

Expanding COVID-19 Response in Rural Communities through Rural Health Clinics Fact Sheet | October 2021

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

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

Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), 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. As of October

OVER

received a one-time allocation of \$100,000 per RHC. As of October 2021, RHCCTM Program and the <u>Rural Health Clinic COVID-19</u>
<u>Testing (RHCCT) Program</u> supported over 16.2 million COVID-19 tests in rural communities.

RHCCTM Program Purpose

- <u>COVID-19 testing</u> –Viral tests (including at-home tests) and antibody tests
- <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
- Visit the HRSA RHCCTM Program website for additional details, including important dates, allowable expenses, insurance and reimbursement, reporting, and payment process

RHCCTM Program Technical Assistance

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

Email HRSA

Email NARHC

HRSA Listserv

• NARHC Webinars

16.2 MILLION

COVID-19 TESTS
SUPPORTED

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.

RHCVD Program Purpose

- Increase COVID-19 vaccine allocation in rural communities
- Provide COVID-19 vaccine, constituent products, and supplies at no cost
- Visit the HRSA RHCVD Program website for additional details

RHCVD Program Technical Assistance

HRSA funded the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) to provide RHCs one-on-one TA RHCs.

• Email HRSA for TA referral

GHPC Resources and Webinars

RURAL HEALTH CLINIC VACCINE CONFIDENCE PROGRAM (RHCVC)

Through the ARPA, over \$97 million in grant funding provided to 1,975 CMS-certified RHCs across 44 states to strengthen vaccine confidence and counter vaccine hesitancy in rural communities. Each awardee 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
- 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 has funded the <u>National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health</u> (NOSORH) to provide RHCs one-on-one technical assistance.

• Email HRSA • Email NOSORH • HRSA Listserv • NOSORH Webinars