



Rural Health Update

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Little Rock, Arkansas**

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**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy**





Role of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

- Voice for Rural within HHS including Policy Review
- Supports Rural Health Research
- Supports Rural Health Grant Programs

Driving Influences for FY 2016

The HRSA Strategic Plan





Driving Influences for FY 2016

The President's Improving Rural Health Care Initiative



DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH
and HUMAN
SERVICES

Fiscal Year
2016

Health Resources and
Services Administration

*Justification of
Estimates for
Appropriations Committees*

Expanding the Rural Evidence Base

Workforce Recruitment and Retention

Telehealth and Health IT Integration

Cross-Governmental Collaboration

Driving Influences for FY 2016

Delivery System Reform and Rural Implications

Focus Areas

Description

Incentives

- Promote value-based payment systems
 - Test new alternative payment models
 - Increase linkage of Medicaid, Medicare FFS, and other payments to value
- Bring proven payment models to scale

Care Delivery

- Encourage the integration and coordination of clinical care services
- Improve population health
- Promote patient engagement through shared decision making

Information

- Create transparency on cost and quality information
- Bring electronic health information to the point of care for meaningful use

Additional Driving Factors

Rural Hospital Financial Risk and Closure

Impact of ACA Coverage Expansion

Role of Health IT

Dependence on Medicare and Medicaid

Declining Inpatient Utilization

Market Consolidation

Volume Challenges

Increased coverage vs. bad debt

Premium affordability

Essential Community Providers

Narrow Networks

Reaching Meaningful Use

Reaching Meaningful Use

Role of Telehealth

Broadband Access

Interoperability

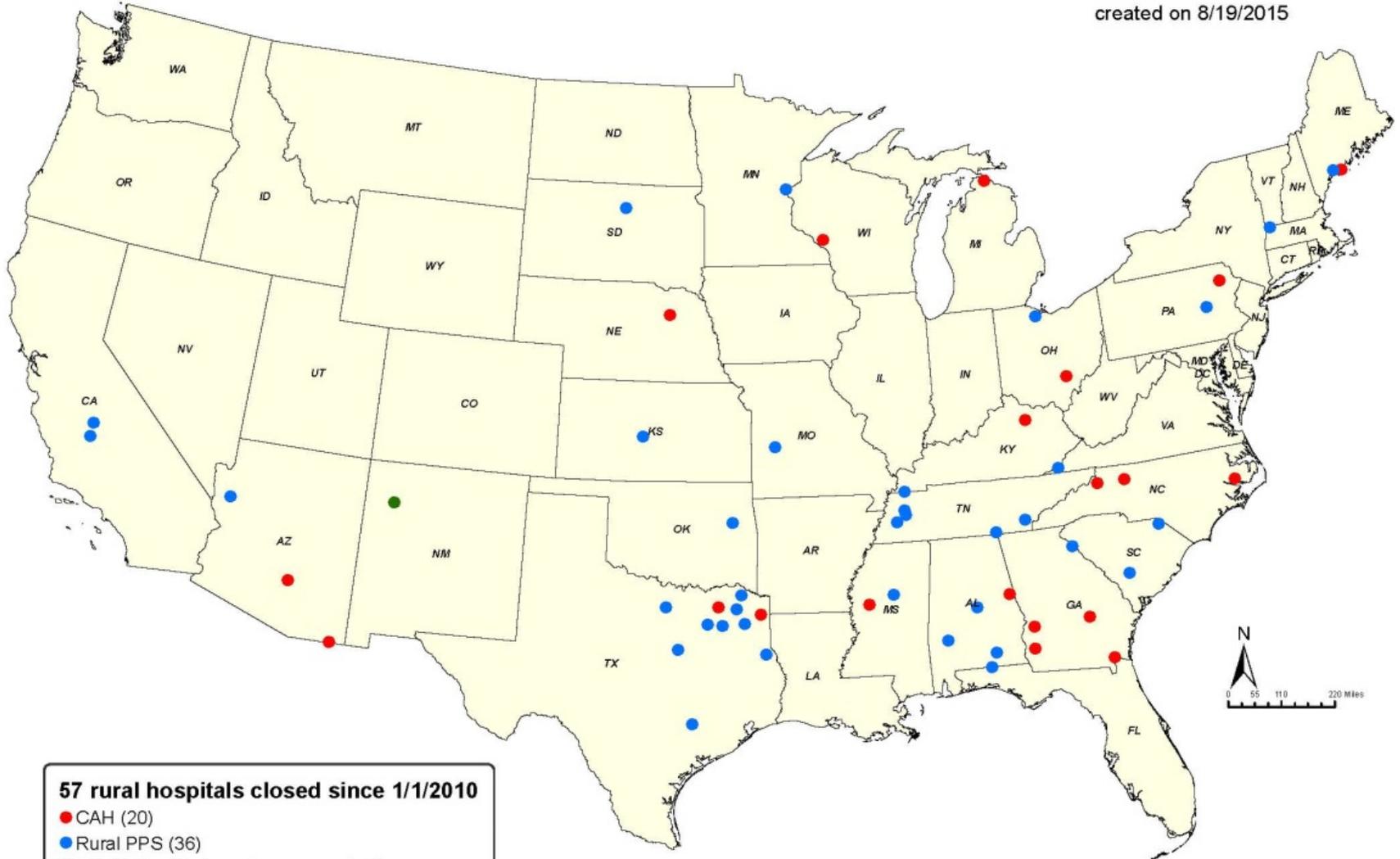
Role of Telehealth

Broadband Access

Interoperability

Closed Rural Hospitals, 2010 – 2015

created on 8/19/2015



57 rural hospitals closed since 1/1/2010
● CAH (20)
● Rural PPS (36)
● IHS (1, inpatient services suspended)

A Common Goal Across All FORHP
Grant Programs

Rural
Population
Health
as an Aligning Focus

Can Help
Address
Long-
