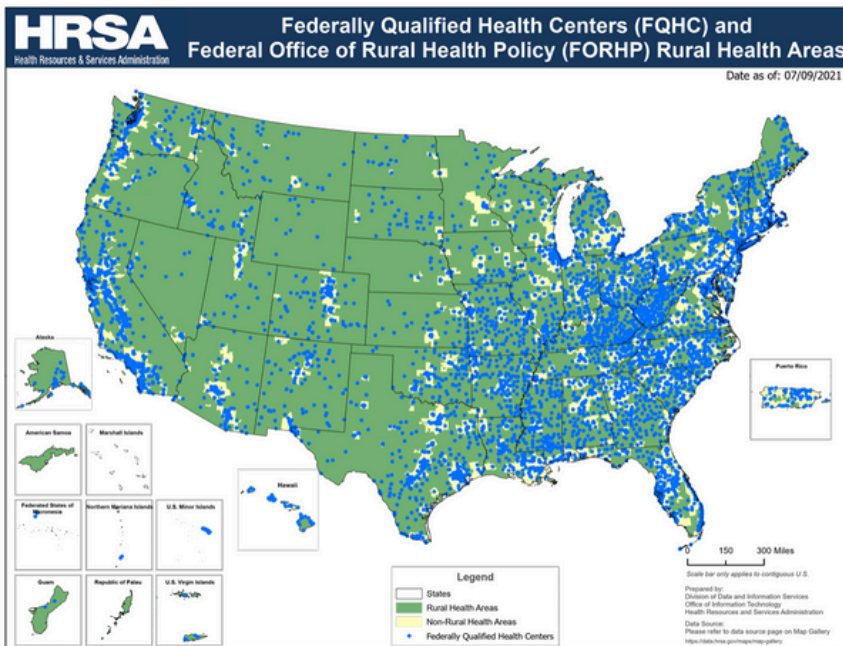


Rural Community Health Centers

Community Health Centers are nonprofit safety net providers in rural areas providing high-quality, affordable primary care, which includes oral health, mental health, substance use, and enabling services such as transportation or translation services.



- Offer an income-based sliding fee schedule regardless of patients ability to pay.
- Employ interdisciplinary teams.
- Deliver care coordination and other enabling services that facilitate access to care.
- Are patient-governed, community organizations.

Nationally, there are over 15,550 health center sites:

- Community Health Centers
- Health Care for the Homeless
- Migrant Health Centers
- Primary Care in Public Housing
- School-Based Health Centers



1 in 5 rural residents
served

Benefits of health center status include:

- 330 PHSA Grant Funding
- FTCA Malpractice Coverage
- FQHC PPS Medicare and Medicare Payment
- 340B Drug Pricing Program Eligibility
- National Health Service Corps Eligibility



over 9.7 million rural
patients served annually

NRHA Supported Legislation

Extension of Federal Funding for Health Centers

Sens. Sanders (I-VT) & Marshall (R-KS); Reps. McMorris Rogers (R-WA) & Pallone (D-NJ)

Supports extension of mandatory federal funding for community health centers, through either from the 118th Congress, *H.R. 5378 Lower Costs More Transparency Act* or *S.2840 Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act*, to ensure high-quality low-cost preventive care in rural areas.



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

(H.R. 7149 in the 118th Congress)

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

Creates 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.

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)

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



H.R. 935 Health Care Workforce Innovation Act

Reps. Garbarino (R-NY), Schrier (D-WA), Valadao (R-CA), and Craig (D-MN)

Scales up promising community-based workforce development programs by authorizing partnerships between Community Health Centers, high schools, community colleges, and Area Health Education Centers to develop preceptorship training-to-practice models for medical, behavioral, and oral health care professionals in integrated community-driven settings.