



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

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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
- **More than 1,900 rural counties and municipalities** across the country
- **About 59 million pregnant women, infants, and children**
- **Over 21,000 health care providers** through loan repayment and scholarship programs
- **More than 575,000 people** with HIV



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

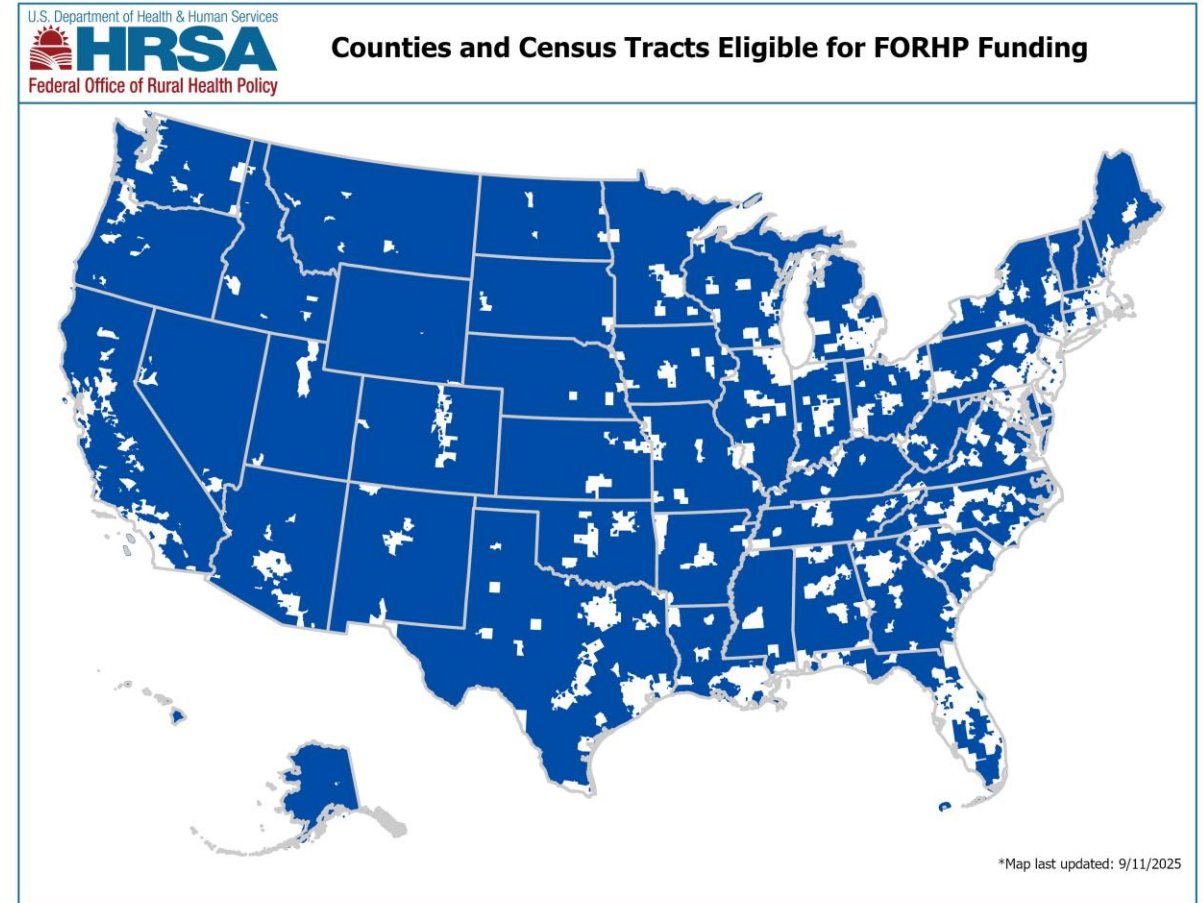
Advises the HHS Secretary on issues that affect rural America

Capacity Building

Increases access to health care for people in rural communities through grant programs and public partnerships

Cross Agency Collaboration

Works across HRSA, HHS, and several other federal partners to accomplish its goals



Priorities

Focusing on Administration Priorities Across Our Programs

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

The grid contains the following priority areas:

