



OECD and WHO Meeting: Rural Proofing for Health

Ensuring that Funding Allocations in the Health Sector Account for Rural

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Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Rural Proofing

Ensuring Funding Allocations in the Health Sector Account for Rural

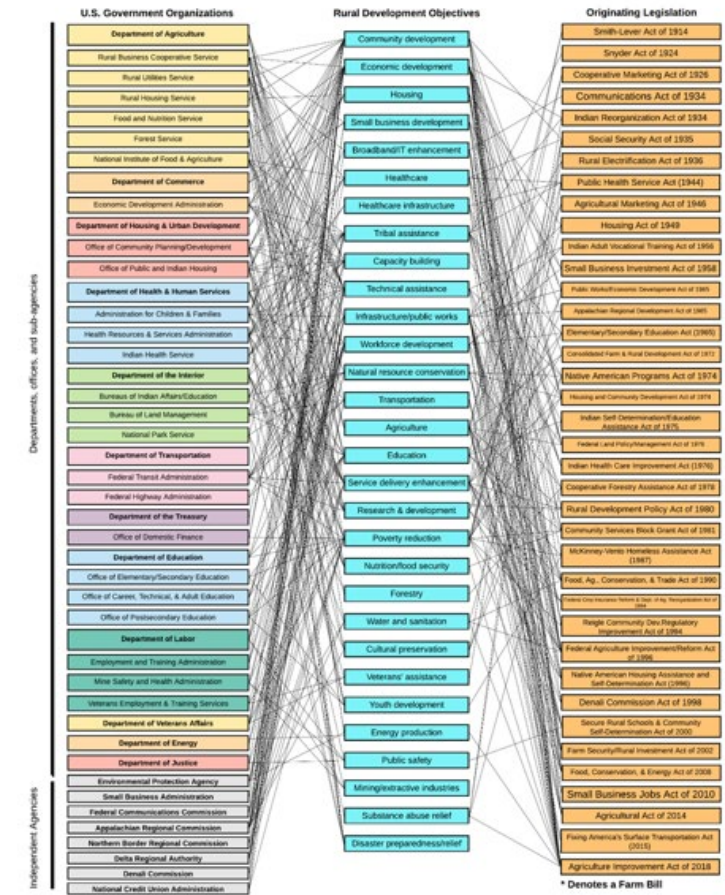
Accounting for the Broad Range of U.S. Spending that has an Impact on Rural Health ...

- Block Grants
- Community-Based Grants
- Transfer Payments



Federal Development Assistance for Rural and Tribal Communities

While USDA is technically charged with directing federal rural policy, programs that promote rural and tribal development are spread widely throughout the government. No comprehensive and integrated strategy exists. As shown below, the array of legislation, directives, and programs meant to help these communities leads to significant confusion and fragmentation.



Source: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/reimagining-rural-policy-organizing-federal-assistance-to-maximize-rural-prosperity/>

