

Rural Emergency Hospitals

What is a Rural Emergency Hospital?

Rural Emergency Hospital is a Medicare rural designation that allows hospitals to maintain access to essential emergency, observation, and outpatient hospital services within communities that cannot sustain inpatient hospital operations.



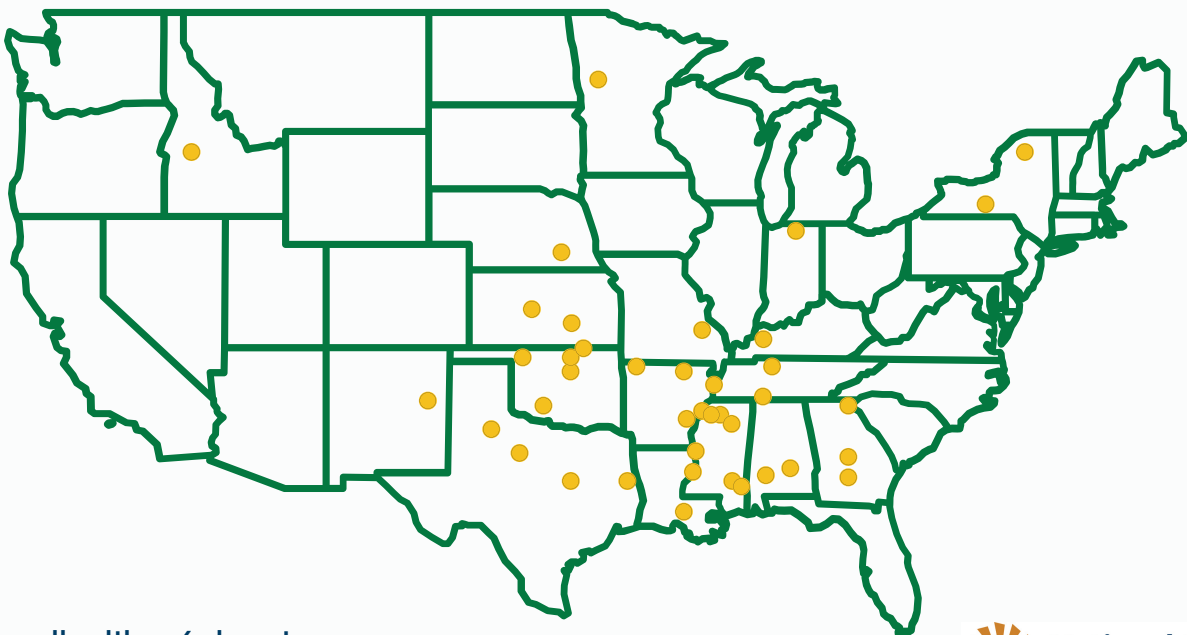
REH designations help preserve needed access to care by reducing the national rate of rural hospital closures

Counties with REH conversions share characteristics of: 1) high median rates of **poverty**, **uninsured** individuals, and people in **poor or fair health**; 2) **health care access challenges**, with **fewer** primary care and mental health providers and **higher** emergency department visit rates among Medicare beneficiaries.



Map of Rural Emergency Hospitals

40 hospitals have converted to a Rural Emergency Hospital since January 2023



NRHA Legislative Priorities

Rural Emergency Hospital Improvement Act

(S. 4322 in the 118th Congress)

Sens. Moran (R-KS) and Smith (D-MN)



Authorizes REHs to provide swing bed services

Allows Distinct Part Units for inpatient psychiatric and inpatient rehabilitation and allows obstetric labor and delivery units

Creates waiver program to allow eligibility for facilities operating similarly to an REH

5% add-on payment for laboratory services under Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule

Makes REHs eligible for SHIP grants and to serve as National Health Service Corps sites



H.R. 44 Rural 340B Access Act

Sen. Peters (D-MI), Reps. Bergman (R-MI) and Dingell (D-MI)



Allows inclusion of REHs as eligible for the 340B program, making it a more viable option for providers and helping to keep services available for rural residents.