



@NACoTweets  
#NACoLeg

2022 NACo

# LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 12-16 | WASHINGTON HILTON | WASHINGTON, D.C.



2022 NACo

# LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



## Navigating Federal Resources to Improve Rural COVID-19 Response Efforts

Tuesday, February 15 | 8:00 – 9:15 am EST

Washington Hilton Hotel | Columbia 9 & 10, Terrace Level



2022 NACo

# LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



**Hon. Greg Puckett**  
*Chair of NACo Rural Action Caucus,*  
*Commissioner*  
Mercer County, W.Va.  
[Greg.puckett@mercercountywv.org](mailto:Greg.puckett@mercercountywv.org)



**Jocelyn Richgels**  
*Director*  
National Policy Programs  
Rural Policy Research Institute  
(RUPRI)  
[jrichgels@rupri.org](mailto:jrichgels@rupri.org)



**Michael Fallahkhair**  
*Senior Advisor*  
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy  
U.S. Health Resources & Services  
Administration (HRSA)



**Jonathan Harris**  
*Associate Research Director*  
National Association of Counties  
(NACo)  
[jharris@naco.org](mailto:jharris@naco.org)





@NACoTweets  
#NACoLeg

2022 NACo

# LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

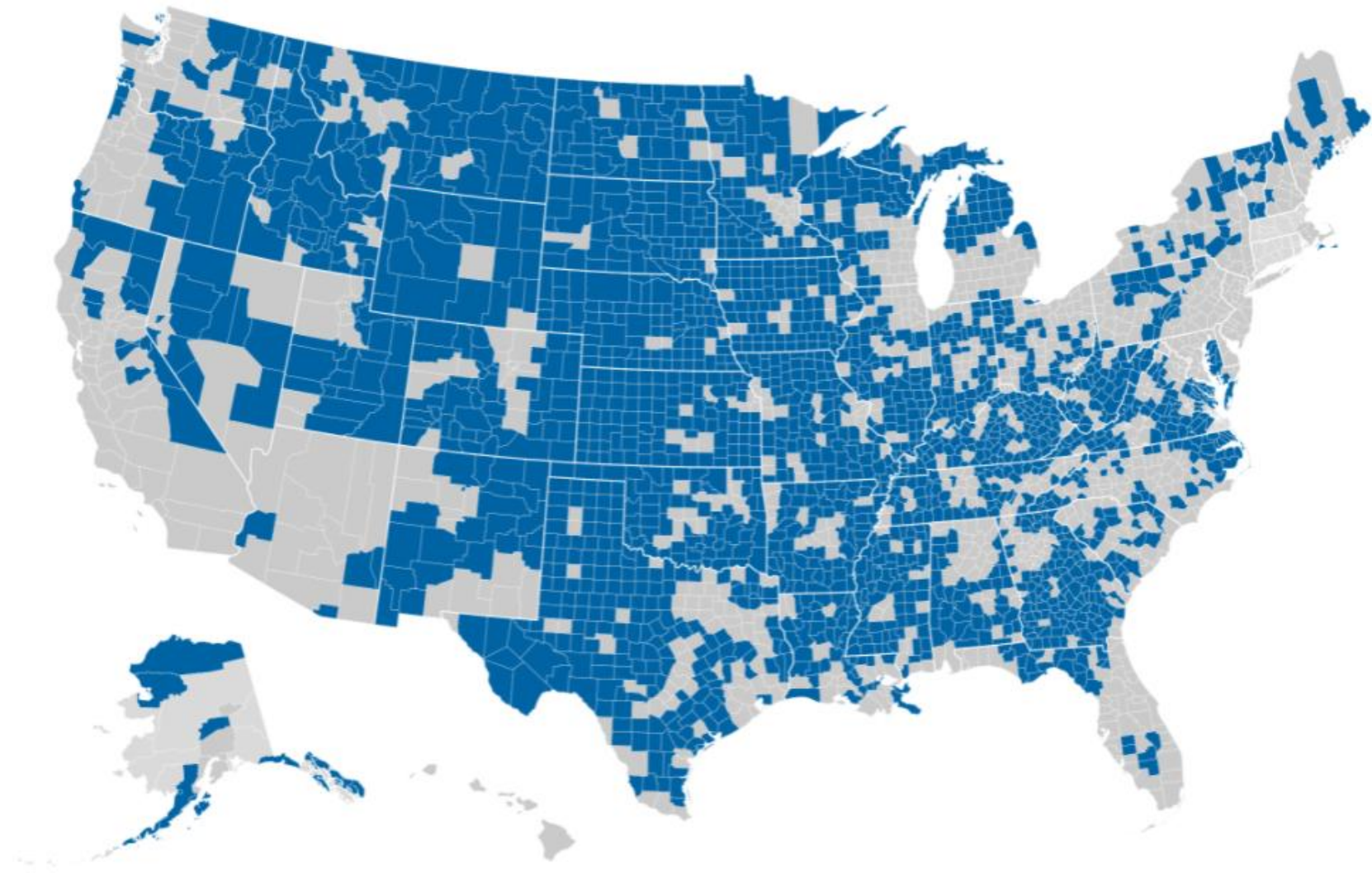
FEBRUARY 12-16 | WASHINGTON HILTON | WASHINGTON, D.C.