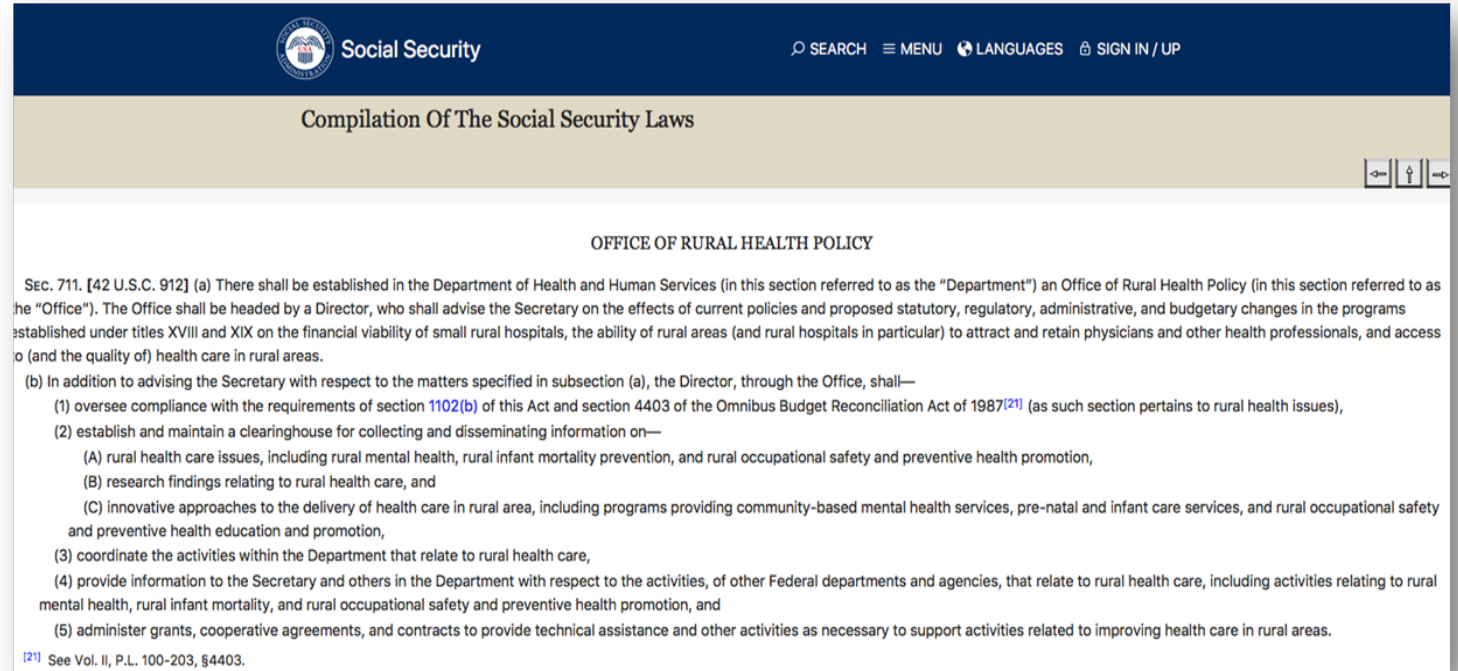
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Coordinating Rural Health in the United States:

Role of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

- Key Factors
 - ✓ Federal Level
 - ✓ State Level
 - ✓ Public and Private Sector Roles



The screenshot shows the Social Security website with the title "Compilation Of The Social Security Laws". Below this, the "OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH POLICY" section is highlighted. The text describes the establishment of the Office of Rural Health Policy in the Department of Health and Human Services, its purpose, and its responsibilities. It includes a list of duties for the Director, such as overseeing compliance, establishing a clearinghouse, and providing information to the Secretary. A footnote [21] is also visible.

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.

(b) In addition to advising the Secretary with respect to the matters specified in subsection (a), the Director, through the Office, shall—

- (1) oversee compliance with the requirements of section 1102(b) of this Act and section 4403 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987^[21] (as such section pertains to rural health issues),
- (2) establish and maintain a clearinghouse for collecting and disseminating information on—
 - (A) rural health care issues, including rural mental health, rural infant mortality prevention, and rural occupational safety and preventive health promotion,
 - (B) research findings relating to rural health care, and
 - (C) innovative approaches to the delivery of health care in rural area, including programs providing community-based mental health services, pre-natal and infant care services, and rural occupational safety and preventive health education and promotion,
- (3) coordinate the activities within the Department that relate to rural health care,
- (4) provide information to the Secretary and others in the Department with respect to the activities, of other Federal departments and agencies, that relate to rural health care, including activities relating to rural mental health, rural infant mortality, and rural occupational safety and preventive health promotion, and
- (5) administer grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to provide technical assistance and other activities as necessary to support activities related to improving health care in rural areas.

