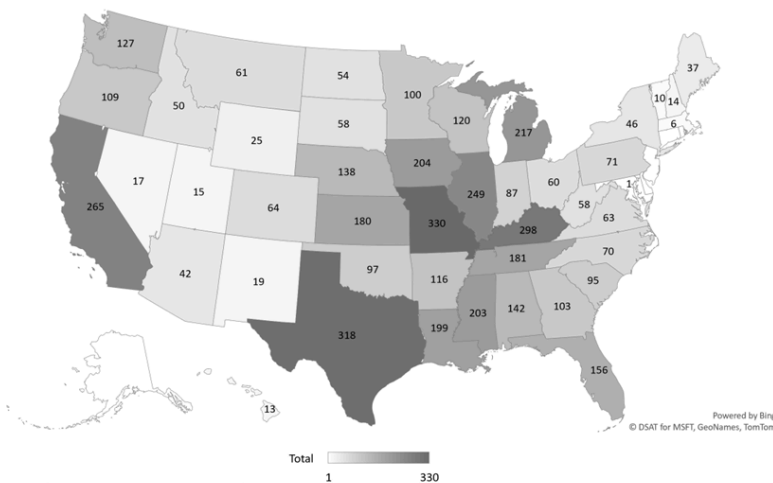


Rural Health Clinics

The Rural Health Clinic Program (RHC) program is intended to increase access to primary care in rural areas. RHC status allows primary care providers to get enhanced reimbursement rates for Medicare and Medicaid services.



- An RHC must be located in a non urban area and an underserved or shortage area.
- RHCs are either an independent clinic (34%) or provider based clinic (66%).
- 85% of provider-based RHCs are operated by a Critical Access Hospital.

- RHCs are required to have a team approach to healthcare delivery by using physician and non-physician providers (NP, PA, & CNMs).
- The clinic must be staffed by a non-physician providers at least 50% of the time.
- RHCs are required to provide outpatient primary care, basic lab services, and first response to common acute illnesses.



62% of rural Americans are served by RHCs.



38.7 million patients served each year.



Over 5,450 clinics across 47 states.

NRHA Supported Legislation

RHC Burden Reduction Act

(S. 198/H.R. 3730 in the 118th Congress)

Sens. Barrasso (R-WY) & Bennet (D-CO); Reps. Smith (R-NE) & Blumenauer (D-OR)

Modernizes the Rural Health Clinic program to provides important regulatory relief for RHCs by amending outdated staffing, laboratory requirements, definitional requirements related to census definition and primary care thresholds to increase access to behavioral health services.

Rural Health Innovation Act

(S.953/H.R.1712 in the 118th Congress)

Sen. Blackburn (R-TN) & Hickenlooper (D-CO); Reps. Kustoff (R-TN) & Kuster (D-NH)

Establishes two new grant programs to increase access to emergency care in rural areas through Rural Health Clinics, community health centers, and local health departments.

Telehealth Modernization Act

(S. 3967/H.R. 7623 in the 118th Congress)

Sens. Scott (R-SC) & Schatz (D-HI); Reps. Carter (R-GA) & Blunt Rochester (D-DE)

Expand coverage of telehealth services through Medicare and making permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities for Rural Health Clinics and community health centers.

Equal Access to Specialty Care Everywhere (EASE) Act of 2024

(H. R. 7149 in 118th Congress)

Reps. Steel (R-CA) & Lee (D-NV)

Create a virtual specialty network demonstration that offers integrated services in rural communities to test the effectiveness of increasing access to specialty care and facilitating transitions to value-based payment.

RNs for Rural Health Act (H.R. 3878)

Reps. Hinson (R-IA) and Scholten (D-MI)

Expands and strengthens rural healthcare access by updating Medicare policy to allow registered nurses (RNs) at Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to facilitate Medicare Annual Wellness Visits (AWVs).