



# Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Overview

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Department Of Health and Human Services  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy  
Community Based Division

# The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

## Created

- In 1987
- To advise the Secretary of Health on rural health issues
- To coordinate activities related to rural health care within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Purpose

- Part of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- FORHP has department-wide responsibility for analyzing the possible effects of policy on 62 million residents of rural communities.

## Mission

- To improve access to quality health care in rural communities

# Improve Rural Health Initiative

## Key Elements

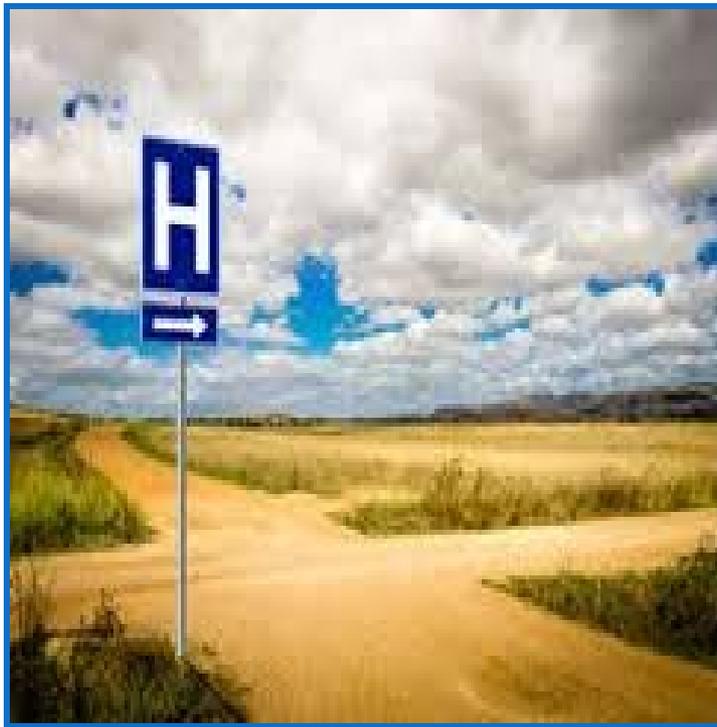
Building a  
Programmatic  
Evidence  
Base

Health  
Workforce  
and  
Recruitment

Telehealth &  
HIT  
Coordination

Cross  
Governmental  
Coordination

# Hospital State Division



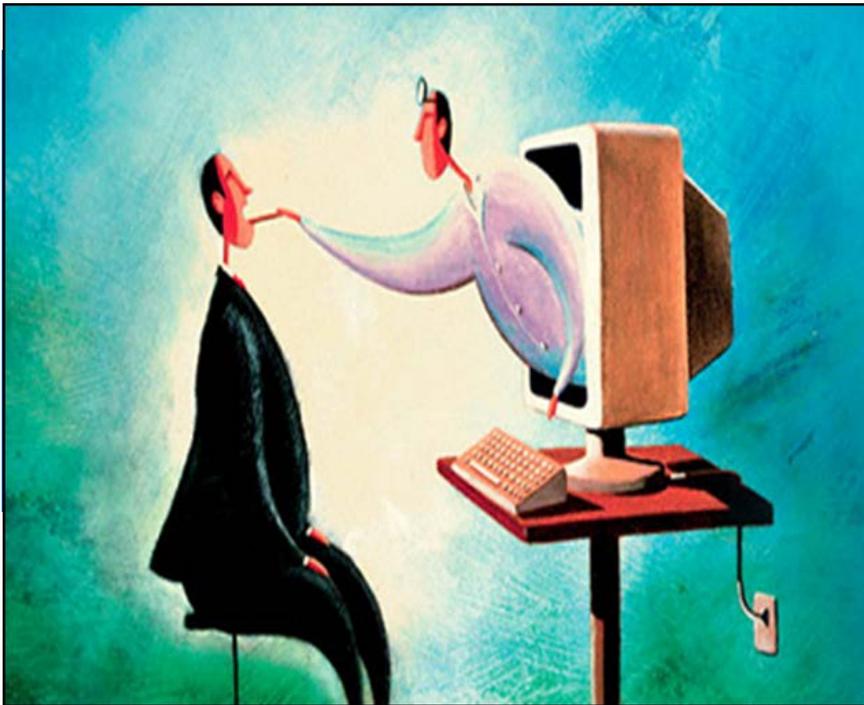
- Support State Offices of Rural Health
- Support Rural Hospitals
- Encourage Quality Outcomes