Standing
Disparities

Key Step in
Moving
Toward
Measuring
Outcomes

Achieving FY 2016 Priorities

Grants

- Rural Hospital Financial and Quality Improvement
- Enhancing Telehealth Focus on Outcomes
- Quantifying Impact of Outreach and Delta

Contracts

- Moving To Cohort Analysis for Outreach
- Small Rural Hospital Transitions
- ORISE Investment for Evaluation Assistance

Policy and Research

- Telehealth Research Center
- Re-Competing Rural Health Research Centers

Strengthening the Policy Role



Sec. 711. [42 U.S.C. 912] (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 XVIII and XIX on the financial viability of small rural hospitals, the ability of rural areas (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.

- Identifying Emerging Policy Issues for HHS Leadership
- Regulation Review
- White House Rural Council Staffing
- National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services



Policy and Research

- Picking Through the Annual Payment Updates
- Translating the Larger Policy Context
- Evolution of the ORHP Research Role
- Informing Policy





FY 2016 Competitive Grant Programs

Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grant Program

- 3 years, \$200,000 K per year
- ~ 20 awards
- To deliver quality improvement activities in rural communities
 - Evidence-based
 - Outcomes oriented
 - Population Health
- Eligibility: rural, non-profit or public entity, partner with 2 other entities
- FOA available: January, 2016
- Program start date: August, 2016
- Contact: Ann Ferrero, aferrero@hrsa.gov; 301-443-3999

Rural Health Network Development Planning Program

- 1 year, \$100,000
- ~ 24 awards
- Help to promote the planning and development of healthcare networks
- Eligibility: rural, non-profit or public entity
- FOA available: November, 2015
- Program start date: June, 2016
- Contact: Amber Berrian, aberrian@hrsa.gov, 301-443-0845



FY 2016 Competitive Grant Programs

Delta States Rural Development Network Grant Program

- 3 years, \$460,000 per year (avg.)
- ~12 awards
- To deliver health care services in rural
 - Chronic Disease
 - Evidence-based
 - Outcomes oriented
 - Population Health
- Eligibility: rural, non-profit or public entity, partner with two other consortia members
- FOA available: February, 2016
- Program start date: August, 2016
- Contact: Valerie Darden,
vdarden@hrsa.gov



