

Rural program authorizations

NRHA asks Congress to (re)authorize the following HHS programs:

Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Grant Program

S. 3250: Rural Hospital Flexibility Act of 2025

Sens. Hassan (D-NH), Barrasso (R-WY), Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Blackburn (R-TN)

Reauthorizes Flex program to improve small rural Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) to work on quality, financial, and performance improvement activities, as well as enhance emergency medical service (EMS) and access to care.

Rural Residency Planning and Development Program (RRPD)

H.R. 6468: Rural Residency Planning and Development Act

Reps. Miller (R-WV), Tokuda (D-HI), Smith (R-NE), and Carter (D-LA)

Authorizes RRPD program to expand the number of rural residency training programs in family medicine, internal medicine, general surgery, psychiatry, and obstetrics. The pilot, began in 2019, has created 61 accredited rural residency programs and 746 resident positions.

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)

H.R. 6407: RCORP Authorization Act

Reps. Miller (R-WV), Tonko (D-NY), Sewell (D-AL), Carter (R-GA)

Authorizes RCORP to reduce the factors that result in substance use disorder and opioid use disorder morbidity and mortality in high-need rural communities through rural-specific prevention, treatment, recovery, and workforce development efforts.

Rural Health Outreach Services Programs

S.2301/H.R. 2493: Improving Care in Rural America Reauthorization Act

Sens. Scott (R-SC), Smith (D-MN), Lummis (R-WY), and Kaine (D-VA), Reps. Carter (R-GA),

Figures (D-AL), Rulli (R-OH), and Schrier (D-WA)

Reauthorizes Outreach programs which improve rural health through community-driven initiatives focused on quality improvement, health care access, and coordination of care to foster sustainable solutions for chronic disease prevention and management in rural areas.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Office of Rural Public Health (ORH)

S. 403/H.R. 3102: Rural Health Focus Act, Sens. Merkley (D-OR), Hyde Smith (R-MS) and

Reps. Guest (R-MS), Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA)

Authorizes the Office to serve as a focal point for rural public health and to implement a strategy to meet the unique public health challenges of rural populations across CDC programs and data.