# Policy and Research Division



- Regulation, Legislation, & Policy Review
- Policy-focused Health Research
- Translate for Rural Stakeholders

# Office for the Advancement of Telehealth



- Fund Telehealth Resource Centers, Licensure Portability, & Telehealth Networks
- Advance Telehealth Technologies
- Building and Advancing Tele-Emergency Services Performance Measures

# Community-Based Division

- Grant Programs
- Measure Outcomes (PIMS-Performance Improvement Measures)
- Develop Evidence Based Practices



# FY 2017 Competitive Grant Programs

## Rural Health Network Development Program

- 3 years, \$300,000 per year
- ~ 30 awards
- To increase access to and quality of health care in rural areas
- Eligibility: Rural lead applicant, network made up of at least 3 separate health care entities that demonstrate successful history of 3+ years prior collaboration
- FOA Available: Fall 2016
- Start Date: May 2017
- Contact: Jayne Berube  
[jberube@hrsa.gov](mailto:jberube@hrsa.gov), 301-443-3999

## Rural Health Network Development Planning Program

- 1 year, \$100,000
- ~ 15 awards
- Help to promote the planning and development of healthcare networks
- Eligibility: rural, non-profit or public entity
- Proposed addition: some focus on hospital closure prevention
- FOA Available: Fall 2016
- Start Date: June 2017
- Contact: Meriam Mikre,  
[mmikre@hrsa.gov](mailto:mmikre@hrsa.gov), 301-945-3110



# FY 2016 Competitive Grant Programs

## Black Lung Clinics Program (BLCP) & Black Lung Centers of Excellence (BLCE)

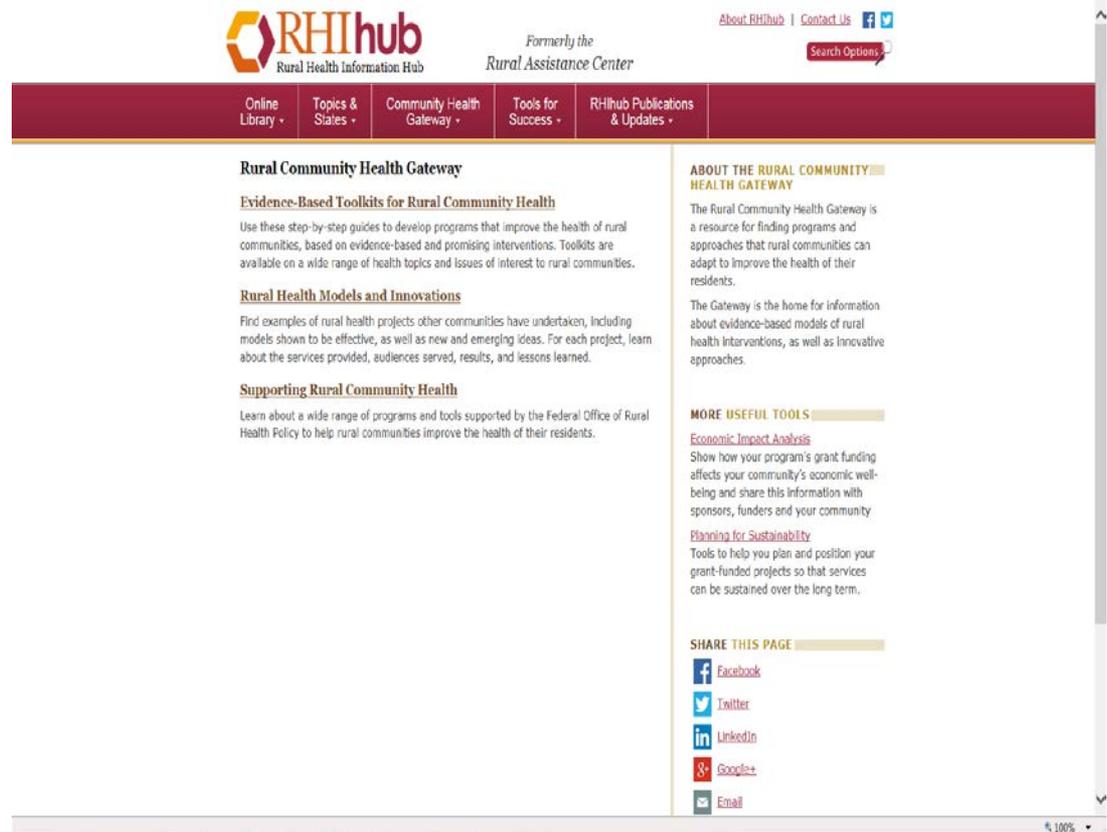
- BLCP:supports projects that seek to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with occupationally-related coal mine dust lung disease.
- BLCE:Cooperative agreement to state, public or private entities that have the clinical expertise in the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of and coal mine dust lung disease
- Eligibility: any State or public or private entity that meets the requirements of the particular program
- Contact: Allison Hutchings; [ahutchings@hrsa.gov](mailto:ahutchings@hrsa.gov); 301-945-9819

