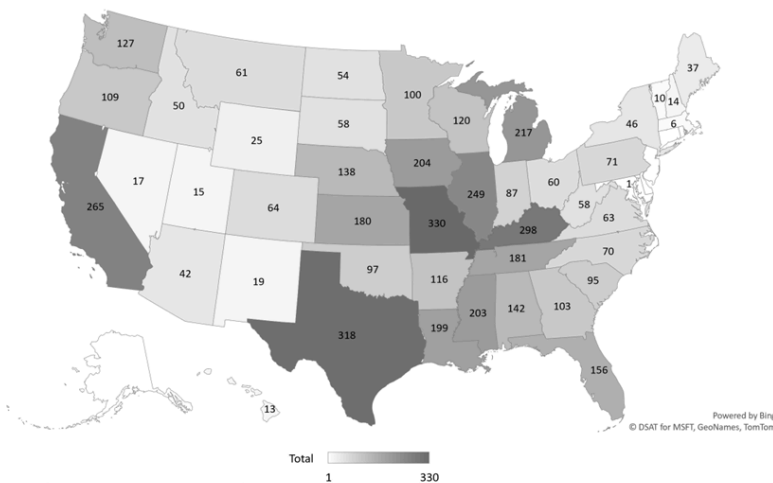


# Rural Health Clinics

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 Modernization

Includes three bills aimed at modernizing and providing regulatory relief for RHCs:

- **H.R. 5217: Rural Behavioral Health Improvement Act**, *Reps. Tokuda (D-HI) and Mann (R-KS)*
  - Removes limitations on the delivery of behavioral health services at RHCs.
- **H.R. 5198: Rural Health Clinic Location Modernization Act**, *Reps. Mann (R-KS) and Tokuda (D-HI)*
  - Preserves RHC eligibility standards that allows RHCs to operate in communities with under 50,000 residents.
- **H.R. 5199: Modernizing Rural PA and NP Utilization Act**, *Reps. Mann (R-KS) and Tokuda (D-HI)*
  - Aligns physician assistant and nurse practitioner supervision requirements with state scope of practice laws.

## H.R. 3878: RNs for Rural Health Act

*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).

## S. 2709/H.R. 5081: Telehealth Modernization Act

*Sens. Scott (R-SC), Schatz (D-HI), Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Gillibrand (D-NY), Tillis (R-NC), King (I-ME) & Reps. Carter (R-GA) and Dingell (D-MI)*

Ensures access to telehealth services for Medicare beneficiaries and extends flexibilities for RHC and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) distant site status and institutes payment parity for these provider types

## S. 1261/H.R. 4206: CONNECT for Health Act

*Sens. Schatz (D-HI) & Reps. Thompson (D-CA), Schweikert (R-AZ), Matsui (D-CA), and Balderson (R-OH)*

Expands coverage of telehealth services through Medicare by making permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities.

## H.R. 1480: Rural Health Innovation Act

*Reps. Kustoff (R-TN) and Pappas (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.

## H.R. 2533: Equal Access to Specialty Care Everywhere (EASE) Act of 2025

*Reps. Arrington (R-TX), Salinas (D-OR), and LaHood (R-IL)*

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.