**THERE ARE OVER 2,000 COUNTIES WITH POPULATIONS BELOW  
50,000 PEOPLE**

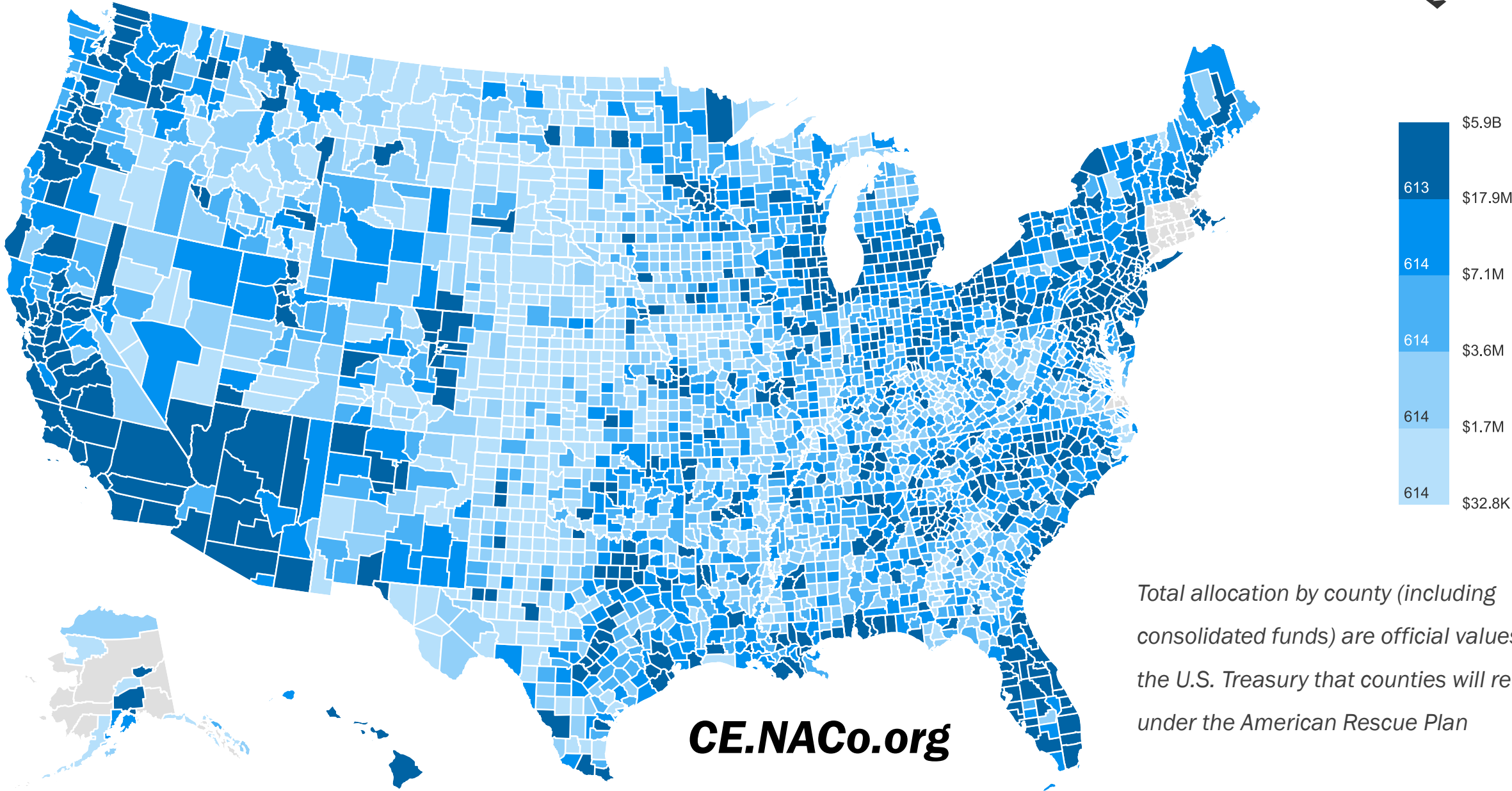


**COUNTIES WITH POPULATIONS BELOW 50,000**





# THE RECOVERY FUND PROVIDES \$7.6 BILLION DIRECTLY TO EVERY SMALL COUNTY, PARISH AND BOROUGH IN AMERICA

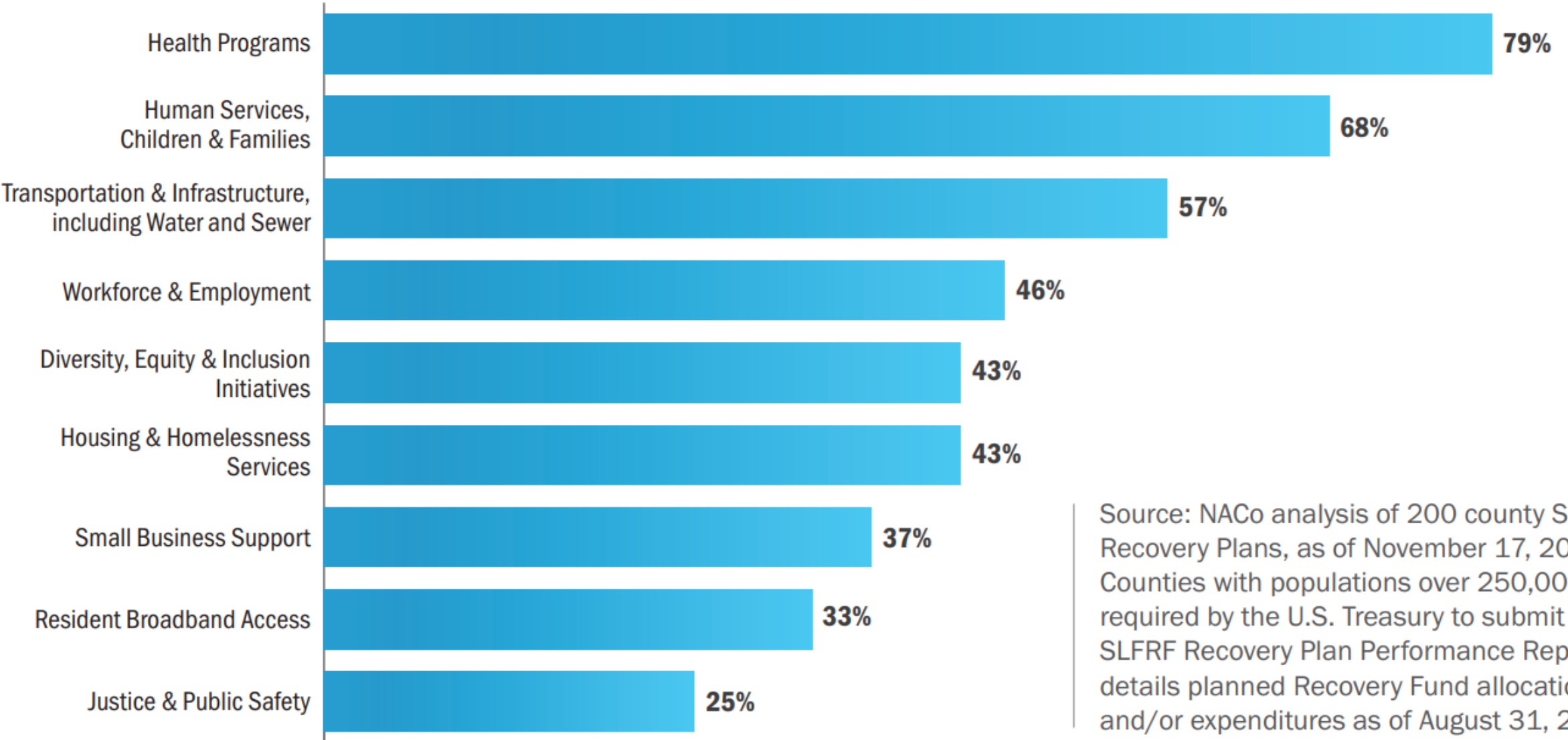


*Total allocation by county (including consolidated funds) are official values from the U.S. Treasury that counties will receive under the American Rescue Plan*

**CE.NACo.org**

# HOW ARE COUNTIES INVESTING RECOVERY FUNDS?

## - COUNTIES WITH POPULATIONS OVER 250,000



Source: NACo analysis of 200 county SLFRF Recovery Plans, as of November 17, 2021. Counties with populations over 250,000 were required by the U.S. Treasury to submit an SLFRF Recovery Plan Performance Report that details planned Recovery Fund allocations and/or expenditures as of August 31, 2021.

# COUNTIES PLAN TO INVEST RECOVERY FUNDS TO:



**PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
IN LOW-INCOME AREAS**



**CREATE BUSINESS  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TRAINING  
OPPORTUNITIES**



**CONNECT YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN  
THE CHILD-WELFARE SYSTEM WITH  
WRAPAROUND SERVICES**



**EXPAND VACCINE EQUITY CLINICS  
AND OUTREACH**



**CONNECT UNSERVED PARTS OF THE  
COUNTY WITH RELIABLE SERVICE**



**PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
FOR RESIDENTS**



**STRENGTHEN PUBLIC SAFETY  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS**



**PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS  
FOR SENIORS**



**CONNECT RESIDENTS TO LANDLORD  
ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS**



**ASSEMBLE MOBILE MENTAL HEALTH  
OUTREACH TEAMS**



**RESTORE AND UPDATE HOTELS  
TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR  
HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS**



**FUND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS AT  
COUNTY LIBRARIES**

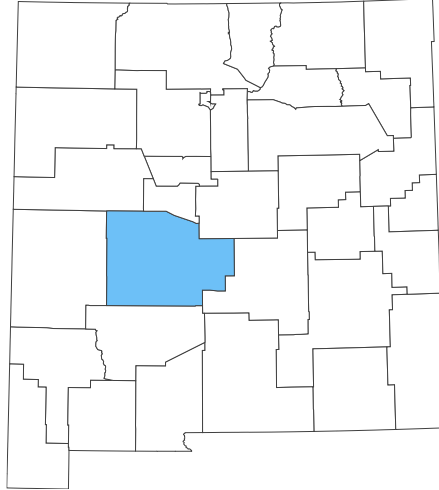


# SMALL COUNTY EXAMPLES: BOLSTERING PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES



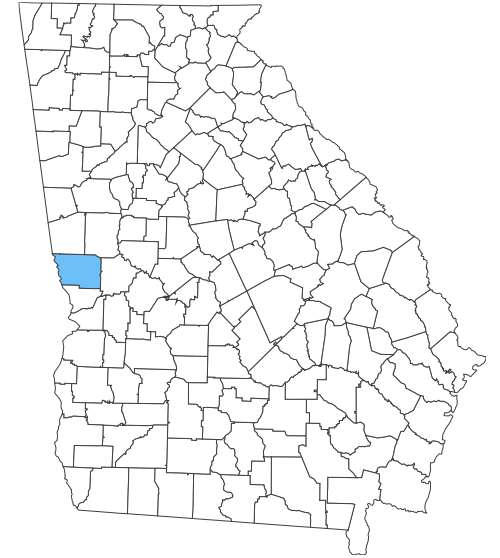
## Socorro County, N.M.

set aside \$50,000 for community vaccine incentives and \$25,000 for a vaccine lottery.