## Radiation Exposure Screening & Education Program (RESEP)

- Supports outreach and education programs as well as cancer screening for individuals exposed to nuclear fallout or nuclear materials resulting from U.S. nuclear weapons testing.
- Eligibility: Only the organizations located in the high-impact States cited in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act
- Contact: Katy Lloyd; [klloyd@hrsa.gov](mailto:klloyd@hrsa.gov); 301-443-2933

# Community Health Gateway (in RHIhub)

- Goal is to not reinvent the wheel
- Adding toolkits every given year on “hot” topics
- <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/community-health>



The screenshot displays the RHIhub website interface. At the top, the RHIhub logo is accompanied by the text "Formerly the Rural Assistance Center". A navigation bar includes links for "About RHIhub", "Contact Us", and "Search Options". Below this is a dark red navigation menu with categories: "Online Library", "Topics & States", "Community Health Gateway", "Tools for Success", and "RHIhub Publications & Updates". The main content area features the "Rural Community Health Gateway" section, which includes sub-sections for "Evidence-Based Toolkits for Rural Community Health", "Rural Health Models and Innovations", and "Supporting Rural Community Health". A sidebar on the right contains "ABOUT THE RURAL COMMUNITY HEALTH GATEWAY", "MORE USEFUL TOOLS" (with links for Economic Impact Analysis, Planning for Sustainability), and "SHARE THIS PAGE" (with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, and Email). The bottom right corner shows a 100% zoom level.

# How SORHs support FORHP

- Host grant writing workshops with FORHP representatives
- Can look over applications
- Can help provide assistance to grantee during project implementation

The screenshot displays the website for the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health (WORH). The main content area features a header with the mission statement "Improving the Quality of, and Access to, Rural Healthcare." Below this, there are sections for "Today's News" with several articles, a "Project Highlight" for the EMS Leadership Academy, and a "Loan Repayment" program. The footer includes a navigation menu with links for "About Us", "Our Staff", "What We Do", "Publications & Maps", and "News & Events". A sidebar on the right contains sections for "UPCOMING EVENTS", "FUNDERS", "PARTNERS", "TOPICS", and "STAFF".

**ANY QUESTIONS**





**For further questions or additional information, please contact:**

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