishment and expansion of new treatment and recovery services as well as services supporting children and adolescents, opioid-exposed infants, and their families.
- \$10 million for three Rural Centers of Excellence on SUD to continue to support the identification and dissemination of best practices related to OUD/SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery.
- \$15 million to evaluate the impact of RCORP initiative and provide technical assistance to RCORP grant recipients.

■ Impact:

- RCORP funding has reached more than 2,000 counties across 47 states and two territories.
- In the most recent grant year, RCORP grant recipients provided direct SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services to nearly 2 million rural residents, and ensured that over 85,000 rural individuals received medication-assisted treatment for SUD.
- RCORP grantees strengthen the rural behavioral health workforce, hiring 425 new behavioral health and substance use providers and providing training to over 48,000 behavioral health professionals and paraprofessionals.
- Sustainability is a priority within the program, with over 87% of recent grantees reporting other sources of funding to continue key activities after their RCORP grant ends.

EXPANDING RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

FORHP continues to make investments to strengthen the health care workforce and connect skilled health care providers to rural communities.

FUNDING: Over \$16 million through the [Rural Residency Planning and Development \(RRPD\) Program](#)

■ Program Activities Summary:

- Expand the physician workforce in rural areas through the development of new rural residency

programs or Rural Track Programs in family medicine, internal medicine, general surgery, preventive medicine, psychiatry, or obstetrics and gynecology.

■ **Impact:**

- Through the RRPD Program, 62 programs have achieved accreditation and are projected to create 752 residency positions in rural areas.
- To date, rural residency programs created under the RRPD Program have enrolled over 660 resident physicians to train in rural settings.

INCREASING ACCESS TO CARE

FORHP works to increase access to high quality healthcare for rural populations through grants to community-based providers.

FUNDING: Nearly \$101 million through [Rural Health Outreach Programs](#) to increase access to high quality health care and expand the delivery of services in rural areas

■ **Program Activities Summary:**

- \$5 million for 18 new awards through the Healthy Rural Hometown Initiative within the Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program (Outreach) to address the underlying factors contributing to the five leading causes of death: stroke, heart disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, unintentional injury, and cancer. A focus on maternal health is also included under this track to address rural needs related to maternal health outcomes.
- \$10 million for 40 new awards through the regular Outreach track for projects targeting critical priorities for rural health such as health nutrition, chronic disease, adult and childhood obesity, and substance use treatment and prevention.

■ **Impact:**

- An estimated 600,000 individuals received direct services through Rural Health Outreach programs, which increased access to services in over 300 rural counties.
- Among Outreach Program grantees tracking health status improvement, 100% demonstrated progress on at least one clinical measure in the most recent data collection year.

FUNDING: \$29 million to improve access to quality care in the Mississippi Delta Region

■ **Program Activities Summary:**

- \$12 million through the Delta States Rural Development Network Program (Delta States) to provide direct health care services and technical assistance to address the leading causes of avoidable death in rural Mississippi Delta communities.

■ **Impact:**

- Delta States funding will support 214 rural communities in eight Delta States. Recipients of this program continue to show health status improvement in one or more health area, such as reductions in diabetic hemoglobin A1c scores (HgbA1c), blood pressure scores, tobacco use, and body mass index (BMI).

■ **Program Activities Summary:**

- \$10 million through the Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program to provide technical assistance to enhance the healthcare delivery of small rural hospitals and rural health clinics in the Mississippi Delta.

■ **Impact:**

- 30 small rural hospitals, rural health clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers received free technical assistance, from industry experts, to improve their finances and improve access to care.

■ **Program Activities Summary:**

- \$2.8 million through the Delta Region Rural Health Workforce Training Program to enhance healthcare delivery by creating training programs for administrative support professionals in rural healthcare

facilities in the Delta Region.

- Currently, 136 trainees are enrolled in certificate and degree programs designed to build skills to fill critical business operations roles in hospitals with an additional 75 trainees expected to enroll.
- **Program Activities Summary:**
- \$2.8 million to the Delta Health Systems Implementation Program to improve healthcare delivery by implementing projects to improve the financial sustainability of rural hospitals.
 - Eight small rural hospitals received direct funding to complete projects to enhance and improve their financial stability that is sustainable post-Federal investment.

FUNDING: \$12 million through the [Black Lung Clinics Program \(BLCP\)](#)

- **Program Activities Summary:**
- Reduce morbidity and mortality among active and retired coal miners from occupational lung diseases, including Progressive Massive Fibrosis, through quality medical care, outreach, education, and benefits counseling. The [Black Lung Data and Resource Center](#) supports these efforts by collecting and analyzing data and strengthening clinic operations through technical assistance.
- **Impact:**
- In the most recent available data, the BLCP served over 7,800 miners in Appalachia and the western United States. The program reported nearly 2,700 findings consistent with Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis and over 320 findings consistent with Progressive Massive Fibrosis.

