



# Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Update

American Health Quality Association Meeting  
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Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



# Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

**Mission:** To improve health outcomes and achieve health equity through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce, and innovative, high-value programs



**TENS OF MILLIONS** of Americans receive quality, affordable health care, and other services through HRSA's **90-PLUS PROGRAMS** and more than **3,000 GRANTEES**

# The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

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 shape policy that will improve health in rural America.

## Cross Agency Collaboration

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

## Capacity Building

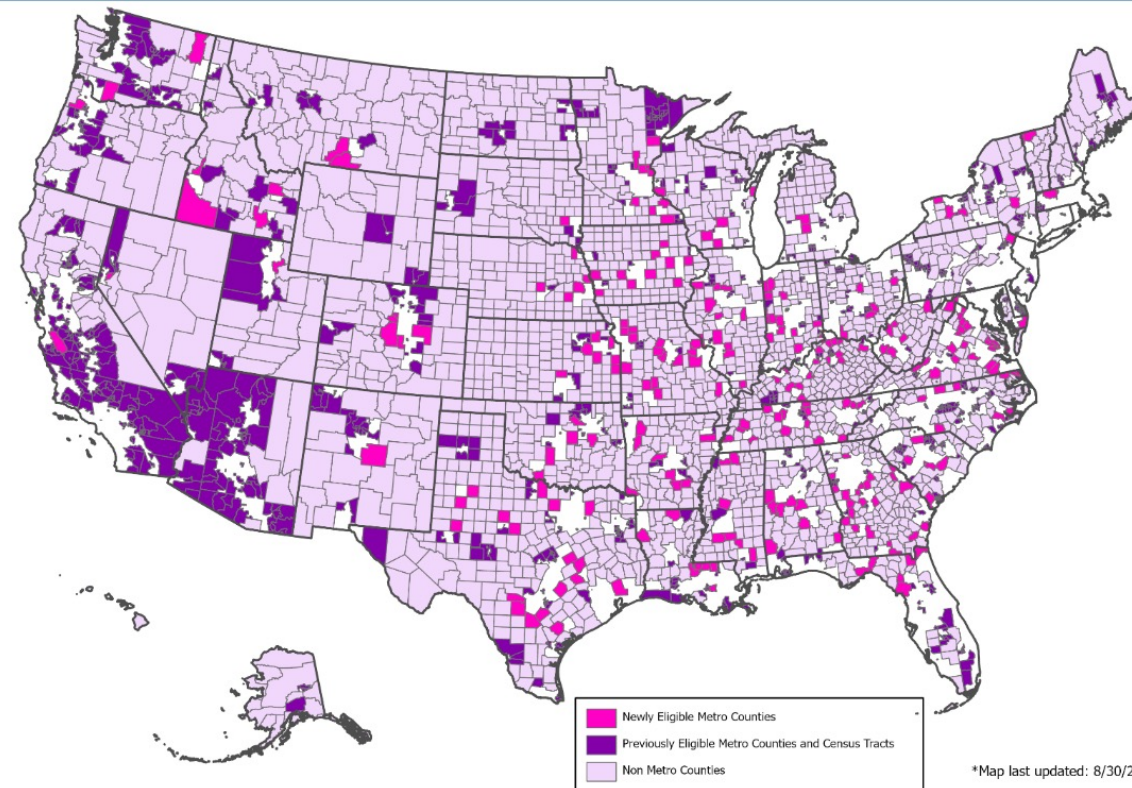
Increases access to health care for people in rural communities through grant programs and public partnerships