^[21] See Vol. II, P.L. 100-203, §4403.

Quick Background on FORHP's Dual Role

Work Across HRSA And HHS	Collaborate with Federal partners
"Voice for Rural"	Regulation Review and Policy Analysis
Capacity Building in Rural Communities	HRSA Grant Programs and Technical Assistance

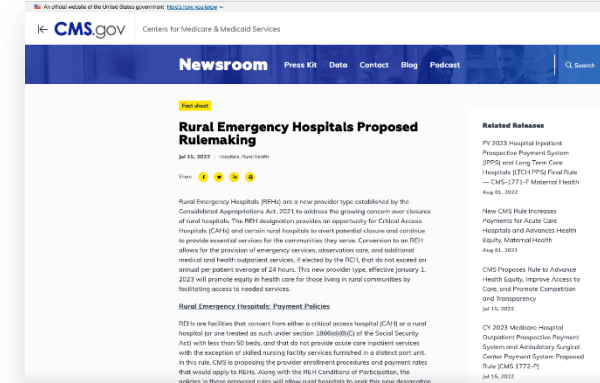


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Fairly Well Accounted for Within the Public Financing of U.S. Health Care

- By Law
- By Intent
- Related to Politics



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Targeted Rural-Specific Programs

- Addressing Substance Abuse
- Capacity Building
- Expanding Rural Physician Residency Training
- Rural Health Services Research

Programs Heavily Focused on Rural But Not Specific to Rural

- Loan Repayment for Clinicians
- Community Clinics
- Telehealth



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Accounting for the Federalism Approach within the U.S. Budget System

- Emphasis on State Allocations for Public Health

An Ongoing Dilemma

- Focus on Populations or Geographies?
- Accounting for Structural Bias

A New Approach Prompted by the Pandemic

- A Carve Out for Rural Health
- Balancing Opportunity versus Burden

The screenshot shows the CDC Public Health Professionals Gateway website. The header includes the CDC logo and the text "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main navigation bar is blue and contains the text "Public Health Professionals Gateway". Below this, there is a breadcrumb trail: "Public Health Professionals Gateway > Federal Programs & Funding > Cooperative Agreements, Grants & Partnerships". The left sidebar contains a list of categories: "Public Health Professionals Gateway", "Data & Research", "Public Health Systems & Best Practices", "Training & Professional Development", "Federal Programs & Funding", "Alerts About Current & Projected Funding Opportunities", "Budget, Grants & Funding", "Cooperative Agreements, Grants & Partnerships", "COVID-19 Health Disparities", "Strengthening Public Health Systems & Services", "USAPI Strengthening Public Health Systems & Services", "Pacific Island Health", "Technical Assistance for Crisis Response", "National Accreditation Program Support", "Building Capacity", "Public Health Policy", and "National Health Initiatives, Cooperative Agreements, Grants & Partnerships". The main content area displays a news article titled "National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities". The article text states: "CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (CSLTLS) has awarded funding to 108 [PDF - 525 KB] recipients of a two-year, non-research grant—CDC-RFA-OT21-2103: National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities [7]. This grant is funded through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021. This groundbreaking funding represents CDC's largest investment to date focusing specifically on reducing health disparities related to COVID-19 and will provide much needed support to directly address these issues in communities that need it most." The article also includes a "Purpose" section: "This \$2.25 billion grant is funded through the US Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of this new funding initiative is to address COVID-19 related health disparities and advance health equity by expanding state, local, US territorial, and freely associated state health department capacity and services. The intended outcomes are to 1) reduce COVID-19-related health disparities, 2) improve and increase testing and contact tracing among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities, and 3) improve state, local, US territorial and freely associated state health department capacity and services to prevent and control COVID-19 infection (or transmission) among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities." Finally, the article includes a "Program Strategies" section with four numbered points: 1. Expand existing and/or develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved. 2. Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 3. Build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved. 4. Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.

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