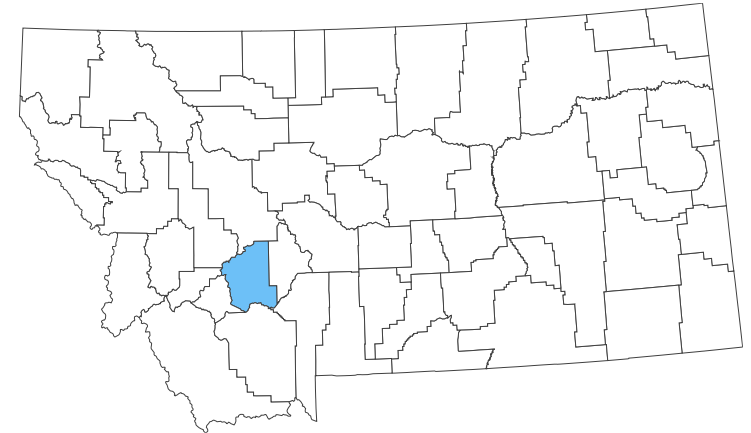
## Harris County, Ga.

is investing in COVID prevention tactics within the county jail, as well as in HVAC improvements.



## Jefferson County, Mont.

has allocated \$100,000 to invest in its Health Department and \$50,000 to support long-term care facilities. The county is also using \$100,000 to support licensed childcare providers with sustainment of existing facilities and supporting new programs throughout the county.



# SMALL COUNTY EXAMPLES: BOLSTERING PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES



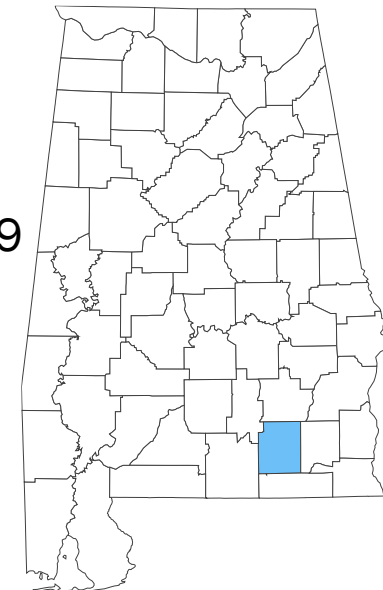
## Skagit County, Wash.

launched the County Medical Reserve Corps to assist with the ongoing pandemic response and vaccination efforts and purchased a van for additional testing, vaccination and future communicable disease response needs.



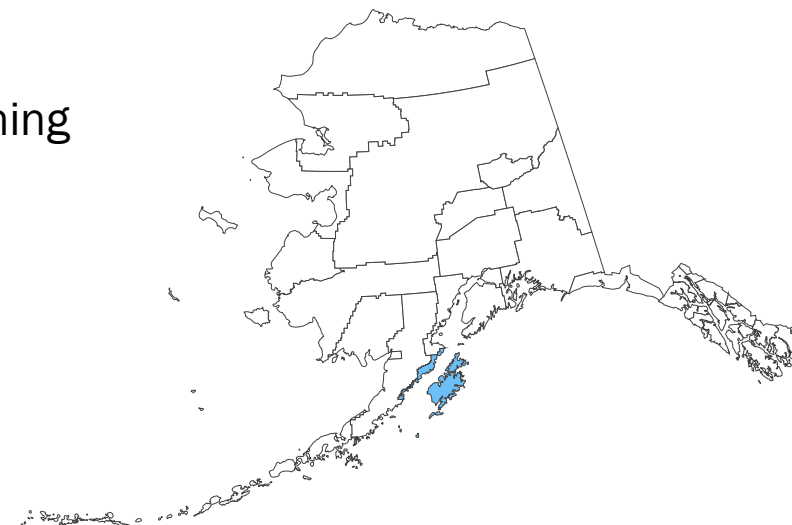
## Coffee County, Ala.

purchased and equipped an ambulance for Enterprise Rescue to continue COVID-19 operations and support.



## Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska

is investing in its hospital, allocating \$300,000 to help pay for the analysis, planning and preparation of design improvements to the Kodiak Island Hospital Complex.

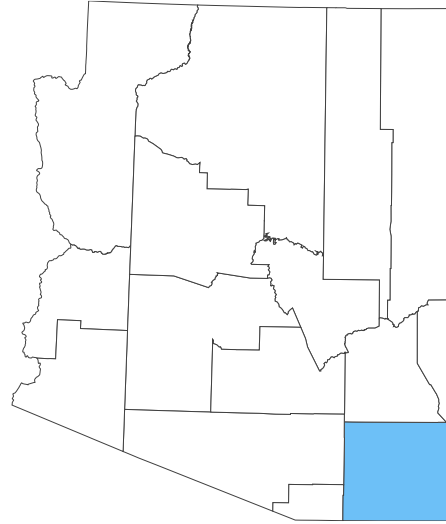


# SMALL COUNTY EXAMPLES: INVESTING IN MENTAL HEALTH



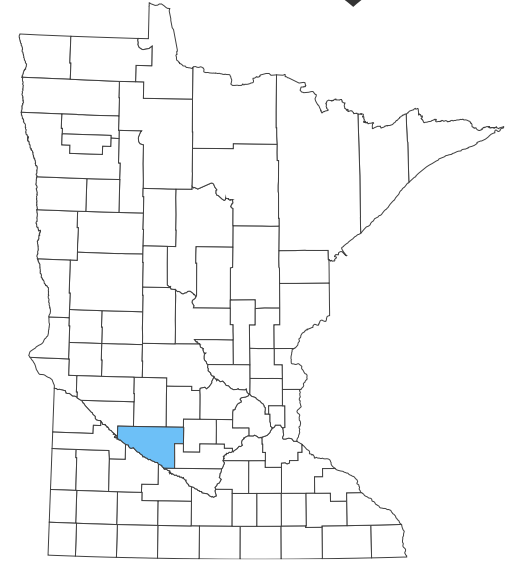
## **Cochise County, Ariz.**

is allocating Recovery Funds to establish a psychiatry department that provides accessible mental health services to residents.



## **Renville County, Minn.**

is also investing in mental health services, alongside other major county priorities like childcare.



## **Whitman County, Wash.**

is investing \$750,000 in mental health services, especially in funding new staff for Palouse River Counseling, which offers behavioral health services and group sessions to help people deal with anxiety or depression stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.





# COUNTY INVESTMENTS OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN RECOVERY FUNDS

The State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund, part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which NACo helped develop and strongly advocated to pass, allocates \$65.1 billion directly to every county across the nation. These funds provide direct, flexible aid for every county, parish and borough in America. Counties are on the front lines in delivering this aid to residents and are a driving force connecting communities and strengthening the economy. Below, find analysis and trends of county investment priorities, share how your county is supporting your residents and explore our database of county ARPA Recovery Fund investment plans.

