

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Small Rural Hospital Transition (SRHT) Project assists small rural hospitals and their communities in successfully navigating the changing health care environment.

The project provides on-site technical assistance to small rural hospitals residing in federally-designated persistent poverty counties. The aim is to better prepare and assist hospitals in moving from a fee-for-service and volume-based payment system to one that is driven by value and quality.

Technical assistance includes educational trainings and comprehensive onsite consultations.

The SRHT Project assists hospitals to:

- Improve financial and quality performance
- Prepare for new payment and care delivery models
- Prepare hospitals for population health management

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) funds the SRHT project and Rural Health Innovations implements it.

AWARDEES

Nine hospitals are selected each year to receive on-site consultations focusing on quality improvement (QI) or financial operational assessment (FOA).

Eligible hospitals must:

- Be located in a rural area or within a rural census tract of a metro area
- Be located in a federally-designated persistent poverty county
- Have fewer than 50 staffed beds
- Be for-profit or not-for-profit, including faith based.
- Be located in U.S. territories as well as tribally operated hospitals under [Titles I and V](#) of the [Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act](#), Public Law P.L. 93-638, as amended.

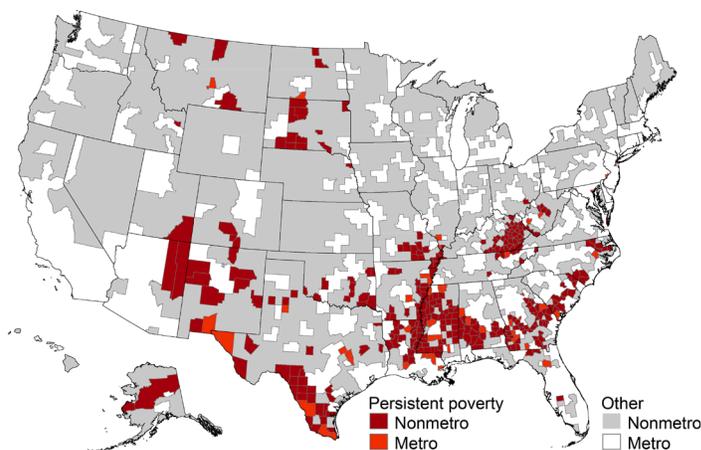
APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications for consultations open each September. For more information, please contact Bethany Adams at (859) 806-2940 or badams@ruralcenter.org.

Learn more about the program and eligibility requirements:

<https://www.ruralcenter.org/rhi/srht/eligibility>.

PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTIES, 2015 EDITION



Persistent poverty counties are those where 20% or more of county residents were poor, measured by the 1980, 1990, 2000 censuses, and the 2007-11 American Community Survey.¹

¹ County boundaries are drawn for the persistent poverty counties only. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data for U.S. Census Bureau.

PROGRAM IMPACT

To date, the SRHT Project has supported 34 hospitals since 2014. Based on technical assistance and consultations, hospitals have reported significant improvements in both financial and quality outcomes across the board.

Financial and Operational Assessment Outcomes:

- Increase of net patient revenue by 17%
- Doubling of net income
- 14 day increase in days cash on hand

Quality Outcomes:*

- Increase of 10 percentage points in HCAHPS discharge planning score
- 7% increase in HCAHPS transition of care score

** Based on most recent data available 2016-2017.*

HRSA FEDERAL OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH POLICY

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) administers grant programs to improve rural health care by increasing access to care for underserved populations and building health care capacity at both the state and local levels. FORHP advises the Secretary on the effects of current policies and proposed statutory, regulatory, administrative, and budgetary changes.²

² https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title07/0711.htm