FY 2026 Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Investments Preview

February 17, 2026

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People

Housekeeping Items

- Slides are available at https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/webinars/2026-forhp-preview

- For technical difficulties during the webinar, please visit the ZOOM Help Center at https://support.zoom.com/hc

- If you have questions during the webinar, submit them through the ZOOM feature Q&A button at the bottom of your screen.

- For those joining via YouTube live stream, enter your questions into the live chat in YouTube.

- This webinar is being recorded. The recording link will be shared via a future Weekly FORHP Announcement.

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Presenters

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Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Overview

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), supports health care for the nation's highest-need communities.

HRSA serves those most in need, including:

- **More than 32 million people** in rural and underserved communities

- **About 59 million pregnant women, infants, and children**

- **More than 575,000 people** with HIV

- **More than 1,900 rural counties and municipalities** across the country

- **Over 21,000 health care providers** through loan repayment and scholarship programs

Data in this slide deck reflects HRSA's most recent publicly available information.

FORHP Overview
Established in Section 711 of the Social Security Act

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) collaborates with rural communities and partners to support community programs and provide technical assistance to improve health in rural America.
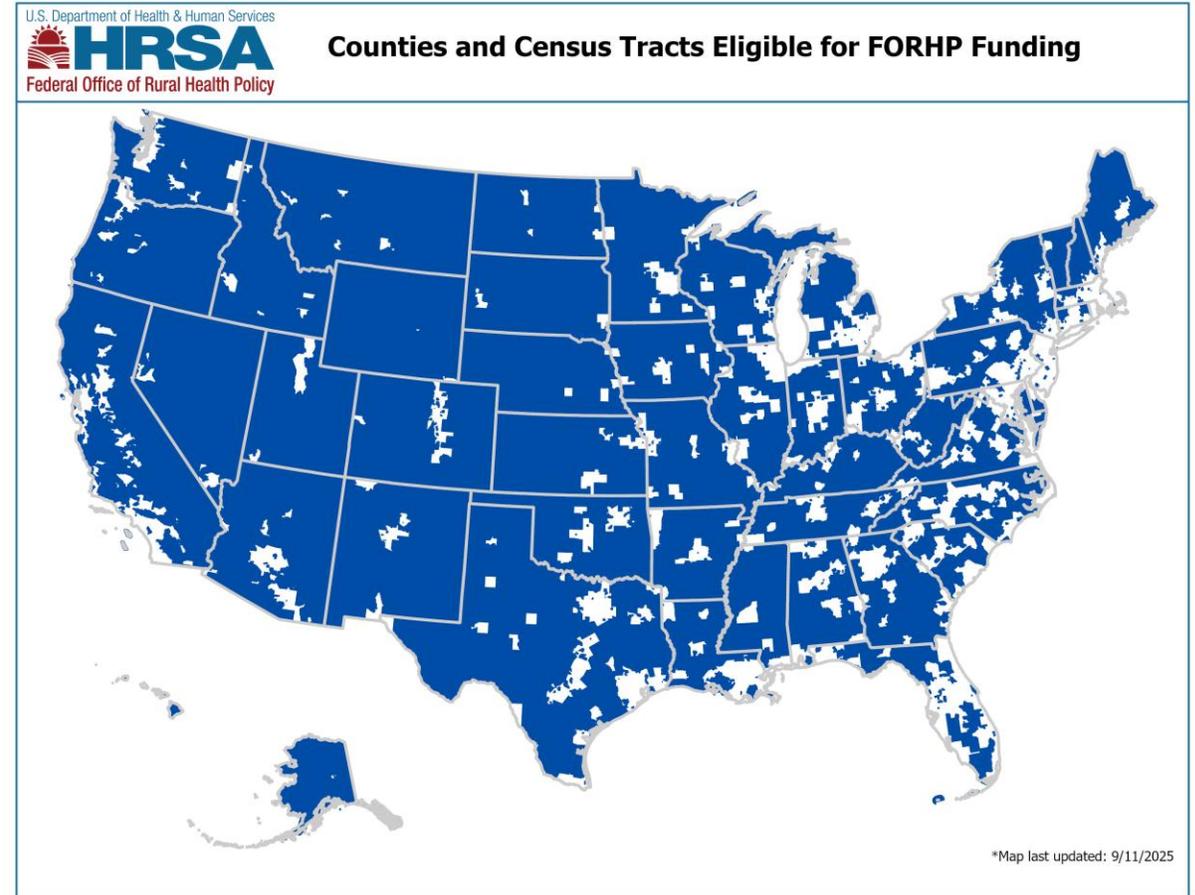
Voice for Rural	Capacity Building	Cross Agency Collaboration
Advises the HHS Secretary on issues that affect rural America	Increases access to health care for people in rural communities through grant programs and public partnerships	Works across HRSA, HHS, and several other federal partners to accomplish its goals