COUNTY INVESTMENT PLAN DATABASE

RECOVERY FUND RESOURCE HUB

SHARE YOUR STORY

# NACo's COUNTY INVESTMENT PLAN DATABASE:

[www.naco.org/resources/featured/county-investments-american-rescue-plan-recovery-funds](http://www.naco.org/resources/featured/county-investments-american-rescue-plan-recovery-funds)



WHAT WE DO TOPICS ADVOCACY RESOURCES EVENTS & EDUCATION NEWS COUNTY EXPLORER

## EXPLORE COUNTY EXAMPLES

The following collection of planned ARPA Recovery Fund investments is sourced from official county documents such as the SLFRF Recovery Plan Performance Reports, county press releases or other county budgeting materials. The summaries and numbers below provide a brief overview of a county's current planned investments. To date, NACo has collected 255 plans, 200 of which are Recovery Plans. SLFRF Recovery Plans contain detailed project performance data, including information on efforts to improve equity and engage communities for counties with populations above 250,000.

For questions or to submit your county's plan, email [research@naco.org](mailto:research@naco.org).

filter by topic - Any - by county size Small Counties by state - Any - SLFRF Recovery Plans only ☐



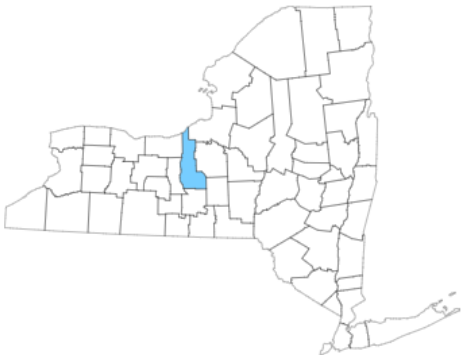
### CALVERT COUNTY, MD.

2020 POPULATION: 92,783

#### DESCRIPTION:

Calvert County's proposed ARPA allocations include \$2 million for premium pay for non-teleworking county employees, \$500,000 for an End Hunger Grant, over \$1 million for revenue loss, \$600,000 towards economic relief for local businesses, \$1.5 million for temporary emergency medical services staffing, \$3 million for infrastructure repairs and \$3.2 million for a broadband buildout project.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### CAYUGA COUNTY, N.Y.

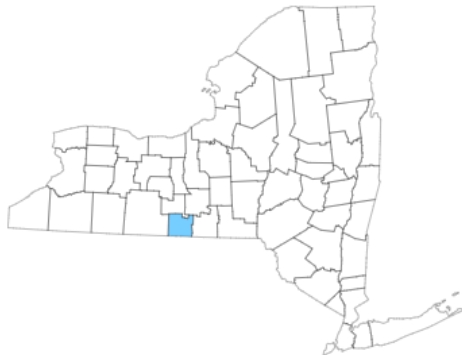
2020 POPULATION: 76,248

#### DESCRIPTION:

Cayuga County has allocated \$1 million for a revitalization project at Emerson Park, \$200,000 for a restaurant voucher program which provides a 50 percent county subsidy towards the purchase of gift cards and \$400,000 for vaccination clinics and contract tracing costs.

[LEARN MORE](#)

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



### CHEMUNG COUNTY, N.Y.

2020 POPULATION: 84,148

#### DESCRIPTION:

Chemung County's ARPA proposal includes: \$1 million for a grant program to benefit "orange zone" businesses that were deemed non-essential or had to close during the pandemic, \$2.5 million for the Chemung County Nursing Facility, \$376,000 for tourism lost revenue, \$1 million for capital improvements at county recreation and tourism facilities and \$243,000 to create a new Deputy Director of Budget and research to help with ARPA funds.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### CHESHIRE COUNTY, N.H.

2020 POPULATION: 76,458

#### DESCRIPTION:

The Cheshire County Commission approved a spending plan for over \$7.2 million in ARPA funds. The allocations include \$1 million in additional support to the Maplewood Nursing Home Reconstruction Project, \$2.3 million for energy upgrades across all three county campuses, \$1 million for qualifying municipal improvement projects and unplanned COVID-19 costs distributed to Cheshire County's towns, \$750,000 for compensation investments to support essential services to residents, \$6,500 for a Summer Concert Series to welcome people back to public

# Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker

A Partnership of



*Note: Within this interactive tracker, users can select search filters below—including by location and type of expenditure—or search through the map, to find detailed information on large city and county plans for deploying American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)'s State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars.*

*This tracker will be updated as more information becomes available over time.*

# of Local Governments

**152**

# of Projects

**2334**

Total \$ Tracked

**\$18.4bn**

% of Funding Budgeted

**48.6%**

National Sample Average ⓘ

GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS

**37.9%**

INFRASTRUCTURE

**12.1%**

HOUSING

**12.7%**

ECONOMIC &  
WORKFORCE DEV

**10.5%**

COMMUNITY AID

**12.3%**

PUBLIC SAFETY

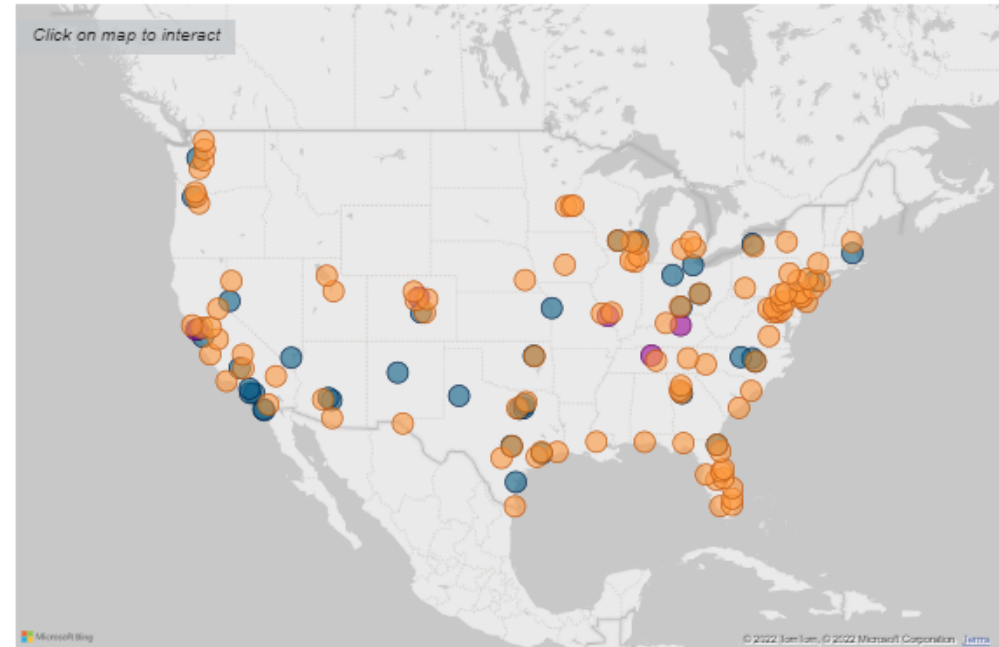
**2.3%**

PUBLIC HEALTH

**12.2%**

Local Gov Type ● City ● Consolidated City-County ● County

Click on map to interact



**[www.NACo.org/ARPAtracker](http://www.NACo.org/ARPAtracker)**





2022 NACo

# LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

*Questions?*  
*Research@NACo.org*



@NACoTweets  
#NACoLeg





STRONGER COUNTIES.  
STRONGER AMERICA.