- Cutting Bureaucratic Sprawl
- Streamlining Services
- Scientific Integrity
- Disease Prevention
- Fighting the Chronic Disease Epidemic
- Gold Standard Science
- Food Safety
- Autism Initiative
- Informed Consent
- Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Removing Ultra-processed Food Additives
- Eliminating Petroleum-based Food Dyes
- Radical Transparency
- Eradicating Environmental Toxins
- Restoring Value-based Care
- Stewardship
- Expanding Access to Primary Care
- Ending the Regulatory Capture Loop
- Strengthening Services to Tribes

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

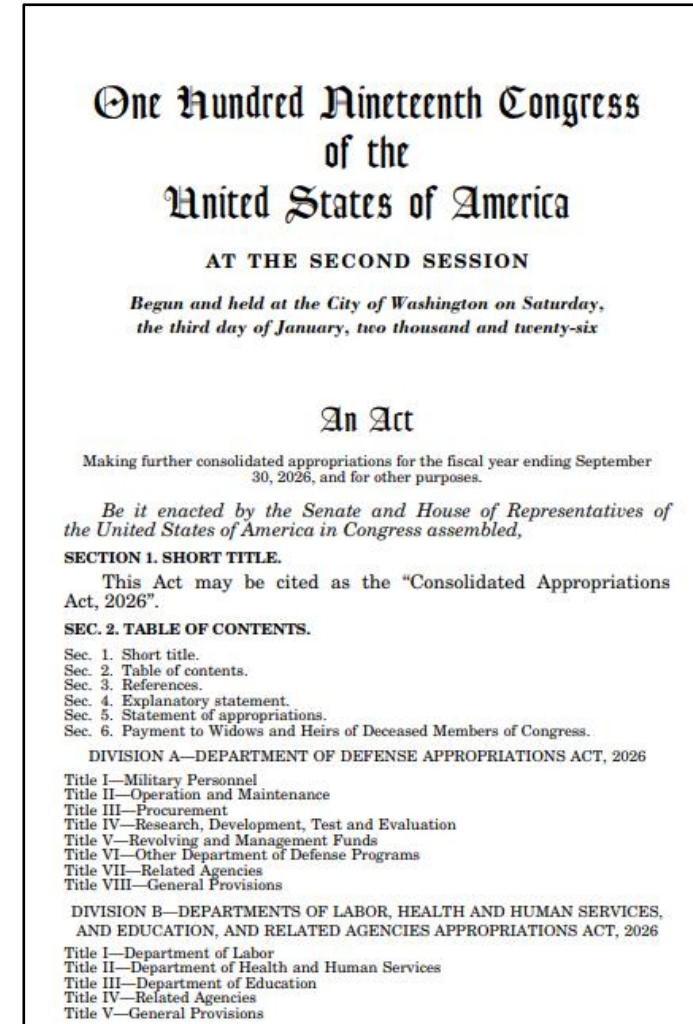


Looking Ahead to 2026 ...

Enacted Budget Invests in Core Programs

Rural Programs Garner Continued Support

- Includes Some Increases
- Rural Hospital Support Program



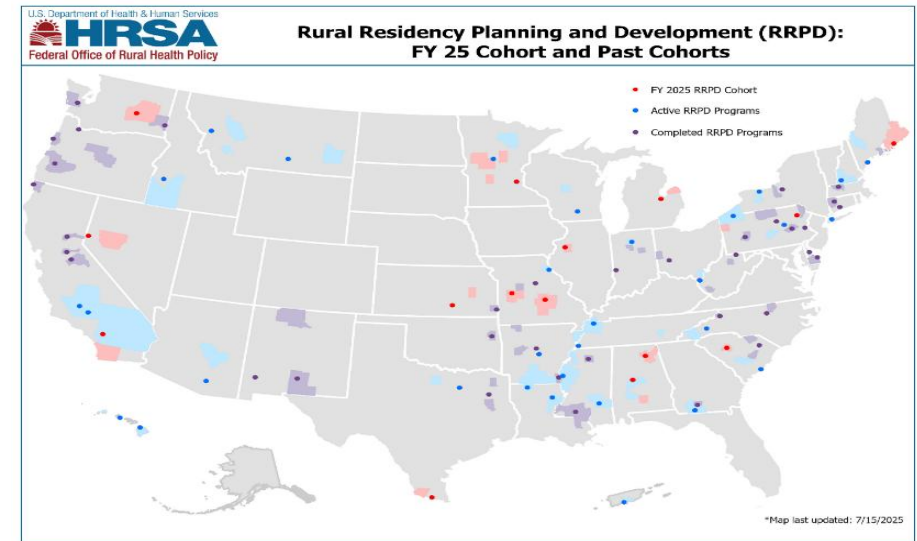
Workforce

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.