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

HRSA
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Counties and Census Tracts Eligible for FORHP Funding

*Map last updated: 9/11/2025

HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

Priorities
Focusing on Administration Priorities Across Our Programs

Key Areas Fit Well with FORHP Programs and the Needs of Rural Communities

Source: Page 5, HHS 2026 Budget in Brief: https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2026-budget-in-brief.pdf

Rural Health Transformation Program

Partnerships Play a Critical Role

- HRSA supporting CMS in the **Rural Health Transformation Program**

- Builds on longstanding collaboration

- Will leverage existing resources in support of the state plans

Looking Ahead to 2026 …
Enacted Budget Invests in Core Programs

Rural Programs Garner Continued Support

- Includes Some Increases
- Rural Hospital Support Program

One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Saturday,
the third day of January, two thousand and twenty-six

An Act

Making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. References.
Sec. 4. Explanatory statement.
Sec. 5. Statement of appropriations.
Sec. 6. Payment to Widows and Heirs of Deceased Members of Congress.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Title I—Military Personnel
Title II—Operation and Maintenance
Title III—Procurement
Title IV—Research, Development, Test and Evaluation
Title V—Revolving and Management Funds
Title VI—Other Department of Defense Programs
Title VII—Related Agencies
Title VIII—General Provisions

DIVISION B—DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Title I—Department of Labor
Title II—Department of Health and Human Services
Title III—Department of Education
Title IV—Related Agencies
Title V—General Provisions

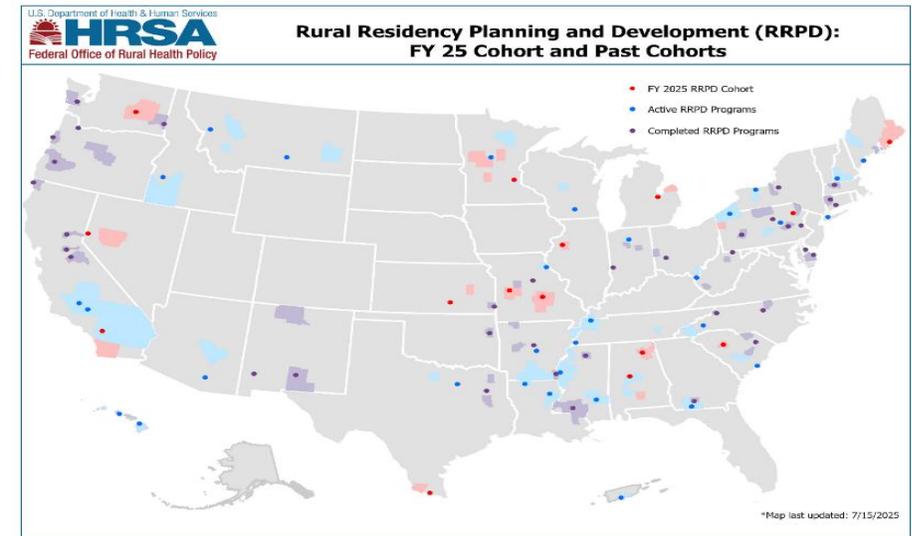U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
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Workforce
Rural Residency Planning & Development (RRPD) Grant Program

Purpose: Improve and expand access to health care in rural areas by developing new, sustainable rural residency programs to address the physician workforce shortages and challenges faced by rural communities.