# Rural Resources for Responding to COVID-19

Jocelyn Richgels

Rural Policy Research Institute

February 2022



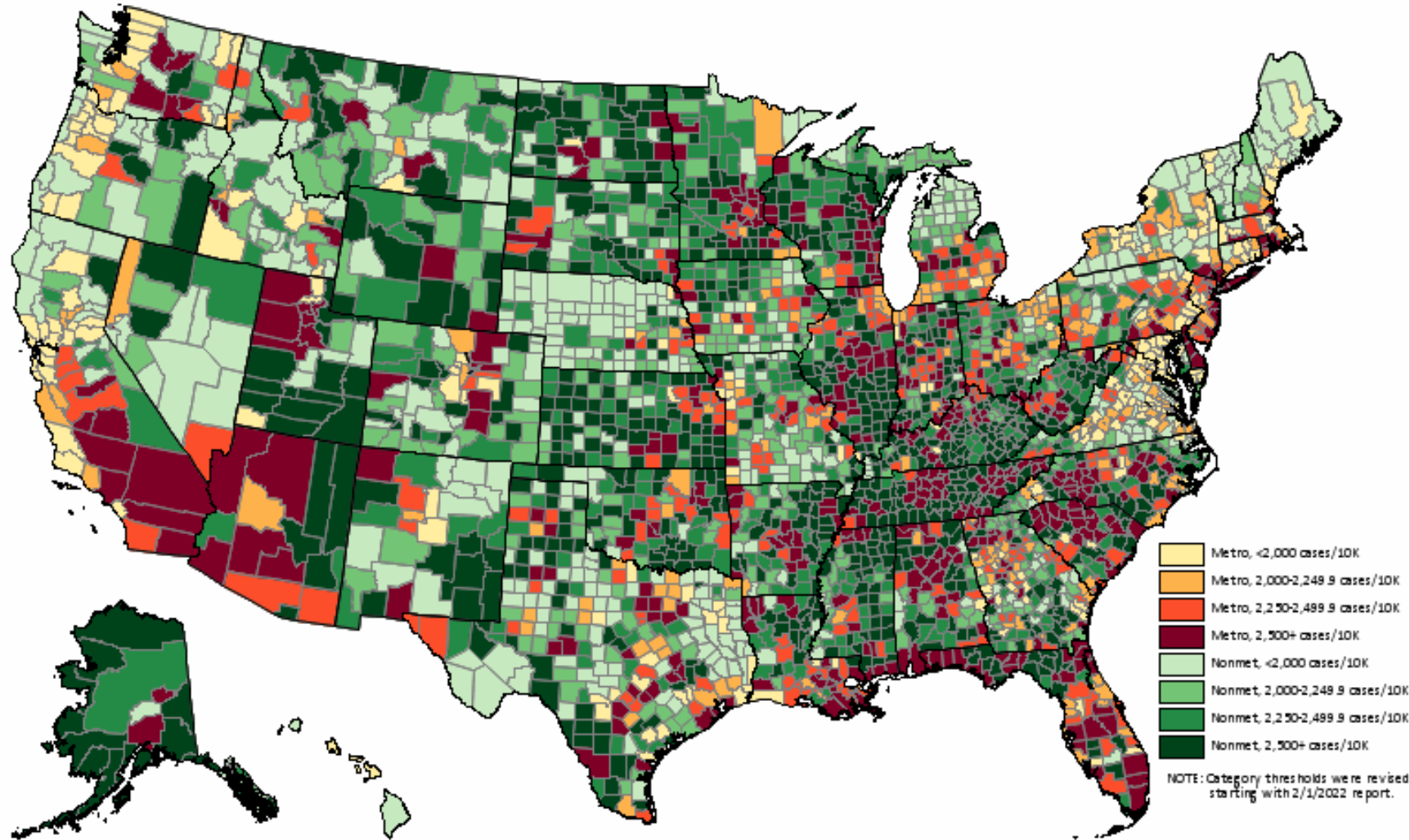


## Counties with COVID-19 Cases

February 13, 2022

Metro cases: 65,422,385 Nonmetro cases: 11,060,205

\*Metro rate: 2,363 Nonmetro rate: 2,400



\* Confirmed cases / 10,000 population based on 2018 ACS 5-yr estimates.

Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI)  
University of Iowa, College of Public Health

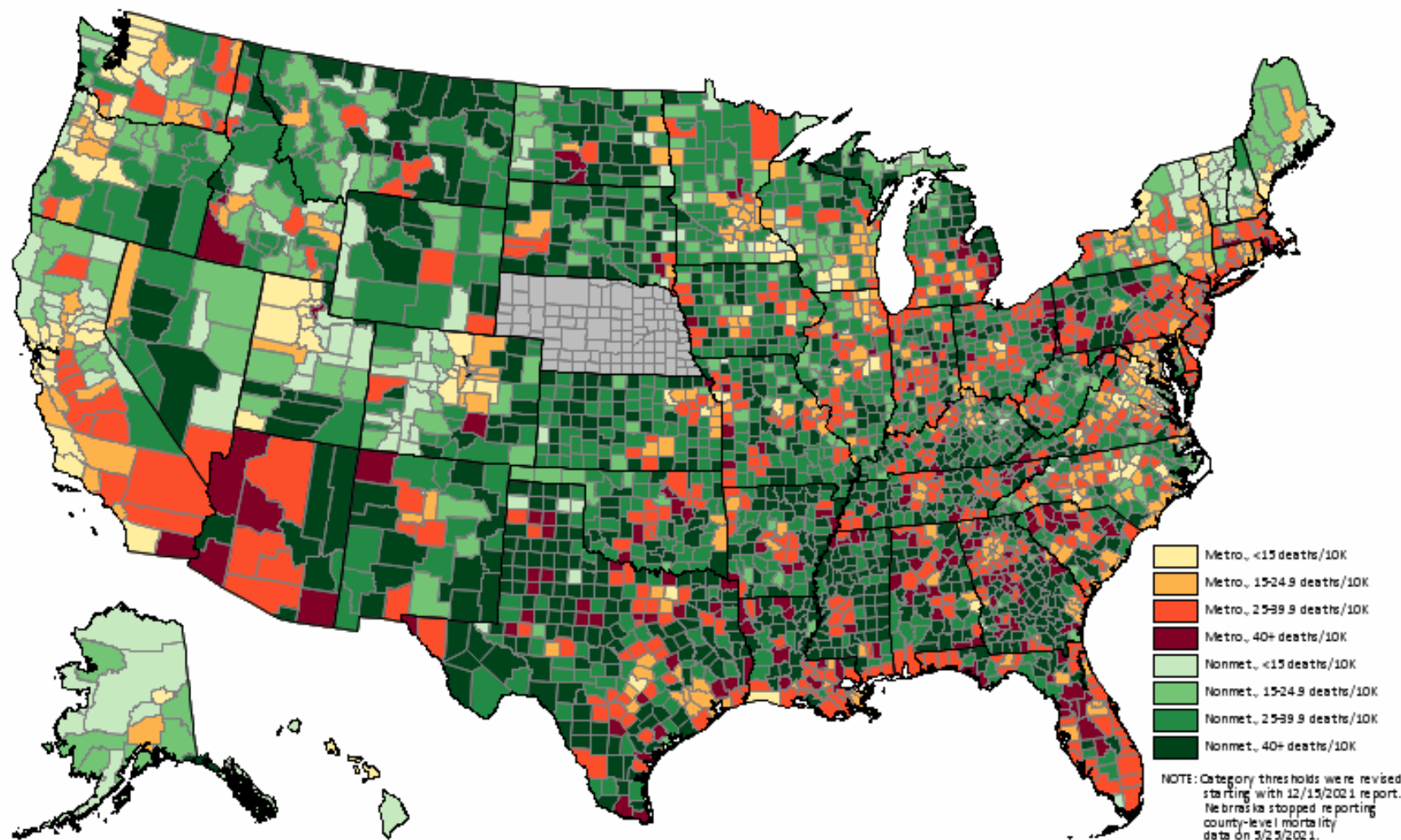
Data source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data  
<https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19>

## Counties with COVID-19 Deaths

February 13, 2022

Metro deaths: 742,835 Nonmetro deaths: 160,476

\*Metro rate: 26.83 Nonmetro rate: 34.82



\* Deaths / 10,000 population based on 2018 ACS 5-yr estimates.  
Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI)  
University of Iowa, College of Public Health

