Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

VA Rural Research State of the Art Meeting

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Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Overview

- Supports more than 90 programs that provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically challenged
- Over 3,000 awardees, including community and faith-based organizations, colleges and universities, hospitals, state, local, and tribal governments, and private entities
- Every year, HRSA programs serve tens of millions of people, including people with HIV/AIDS, pregnant people and their families, and those otherwise unable to access quality health care
The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Authority: Section 711 of the Social Security Act

**Mission:** The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) collaborates with rural communities and partners to support programs and shape policy that will improve health in rural America.

**Vision:** Building Healthy Rural Communities

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**Quick Background on FORHP’s Dual Role**

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Connecting Program & Policy

Policy

Program

Research

Social Security

Compilation Of The Social Security Laws

OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH POLICY
Sec. 711. (42 U.S.C. 502) (a) There shall be established in the Department of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the Department) an Office of Rural Health Policy (in this section referred to as the Office). The Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall advise the Secretary on the effects of current policies and proposed statutory, regulatory, administrative, and budgetary changes in the programs established under titles XXI and XXVII on the financial viability of small rural hospitals, the ability of rural hospitals and rural hospitals in particular to attract and retain physicians and other health professionals, and access to (and the quality of) health care in rural areas.

(a) In addition to advising the Secretary with respect to the matters specified in subsection (a), the Director, through the Office, shall—
(1) oversee compliance with the requirements of sections 11233(b) of this Act and section 4023 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 [42 U.S.C. 5012(b)] (as such section pertains to rural health issues);
(2) establish and maintain a clearinghouse for collecting and disseminating information on—
(A) rural health care issues, including rural infant health, rural infant mortality prevention, and rural occupational safety and preventive health promotion;
(B) research findings relating to rural health care, and
(C) innovative approaches to the delivery of health care in rural areas, including programs providing community-based mental health services, pre-natal and infant care services, and rural occupational safety and preventive health education and promotion;
(3) coordinate the activities within the Department that relate to rural health care,
(4) provide information to the Secretary and others in the Department with respect to the activities of other Federal departments and agencies that relate to rural health care, including activities relating to rural mental health, rural infant mortality, and rural occupational safety and preventive health promotion, and
(5) administer grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to provide technical assistance and other activities as necessary to support activities related to improving health care in rural areas.

Sec. 711, 42 U.S.C. 502.
Six award recipients matriculated over 30 residents in FY 2020 and more are expected to start this Fall 2021.

Grays Harbor (Summit Pacific) & St. Peter Family Medicine RTT Program (Elma, WA)

Cherokee Nation/Oklahoma State University Rural Family Medicine Residency Program (Tahlequah, OK)

CHI Mercy Foundation Roseburg Rural Family Medicine Residency Program (Roseburg, OR)

Otero County (Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center) Family Medicine RTT Program (Alamogordo, NM)

Watauga Medical Center Boone Family Medicine RTT Residency Program (Boone, NC)

McLeod Regional Medical Center Family Medicine RTT Program (Florence, SC)

Cherokee Nation/Oklahoma State University Rural Family Medicine Residency (Tahlequah, OK)
FORHP Priorities

- Expanding Access
- Enhancing Rural Health Capacity
- Improving Quality
- Health Equity
- Policy and Research Efforts
- COVID-19 Response
Rural Health Research Gateway

Medicare

Research Findings

View publications, including policy briefs, working papers, and journal articles, on Medicare:

- Research Products & Journal Articles - (230)

Webinars

Access information on upcoming or archived webinars on Medicare:

- Impact of the CMS Value-Based Purchasing and Readmission Reduction Programs on Rural Hospitals
  Presented Tuesday, October 20, 2015

- The 2014 Update of the Rural-Urban Chartbook
  Presented Tuesday, December 9, 2014

- Change in Profitability and Financial Distress of Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) from Loss of Cost-Based Reimbursement
  Presented Friday, October 31, 2014

Projects on this Topic

Learn more about the research questions guiding each study, the lead researcher for each, and when the Research Center anticipates releasing completed product(s) under each project.

- Currently, there are 20 research projects underway to explore this issue.

- In the past, 96 research projects have been completed on Medicare.
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