## Voice for Rural

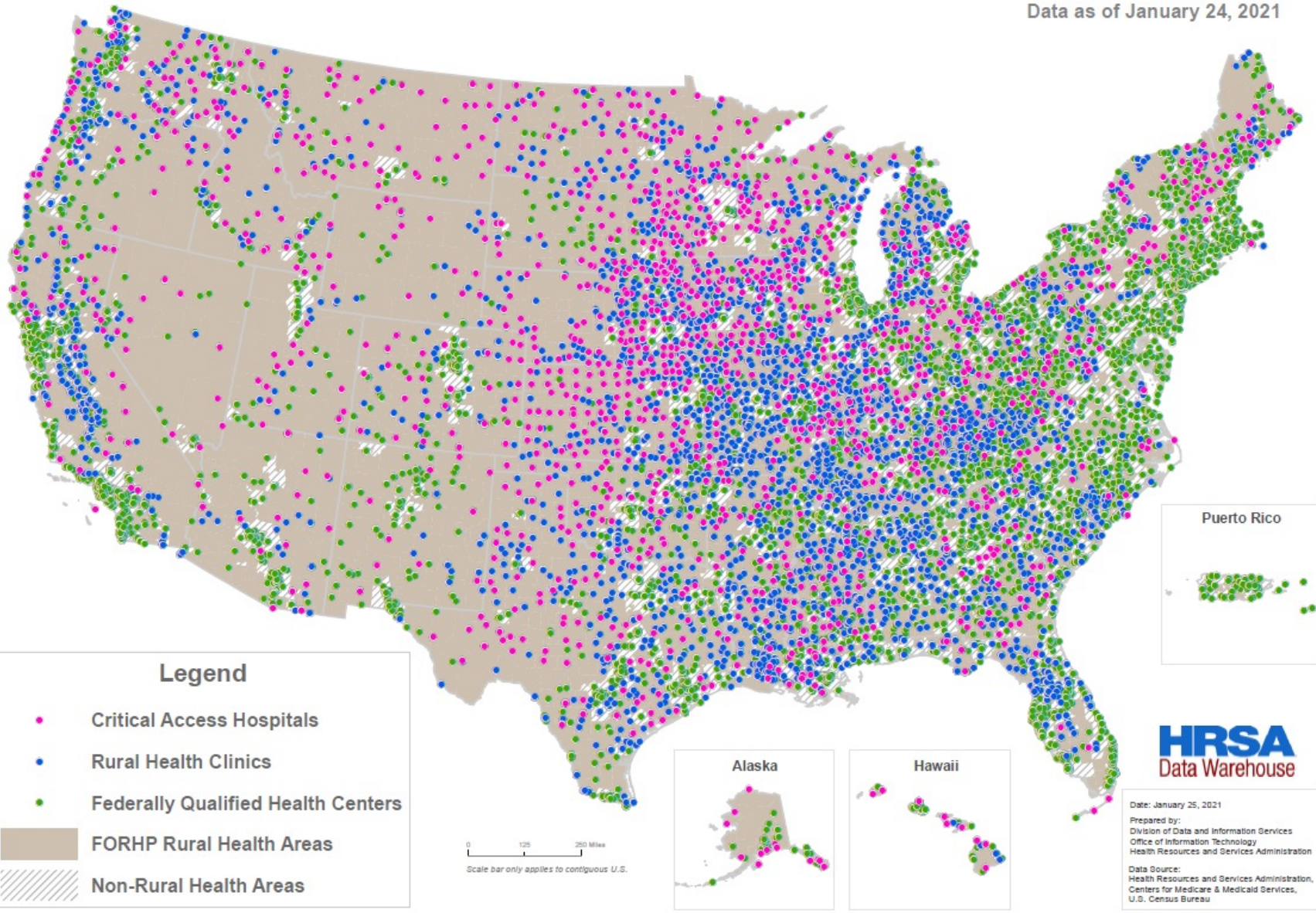
Advises the HHS Secretary on policy and regulation that affect rural areas



Counties and Census Tracts Eligible for FORHP Funding



Data as of January 24, 2021



# Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project

- Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Grant is an investment of over \$28 million that supports CAH efforts in quality and performance/financial improvement. FORHP supports quality improvement across the 45 states participating in Flex through the **Medicare Beneficiaries Quality Improvement Program (MBQIP)**.
- FORHP requires MBQIP participation through measure reporting. CAHs report MBQIP core measures that align with other Federal reporting requirements (antibiotic stewardship measure is one of the MBQIP core measures).
- MBQIP works with over 1,300 CAHs to support quality measurement and improvement in the areas of patient safety/inpatient care, outpatient care, patient engagement and experience, and care transitions. In 2022, FORHP began the process of expanding measures that are rural-relevant



# Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Measures

MBQIP Core Measure Set				
Global Measures	Patient Safety	Patient Experience	Care Coordination	Emergency Department
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical Access Hospital Quality Infrastructure Implementation (annual submission)</li> <li>• Hospital Commitment to Health Equity (required CY 2025) (annual submission)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Healthcare Personnel Influenza Immunization (annual submission)</li> <li>▪ Antibiotic Stewardship Implementation (annual submission)</li> <li>▪ Safe Use of Opioids (eCQM) (annual submission)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers &amp; Systems (HCAHPS) (quarterly submission)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmissions (required starting in CY 2025) (annual submission)</li> <li>▪ SDOH Screening (required CY 2025) (annual submission)</li> <li>▪ SDOH Screening Positive (required CY 2025) (annual submission)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emergency Department Transfer Communication (EDTC) (quarterly submission)</li> <li>▪ OP-18 Time from Arrival to Departure (quarterly submission)</li> <li>▪ OP-22 Left without Being Seen (annual submission)</li> </ul>



# Helping Rural Communities Assess New Models

## The Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Initiative



Christina Campos (center right) speaks to staff in the emergency department at Guadalupe County Hospital in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. The hospital is one of the first to start the process of converting into a Rural Emergency Hospital as part of a new federal payment program. (ADRIA MALCOLM FOR KHN)

### Struggling to Survive, the First Rural Hospitals Line Up for New Federal Lifeline

#### National Technical Assistance Center

- Rural Health Redesign Center: <https://www.rhrco.org/reh-tac>; [REHSupport@rhrco.org](mailto:REHSupport@rhrco.org)
- Provide TA other than what CCSQ supports

#### Other Resources

- National Conference of State Legislators:
  - Tracking state activity on establishing laws on REH licensure: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/rural-emergency-hospitals.aspx>
- National Academy for State Health Policy
  - Legislative and Regulatory Considerations for States: <https://nashp.org/rural-emergency-hospitals-legislative-and-regulatory-considerations-for-states/>

[REH Tracker](#) & [Hospital Closures and Conversion Tracker](#) – University of North Carolina Sheps Center tracks REH conversions

# Connect with HRSA

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Learn more about our agency at:

[www.HRSA.gov](http://www.HRSA.gov)



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