FY 2026 Funding Information

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

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.



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.



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.



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



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- Online Library -
- Topics & States -
- Rural Data Visualizations -
- Case Studies & Conversations -
- Tools for Success -

Rural Health > [Tools for Success](#)

FORHP Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Finder

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) works with six programs to provide free technical assistance (TA) to rural hospitals and Rural Health Clinics. This tool can help you identify the services available for your facility that match your TA needs.

Facility type:

Critical Access Hospital (CAH)

State:

Alabama

City or County

Greene County

Looking for assistance with:

Financial consultation

Financial support for new or expanded services

Market assessment

Peer learning

Post-conversion REH assistance

Compliance and policy review, billing and coding reviews, survey readiness, service line assessments, and EMS engagement.

Quality consultation

REH exploration

Individualized guidance and support for prospective REHs, including education on the REH designation, financial modeling, strategic planning, application assistance.

Resource leveraging

Help for rural communities to leverage state and federal resources, funding, and information.

Virtual education

FORHP Rural Designation

The programs listed here are for locations considered rural by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. Is your location rural?

YES - Greene County, AL has been designated by FORHP as rural.



Am I Rural?

Find out if your area is considered rural based on several federal government definitions, including those used in determining eligibility for federal grant programs.



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Matching Programs

Alabama Office of Primary Care and Rural Health

The State Office of Rural Health helps rural communities to leverage state and federal resources, funding, and information

Services: Resource leveraging

Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program

A collaboration with the Delta Regional Authority. Provides multi-year technical assistance to healthcare facilities in rural communities in the Mississippi Delta region to support financial sustainability, quality improvement, and population health. 10 hospitals/clinics selected per year. Open year-round to apply, with new cohorts chosen each winter.

Services: Financial consultation · Financial support for new or expanded services · Market assessment · Peer learning · Quality consultation · Virtual education

Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance

Provides resources and one-to-one 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.

Services: Market assessment · Post-conversion REH assistance · REH exploration

<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!](#)



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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Announcements from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

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February 12, 2026

What's New

[FORHP Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Finder](#). HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) provides hands-on support for rural hospitals and clinics, bringing national experts – in rural health care finance, clinical service, and operations – directly to rural communities to help them thrive. In 2026, 28 rural facilities across 16 states and one U.S. territory will receive this specialized technical assistance, through one of [six FORHP-funded technical assistance programs](#). This includes two recently selected cohorts:

- **[Facilities Selected for FORHP's Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project](#)**. Five facilities have been selected to participate in the sixth cohort of FORHP's program that [helps small rural hospitals prepare for value-based care](#): Newman Family Clinic in Oakdale, Louisiana; Susquehanna Family Clinic in Susquehanna, Pennsylvania; Pioneers Medical Center in Meeker, Colorado; Family Care Wellness Clinic in McMinnville, Tennessee; and Peaks Medical and Urgent Care in Dillon, Colorado. Participants will receive technical assistance provided by the [FORHP-supported National Rural Health Resource Center](#) to strengthen their foundation in key elements of quality, efficiency, patient experience and patient safety. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis; the National Rural Health Resource center is [currently accepting applications for the next cohort](#), with selection expected in November.
- **[FORHP's Targeted Technical Assistance for Rural Hospitals Selects New Facilities](#)**. Also known as TTAP, the Targeted Technical Assistance Program is supported by FORHP funding and carried out by the Center for Public Health Practice and Research at Georgia Southern University. Selected participants are [rural hospitals that will receive comprehensive technical assistance](#) to address financial and operational challenges and maintain essential services for their communities. Facilities selected for the third cohort are: Cottage Hos-



<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHSHRSA/subscriber/new?qsp=HRSA-subscribe>



Resources to Get Started

Before you apply you will need registrations for:

- **SAM.gov**
 - Must have an active account with [SAM.gov](https://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](https://www.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



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:
 - Slides are available at:
<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/webinars/2026-forhp-preview>
 - The recording link will be shared via a future Weekly FORHP Announcement.

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