FUNDING: \$1.8 million through the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program (RESEP)

- **Program Activities Summary:**
- RESEP grantees implement cancer screening and education programs, share information on radiogenic diseases and the importance of early detection, screen eligible individuals for cancer and other radiogenic diseases, and provide appropriate referrals for medical treatment.
- **Impact:**
- This RESEP funding will support eight awards in five states to increase screenings for radiogenic diseases and connect affected individuals to needed medical and support services.

ADVANCING MATERNAL HEALTH CARE

FORHP works to improve maternal health outcomes in rural communities by supporting access to quality prenatal, obstetric, and postpartum care through targeted grants, technical assistance, and partnerships with rural providers and community organizations.

FUNDING: \$12 million through the [Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies \(Rural MOMS\) Program](#)

- **Program Activities Summary:**
- Increase access to maternal and obstetrics care in rural communities.
- **Impact:**
- On average, 71% of delivering women who participated in the Rural MOMS program received prenatal care during their first trimester.
 - The awardees have enhanced and expanded care coordination of high-risk pregnancies, telehealth, patient navigation, and direct service initiatives to improve access to maternity care and support services.

FUNDING: \$2.2 million through the [Delta Region Maternal Care Coordination Program](#)

- **Program Activities Summary:**
- Increase access to care for pregnant women and new mothers during and after pregnancy in the Mississippi Delta region.
- **Impact:**
- Awardees will collectively serve women to improve and increase access to care for pregnant women and new mothers during and after pregnancy in approximately 38 rural Delta counties across three Delta Region

states, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee.

INCREASING THE RURAL INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE BASE

FORHP supports research programs that aim to increase the amount of publicly available, policy-relevant research to assist providers and policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels to better understand health and health care problems faced by rural communities. This research informs and is regularly cited in Medicare rulemaking, Congressional testimony, reports by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, and is also shared with key Congressional Committees.

FUNDING: \$4 million to support rural health information dissemination, tools and resources through the [Rural Health Information Hub](#).

FUNDING: \$6.5 million through the [Rural Health Research Program](#)

■ **Program Activities Summary:**

- Regularly update the public resource monitoring and tracking the [number of rural hospitals across the country that have closed completely or converted](#) to another type of facility that provides only non-inpatient care.
- Maintain and expand the [Care Management Medicare Reimbursement Strategies for Rural Providers Guide](#). This resource outlines how new Traditional Medicare care management billing codes can be used, the services covered, and how these services may benefit their patients.

SUPPORTING RURAL HOSPITALS

Rural hospitals play a critical role in the rural health infrastructure, providing essential care to small, isolated, or remote communities.

FUNDING: \$53.6 million to support small rural hospitals across the country with funding to states

■ **Program Activities Summary:**

- \$30.7 million through the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program to work with states to assist Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) improve financial and quality performance through voluntary reporting.
- Within Flex, there is a nearly \$2 million initiative for eight states to strengthen the quality workforce in rural emergency medical service agencies over five years.

■ **Impact:**

- Through the Flex Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project, 79% of CAHs improved in at least one quality measure.

■ **Program Activities Summary:**

- \$20.9 million through the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program to enable states to support small, rural hospitals through investments in hardware, software, and training.

FORHP funds several free technical assistance programs to help rural hospitals improve and/or maintain continued access to health care services.

FUNDING: \$20 million to build capacity for small, rural hospitals to provide high quality, efficient care

■ **Program Activities Summary:**

- Support hospitals and strengthen health care delivery across the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Delta Regional Authority (DRA) regions, as well as nationwide, through initiatives that improve rural hospitals' operational efficiency, financial stability, and long-term sustainability, including the Rural Hospital Stabilization Pilot Program.

■ **Impact:**

- 74 small rural hospitals and rural health clinics received technical assistance to improve their finances and the quality of the care they provide.

FUNDING: \$11 million to the [50 State Offices of Rural Health](#)

■ **Program Activities Summary:**

- Provide technical assistance to rural communities to leverage state and federal resources, funding, and information.
- **Impact:**
 - 36,000 (unduplicated) clients received technical assistance directly from State Offices of Rural Health.

FUNDING: \$5 million to support technical assistance around the new Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) provider type

- **Program Activities Summary:**
 - Help hospitals explore REH to see if it is a feasible option for a rural community that cannot support inpatient services.
- **Impact:**
 - 112 rural hospitals received technical assistance through the REH Technical Assistance Center.

HRSA Supported Resources:

- [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy](#)
- [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Rural Health Information Hub](#)
- [Rural Health Research Gateway](#)
- [FORHP Rural Eligibility](#)
- [HRSA Data Warehouse for Rural Health Investments and Grants](#)