

Rural Program Authorizations

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

S. 3250/H.R. 6804: Rural Hospital Flexibility Act of 2025

Sens. Hassan (D-NH), Barrasso (R-WY), & Reps. Miller (R-WV) and Sewell (D-AL)

Reauthorizes the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) grant program to help small, rural hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) work on quality, financial, and performance improvement activities, as well as enhance emergency medical service (EMS) and access to care.

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

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

Authorizes Rural Residency Planning and Development grant 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 62 accredited rural residency programs and 752 resident positions.

H.R. 6407: Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) Authorization Act

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

Authorizes the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (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.

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

Sens. Scott (R-SC), Smith (D-MN), & Reps. Carter (R-GA), Figures (D-AL),

Reauthorizes Rural Health Outreach Services grant 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.

S. 403/H.R. 3102: Rural Health Focus Act

Sens. Hyde Smith (R-MS), Merkley (D-OR) & Reps. Guest (R-MS), Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA)

Authorizes the Office of Rural Health (ORH) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 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.

H.R. 7956: State Offices of Rural Health Program Reauthorization Act

Reps. Fedorchak (R-ND) and Carter (D-LA)

Reauthorizes the State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) program, continuing federal support for state offices that coordinate rural health initiatives and assist providers. SORHs would be authorized at \$13.5 million annually from fiscal years (FY) 2027 through FY 2032.