

HRSA Funding and Collaboration Opportunities: Rural Health

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This Presentation

- An Overview of the Office of Rural Health Policy
 - Policy
 - Research
 - Infrastructure
 - States
- Resources
- Rural Health Policy



About the Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP)

- Created in 1987 by Congress to address the problems that arose from the implementation of the inpatient Prospective Payment System (PPS), which led to the closure of an estimated 400 rural hospitals.
- Advises the Secretary and the Department of Health and Human Services on rural issues.
- Administers grant programs, makes policy recommendations, and facilitates research on rural health.



Office of Rural Health Policy – What do we do?

- Policy/advisory activities
- Support research
- Make grants to support rural services and infrastructure development
- Make grants that support States
- Provide information resources
- Border health



ORHP's Policy Role

- National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services
- HHS Rural Task Force
- Review/respond and help develop regulations (Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP)
- Respond to Congressional requests for information
- Monitor key issues



ORHP's Policy Role

■ Examples of Special Projects

- Rural Hospital Issues Group
- Rural Hospital Improvement Program
- Rural Health Clinic technical assistance
<http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/rhc>
- Rural Voices
- Tribal/non-tribal collaboration



Issues We Monitor

- Access to mental and behavioral health services
- Access to oral health services
- Growing numbers of uninsured
- Workforce shortages
- Small rural hospital viability
- Patient safety and quality concerns




Issues We Monitor

- Emergency medical services
- Medical malpractice insurance
- Program integration and coordination
- Prevention and case management
- Defining “rural”
- Serving frontier communities



ORHP's Research Role

- Rural health research - unique challenges
- Eight rural health research centers
- Single studies for new researchers
- Leaning forward
- Examples of studies



ORHP's Role in Supporting Infrastructure - Grants

- Rural Health Outreach, Network Planning, Network Development and Delta Grants
- Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program
- Small Hospital Performance Improvement Grant Program
- Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant Program



ORHP's Role in Supporting States

- 50 State Offices of Rural Health
- State Rural Health Associations



Border Health

- ORHP now manages HRSA border efforts
- Staff in the border region – opportunities to collaborate
- Border Binational Health Week 2005 – October
- Development of a Border website within the Rural Assistance Center www.raconline.org
- Border leadership program



Rural Resources

- Rural Assistance Center
(<http://www.raconline.org>)
- Delta Rural Hospital Performance Improvement Project (RHPI)
(<http://delta.rhpi.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/>)
- Frontier Education Center
(<http://www.frontierus.org>)
- National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) (<http://www.narhc.org>)



Rural Resources

- Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet, <http://www.3rnet.org>)
- Rural EMS Technical Assistance Center (<http://www.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/ruralems/index.html>)
- Rural PACE Assistance (<http://www.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/pace/index.htm>)



Rural Resources

- Operation Rural Health Works
(<http://www.ruralhealthworks.org>)
- Rural Health Network Development
Technical Assistance Program
(<http://networkassist.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/>)



Rural Resources

■ Technical Assistance for ORHP Grantees

- Delta Technical Assistance (administered by Penn State College of Medicine, Rural Health Policy Center and RAC) (Coming Soon!)
- Georgia Health Policy Center
- National Rural Health Resource Center (RHRC)
- Technical Assistance & Services Center (TASC)



Rural Health Care Environment in the Spring of 2005

- Issues to monitor
 - MMA implementation
 - Medicaid reform
 - Access to pharmacy services
 - Health information technology
 - Rural health quality



Rural Health Care Environment in the Spring of 2005

- MMA implementation – making this work for rural communities
 - PPS/ Medicare Advantage
 - Drug benefits
 - Outreach for rural beneficiaries
- Medicaid reform



Rural Health Care Environment in the Spring of 2005

■ Access to pharmacy services

- 340b program – Provides discounts on outpatient drugs to “covered entities”
- Pharmacy Assistance Programs
- National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services Report, 2006



Rural Health Care Environment in the Spring of 2005

- Health Information Technology (HIT)
 - New Federal Office
 - Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) Healthcare IT Program
<http://www.ahrq.gov>
 - ORHP opportunities
 - What works for rural providers?
 - National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services Report, 2006



Rural Health Care Environment in the Spring of 2005

- Rural health care quality
 - Responding to the IOM Report: Quality Through Collaboration - The Future of Rural Health
 - Key findings
 - Opportunities for rural communities to lead



Rural Health Care Environment in the Spring of 2005

- Rural Health Quality (continued)
 - Opportunities for Federal partnership
 - QIO 8th Scope of Work
 - HHS Rural Task Force – HHS-wide effort
 - Flex Grant Program, SHIP program
 - ORHP All Programs Meeting (August 22 – 26, 2005)
 - Evolution of the rural quality effort

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