

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

It is critical that Congress fully funds the rural health safety net before the end of the calendar year. Long-term continuing resolutions (CR) are disruptive to day-to-day operations and cause uncertainty for programs rural providers rely on. In order to provide stability, NRHA urges Congress to pass a full-year, Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations bill as soon as possible.

Although current spending for rural health discretionary programs is relatively small, it plays a crucial role in strengthening health care systems in rural communities. To ensure rural providers can remain in their communities and supply the care needed, NRHA urges Congress to support the following funding requests to improve rural health care access and affordability:

Increase funding for the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Program to \$68.5 million in FY 2023. FLEX Program grants are used by states to implement specific rural strategies to support small rural hospitals and ensure access to primary care in rural communities.

Establish an Office of Rural Health within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded at a level of \$10 million. Currently, there is not a devoted office to serve the needs of rural communities at the CDC. Such an office will lead, and coordinate, activities designed to improve public health and the health of rural populations.

Expand the Rural Residency Planning and Development Program by providing \$13 million in FY 2023. Expanding the Rural Residency Planning and Development Program is necessary to increase the number of rural residency training programs and number of physicians practicing in rural areas.

Increase funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Hospital Technical Assistance program to \$5 million in FY 2023. Expanding technical assistance of financial business strategies for vulnerable rural hospitals is essential to ensuring their continued viability and financial success.

Fund rural maternal health care programs at \$15 million in FY 2023. To improve rural maternal health outcomes, it is critical Congress fully funds the Rural Maternity & Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) Program at HRSA and the provisions of Rural Maternal and Obstetric Modernization of Services (Rural MOMS) Act included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.

NRHA requests Congress provide \$10 million in funding for the Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Behavioral Health Initiative in FY 2023. Congress can address the unique behavioral health and workforce challenges affecting rural America by increasing the pool of behavioral health professionals practicing at RHCs in underserved communities through this new behavioral health initiative outlined in President Biden's budget request to Congress.

FY 2023 Appropriations Requests & Allocations					
Discretionary Funding Program	FY 2022 Enacted	NRHA's FY 2023 Request	President's FY 2023 Budget Request	HAC FY 2023 Allocations	SAC FY 2023 allocations
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Programs					
Rural Health Research & Policy Development	11	12	11	11	11
Rural Health Care Services Outreach, Network & Quality Improvement Grants	86	90	90	91	90
Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants	62	68	58	68.5	62
State Offices of Rural Health	13	14	13	12.5	12.5
Rural Maternity & Obstetrics Management Strategies Program	6	10	10	8	10
Rural Residency Planning & Development	11	13	13	13	12.5
Rural Communities Opioid Response	135	165	165	160	145
New! Rural Health Clinic Behavioral Health	N/A	10	10	5	5
New! Rural Maternal & Obstetric Care Training Demonstration	N/A	5		-	-
HRSA Health Workforce Programs					
National Health Service Corps	122	210	210	155.6	135.6
Area Health Education Centers	45	67	43	48	47
340B Drug Pricing Program/Office of Pharmacy Affairs	11	17	17	13	17
Telehealth	36	45	45	37	40
Centers of Disease Control and Prevention					
Office of Rural Health	-	10	-	-	-
USDA Rural Development Programs					
Rural Hospital Technical Assistance	2	5	-	2	2
Communities Facilities	3.45b	3.8b	3.3b	2.8b	2.8b
Re Connect Broadband	635	700	700	600	600