Data source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data  
<https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19>

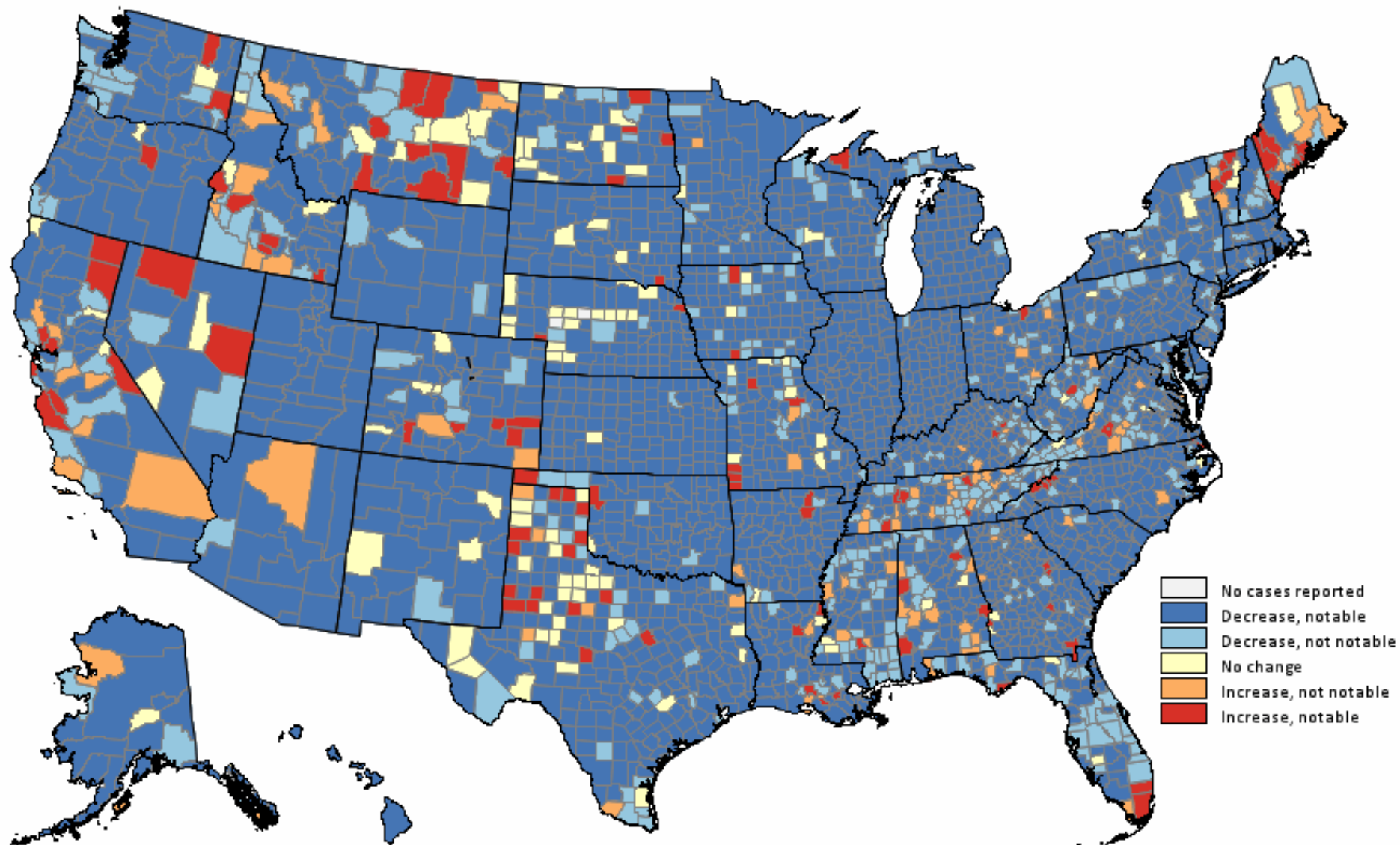
**Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Counties. Confirmed cases, deaths, and rates**  
**February 10, 2022**

	<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>Nonmetropolitan</b>
Confirmed cases	65,110,536 (23.5%)	11,017,265 (23.9%)
Deaths	739,621 (0.3%)	159,834 (0.3%)
Cases/10K population	2,352	2,391
Deaths/10K population	26.72	34.68
Counties w/ 2000+ cases/10K	922 (79.1%)	1,473 (74.5%)
Counties w/ 25+ deaths/10K	727 (62.3%)	1,507 (76.3%)



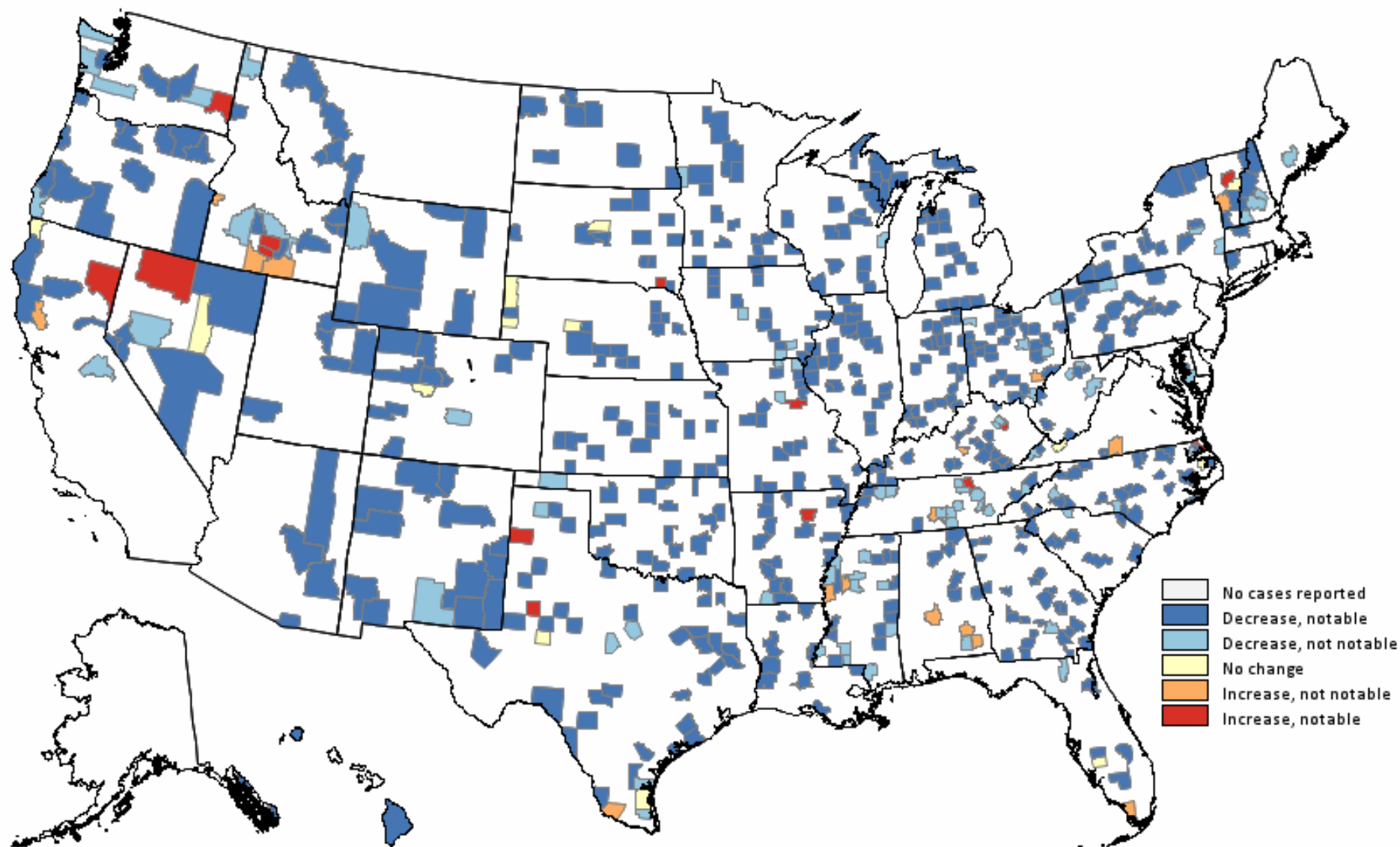
## All County Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