FY 2016 Competitive Grant Programs

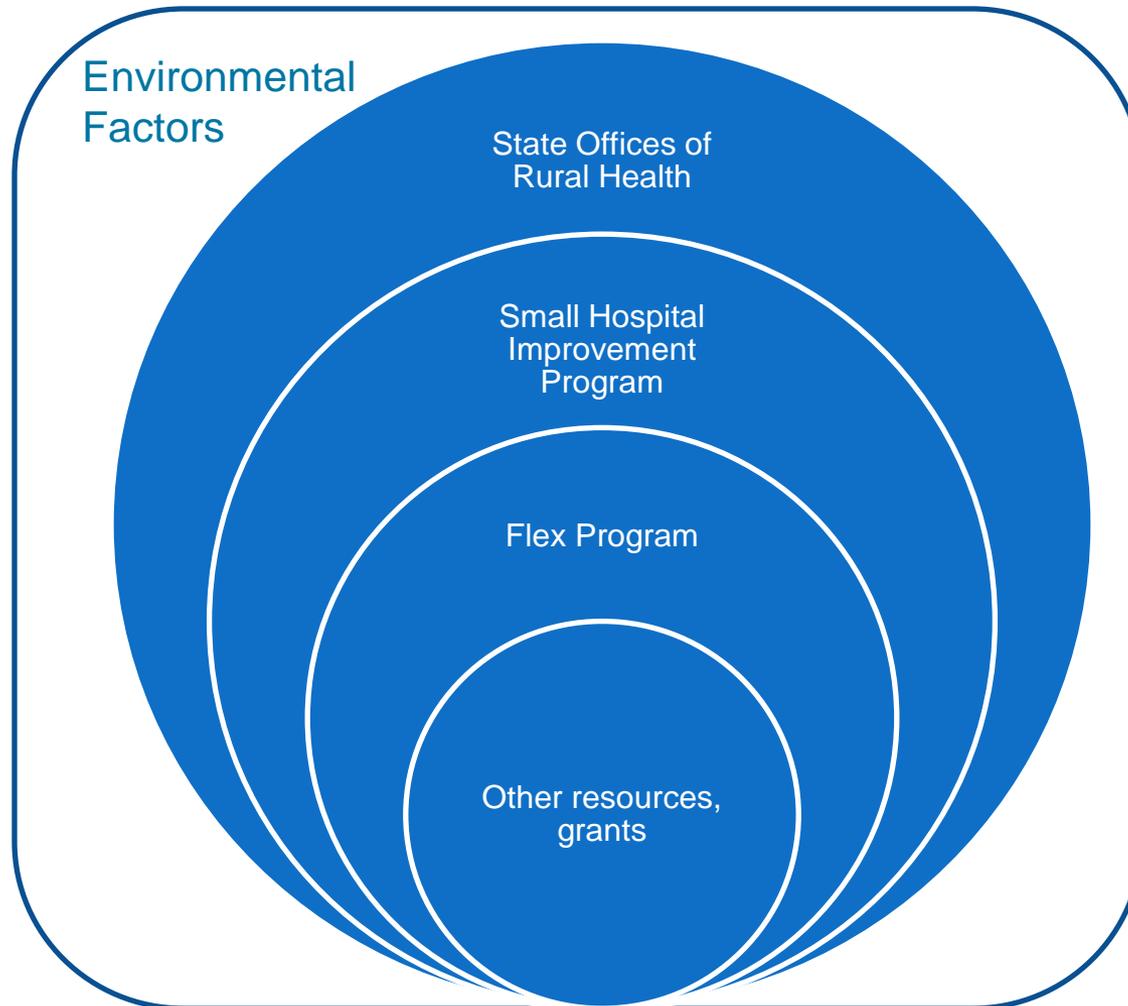
Telehealth Network Grant Program

- 3 years
- \$250,000 per year
- To demonstrate the use of telehealth networks that improve health care for medically underserved people
- Eligibility: nonprofit entities that will provide services to rural communities through a telehealth network
- FOA available: Winter 2016
- Start date: September 2016
- Contact: Carlos Mena, cmena@hrsa.gov, 301-443-3198

Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program

- 3 years
- \$350,000 per year
- To support Telehealth Resource Centers to provide TA for telehealth implementation
- Eligibility: nonprofit entities, including faith-based, community-based, and tribal nonprofit organizations
- FOA available: Winter 2016
- Start date: September 2016
- Contact: Monica Cowan, mcowan@hrsa.gov, 301-443-0076

Hospital State Programs



Quality Improvement

**Outcomes will not
improve from quality
measurement alone...**



NQF Rural Health Project

To provide multistakeholder information and guidance on performance measurement issues for rural providers, including:

- Critical Access Hospitals, Rural Health Clinics, Community Health Centers
- Small rural hospitals, small rural clinician practices
- http://www.qualityforum.org/Rural_Health.aspx



NATIONAL
QUALITY FORUM



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