Program Highlights:

- Continued focus on developing financially sustainable residencies in family medicine, family medicine with enhanced obstetrical training, internal medicine, preventive medicine, psychiatry, general surgery, and obstetrics and gynecology.

- Since 2019, RRPD has created 62 new, accredited rural residency programs with 752 approved resident positions.

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Rural Residency Planning and Development (RRPD): FY 25 Cohort and Past Cohorts

- FY 2025 RRPD Cohort
- Active RRPD Programs
- Completed RRPD Programs

*Map last updated: 7/15/2025

FY 2026 Funding Information

- Total investment: $10.5 Million
- Average Award Amount: $750,000
- Estimated Number of Awards: 14
- Period of Performance: 3 Years

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
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Behavioral Health

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Planning

Purpose: Help rural communities build the capacity to develop and sustain substance use disorder (SUD) services by lowering barriers to federal funding and preparing them for larger, more complex networks.

FY 2026 Funding Information
- Total investment: $4M
- Average Award Amount: $100,000
- Estimated Number of Awards: 40
- Period of Performance: 2 Years

Program Highlights:
- Supports local organizations to form partnerships, assess needs, and design plans to address behavioral health workforce gaps, access to care, and sustainability challenges.
- Provides an entry point for under-resourced communities to gain grant management experience and build lasting infrastructure to respond to the opioid crisis.
- Offers flexibility to fund strategic planning, asset mapping, community needs assessment and coalition building, positioning providers and grantees for future service delivery and funding opportunities.

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Behavioral Health

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Impact

Purpose: Strengthen rural communities with the largest and most comprehensive RCORP initiative, driving measurable improvements in prevention, treatment, recovery, and systems-level change for opioid use disorder and substance use disorder.

FY 2026 Funding Information

- Total investment: $60 Million
- Average Award Amount: $750,000
- Estimated Number of Awards: 80
- Period of Performance: 4 Years

Program Highlights:

- Expands access to evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services in rural communities.
- Builds a larger, more responsive workforce to meet behavioral health needs.
- Improves coordination across health and social services to support sustained, long-term recovery.
- Establishes durable community partnerships and infrastructure to reduce morbidity and mortality and ensure long-term impact.

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
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Rural Communities and Networks

Nationwide Programs –Network Advancement

Purpose: To develop and scale models that strengthen rural health systems, improve quality of care, and prepare providers to succeed in value-based and sustainable care delivery nationally and regionally.

FY 2026 Funding Information
- Total investment: $1 Million
- Average Award Amount: $500,000
- Estimated Number of Awards: 2
- Period of Performance: 4 Years

Network Advancement
- Pilot to fund rural hospitals, health centers, tribal providers, and behavioral health clinics to create system-like benefits such as shared data platforms, economies of scale, and new service lines that improve sustainability and access.

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Rural Communities and Networks

Regional Programs – Northern Border Region Planning Grants

Purpose: Expand access and improve quality of care in the Northern Border Region.

Program Highlights:

- Provides start up funding to address rural community health needs.
- For rural areas within the Northern Border Regional Commission area.

FY 2026 Funding Information

- Total investment: $1.8M
- Amount per Award: $100,000
- Estimated Number of Awards: 18
- Period of Performance: 1 Year

Rural Communities and Networks

Regional Programs – Delta Rural Integrated Health Networks

Purpose: Builds collective capacity among hospitals and clinics to achieve operational efficiencies, preserve access to care, and improve health outcomes through shared resources and clinical integration.

Program Highlights:

- Supports the development of integrated health networks among rural hospitals, primary care clinics, behavioral health providers and other essential services.