Week-to-Week Count Changes: 01/31/2022 - 02/13/2022



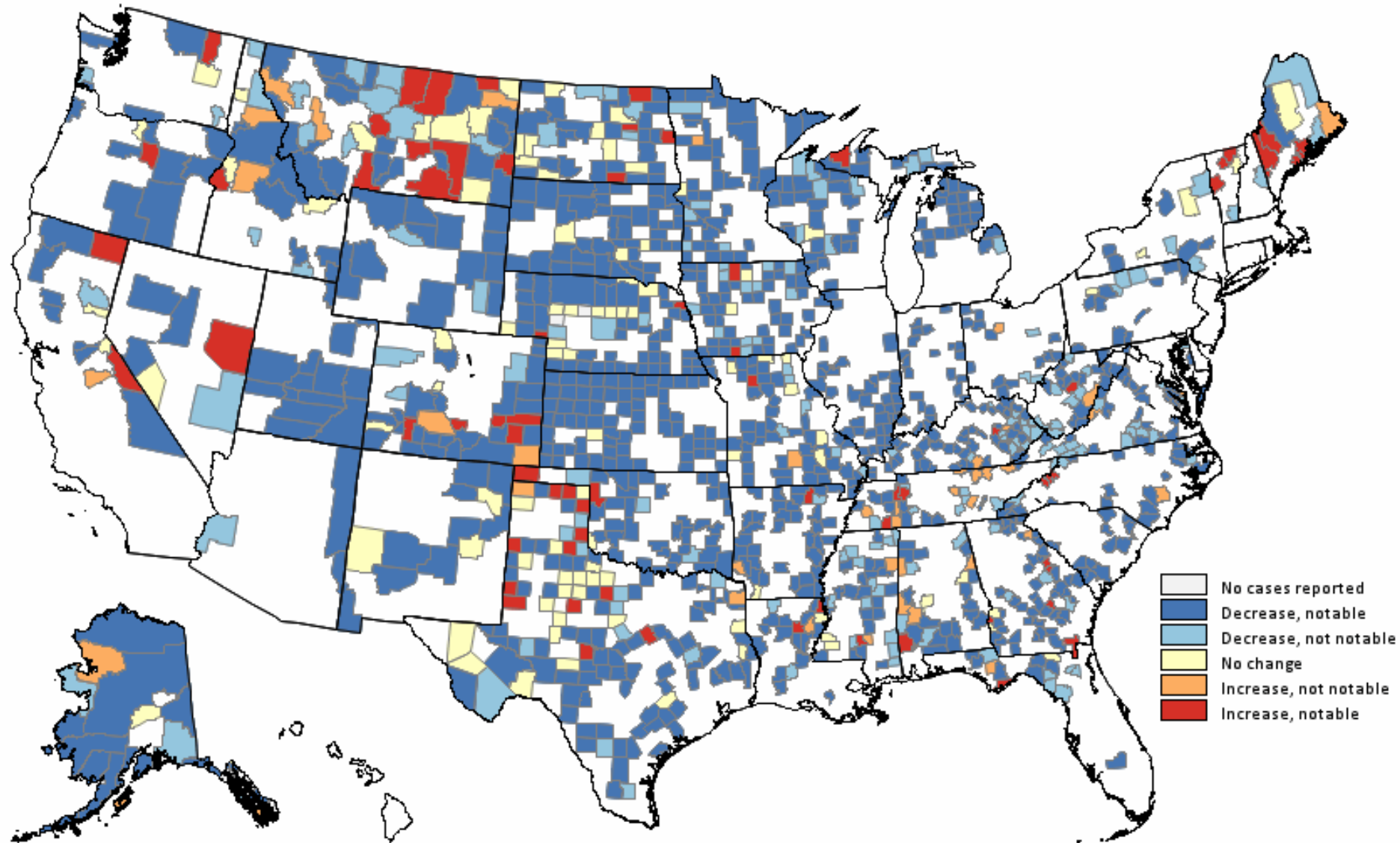
# Nonmetropolitan County Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

Week-to-Week Count Changes: 01/31/2022 - 02/13/2022

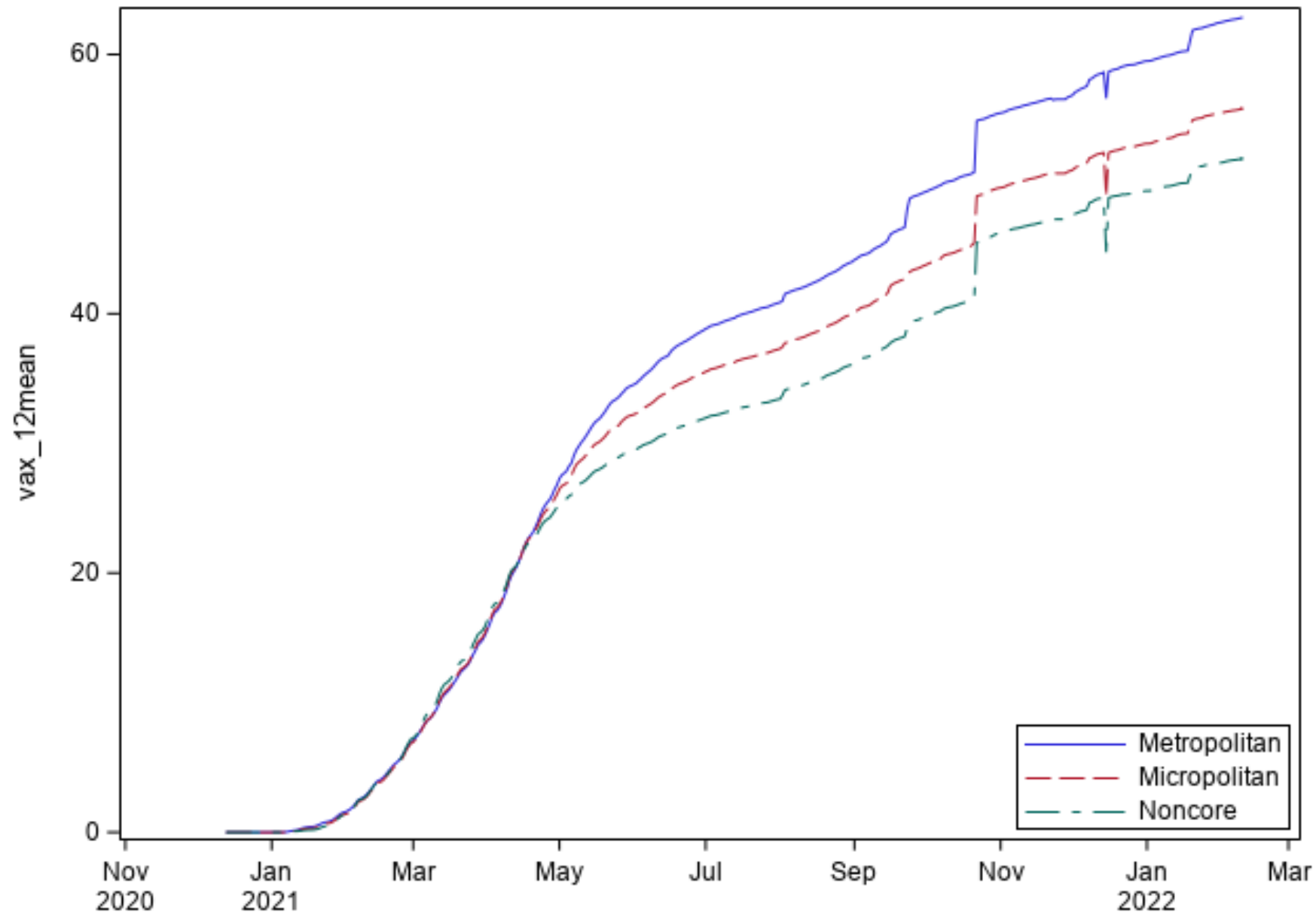


# Noncore County Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

Week-to-Week Count Changes: 01/31/2022 - 02/13/2022



Population (age 12+) With at Least One Vaccination Dose





[Online Library](#) ▾[Topics & States](#) ▾[Rural Data Visualizations](#) ▾[Case Studies & Conversations](#) ▾[Tools for Success](#) ▾[Rural Health](#) > [Topics & States](#) > [Topics](#)