- Helps new networks develop the legal and administrative infrastructure work collectively while preserving local autonomy.

- For rural areas within the Delta Regional Authority.

FY 2026 Funding Information

- Total investment: $2.8 Million

- Estimated Number of Awards: 8

- Period of Performance: 2 Years

FORHP Rural Hospital TA Finder

https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/hospital-ta

Direct Technical Assistance to Hospitals and Clinics

Rural Hospital Stabilization Pilot Program

- Supports at-risk rural hospitals to enhance and or expand service lines.
- Helps hospitals retain health care services locally and increase service volume and revenue that will enhance hospitals' financial viability
- Rural hospitals nationwide are eligible to receive TA.
- **Application Period:** rolling application – apply now!

Targeted Technical Assistance for Rural Hospitals (TTAP)

- Provides targeted assistance to hospitals working to maintain health care services.
- Helps hospitals and communities understand community health needs and how to keep needed health care local.
- Rural hospitals nationwide are eligible to receive TA.
- **Application Period:** rolling application – apply now!

Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program

- Provides intensive technical assistance to healthcare facilities in rural communities in the Mississippi Delta region.
- Helps strengthen the local health care delivery system to position for population health.
- Rural hospitals and rural health clinics in the Mississippi Delta region are eligible to receive TA.
- **Application Period:** rolling application – apply now!

Appalachian Region Health Care Support Program

- Helps strengthen healthcare delivery in rural areas of the Appalachian Region by improving financial and operational performance as well as the quality of care in rural healthcare organizations.
- Rural hospitals and rural health clinics in the Appalachian region are eligible to receive TA.
- **Application Period:** rolling application – apply now!

Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance

- Provides resources and 1:1 technical assistance to ensure rural hospitals and the communities they serve have the information and resources needed to make informed decisions as to whether the Rural Emergency Hospital model of care is best for their communities.
- Rural hospitals nationwide are eligible to receive TA.
- **Application Period:** rolling application – reach out now!

Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project

- Helps organizations in strengthening their foundation in key elements of value-based care: quality, efficiency, patient experience and patient safety.
- Eligible entities include small rural hospitals and Rural Health Clinics.
- **Application Period:** rolling application – apply now!

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Become a HRSA Grant Reviewer
Ensure We Get the Rural Perspective

❯ REQUIRED EXPERTISE (in at least one area)

Rural health

Behavioral health

Health workforce training

HIV/AIDS

Maternal and child health

Primary care delivery

Underserved communities: either work with or be a member of

❯ ADDITIONAL EXPERTISE

Lived experience

Human services

Upstream drivers of health

❯ BENEFITS

Learn about the grantmaking process

Meet and work with others with shared interests

Earn an honorarium (nonfederal participants)

Apply at hrsa.gov/grants/reviewers
Notify FORHP@hrsa.gov after completing an application

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Resources to Get Started

Before you apply you will need registrations for:

- **SAM.gov**
  - Must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
  - SAM.gov registration can take several weeks.

- **Grants.gov**
  - Must also have an active account with Grants.gov.
  - Quick Start Guide for Applicants: https://www.grants.gov/quick-start-guide/applicants

Resources to Get Started – Previous NOFO Links

- [Rural Residency Planning and Development (RRPD) Program](#) (FY 2025)

- [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Planning](#) (FY 2020)

- [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Impact](#) (FY 2024)

Resources to Get Started – Helpful websites

Evidence-based Toolkits for Rural Community Health

https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/toolkits

Rural Health Research Gateway

https://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/

Rural Graduate Medical Education

https://www.ruralgme.org/

Have a question about rural residencies? Contact ruralresidency@hrsa.gov

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Q&A
Let Us Know Your Questions

- Use the Q&A feature in Zoom to type your question.

- For those joining via YouTube live stream, enter your questions into the live chat in YouTube.

- Reminder:
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Get Connected

Have questions or need additional information? Email us at:

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