## Rural Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

### On This Page

- [Key Rural COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Rural COVID-19 Trends](#)
- [Key Federal Sites](#)
- [Additional Rural-Relevant Resources](#)

### More in This Topic Guide

- |  |   |                                    |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| • <a href="#">Vaccination</a>                | • <a href="#">Resources</a>                   | • <a href="#">Events</a>           |
| • <a href="#">Rural COVID-19 Innovations</a> | • <a href="#">Funding &amp; Opportunities</a> | • <a href="#">About This Guide</a> |
| • <a href="#">State Response</a>             | • <a href="#">News</a>                        |                                    |

### Share Your Community's COVID-19 Innovations

How has your community been adapting to address COVID-19? Please email your examples to Kristine Sande at [kristine@ruralhealthinfo.org](mailto:kristine@ruralhealthinfo.org) with the subject line: COVID-19 Innovations. Your examples may be included in the [Rural COVID-19 Innovations](#) collection.

This guide will help you learn about activities underway to address COVID-19, the disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, with a focus on rural communities.

See the Emergency Preparedness guide for [communication planning tools to reach rural communities](#).

# Rural Health Information Hub COVID-19 Resources

## **Key Rural COVID-19 Resources**

### [Path Out of the Pandemic: President Biden's COVID-19 Action Plan](#)

The White House

A comprehensive federal action plan to address COVID-19. Covers vaccination, testing, prevention, and care for those with COVID-19. Also addresses schools and the economy.

### [NRHA COVID-19 Technical Assistance Center](#)

National Rural Health Association

Supports the needs of rural providers and communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Assists rural healthcare organizations through financial consultations, operational support, and help obtaining essential medical resources, including Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Also provides information on vaccine distribution and education.

### [Re-imagining Leadership: A Pathway for Rural Health to Thrive in a COVID-19 World](#)

Colorado Hospital Association, Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center

A COVID-19 emergency response playbook for rural healthcare delivery systems. Includes an assessment tool to help rural communities examine governance and leadership, community engagement, financial health, clinical care, and emergency preparedness and resilience.

### [Rural Healthcare Surge Readiness](#)

COVID-19 Healthcare Resilience Working Group

Up-to-date and critical resources for rural healthcare systems preparing for and responding to a COVID-19 surge.

---

## **Rural COVID-19 Trends**

### [CDC COVID Data Tracker: Trends in COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the United States, by County-level Population Factors](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Provides data on COVID-19 cases and deaths for metropolitan, micropolitan, and non-core areas for the nation, by region, and by state.

### [COVID-19 County Reports](#)

RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

Current data on COVID-19 cases for metropolitan and nonmetro counties, as well as a collection of data briefs showing trends in COVID-19 cases over time.



Rural Health Information Hub

[www.ruralhealthinfo.org](http://www.ruralhealthinfo.org)



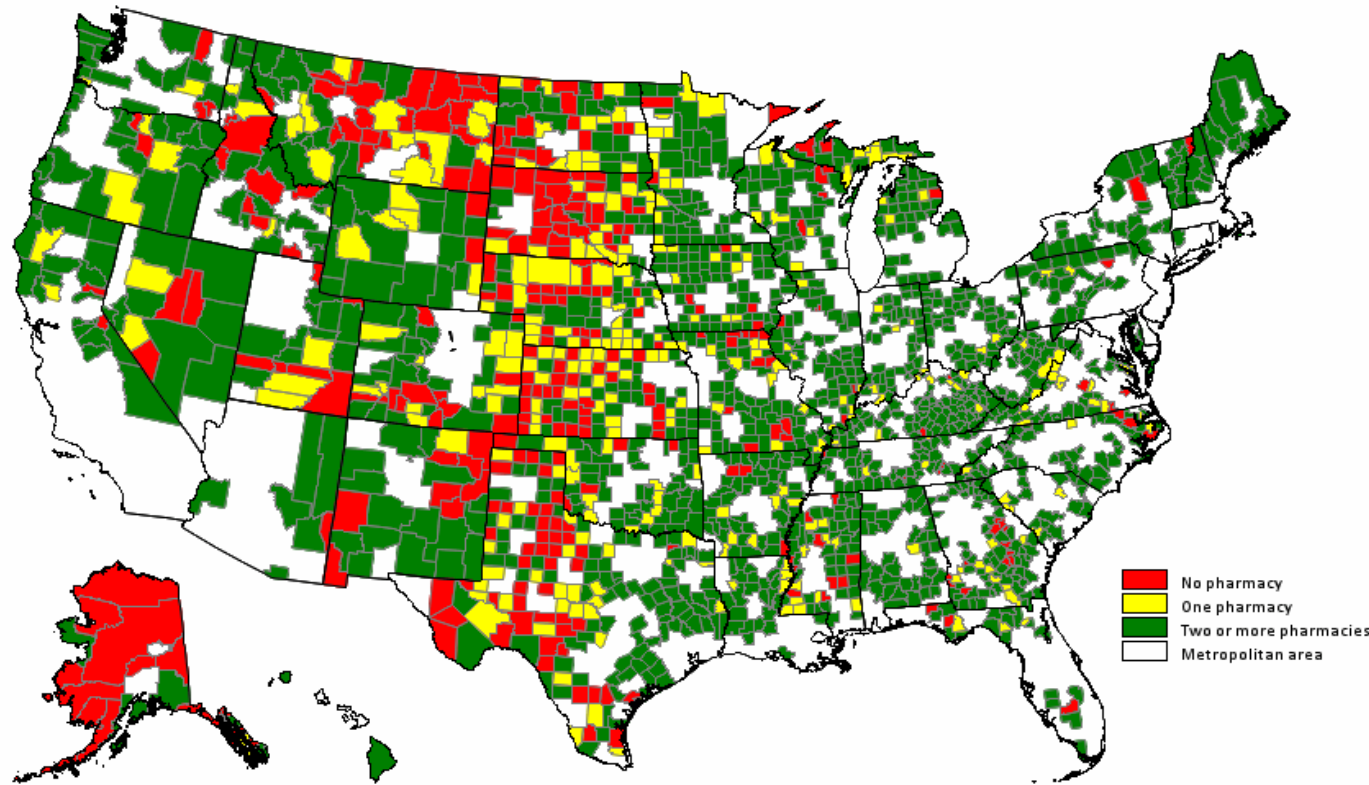
# Sustaining Rural Infrastructure for Pandemic Response

How do we make sure treatment and vaccine is available and accessible?

- ▶ Rural Pharmacies
- ▶ Rural Hospitals & Public Health
- ▶ Rural Telemedicine

# Sustaining Rural Infrastructure for Pandemic Response: Pharmacy

## Nonmetropolitan County Pharmacy Availability 'Partner' or Other Pharmacies with Immunization Service\*



\*Includes independent, chain, franchise, and government pharmacies that provide pharmaceutical medications.  
Includes pharmacies affiliated with HHS 'partners', or other pharmacies that provide immunizations.  
Data source: National Council of Prescription Drug Programs 1/2021

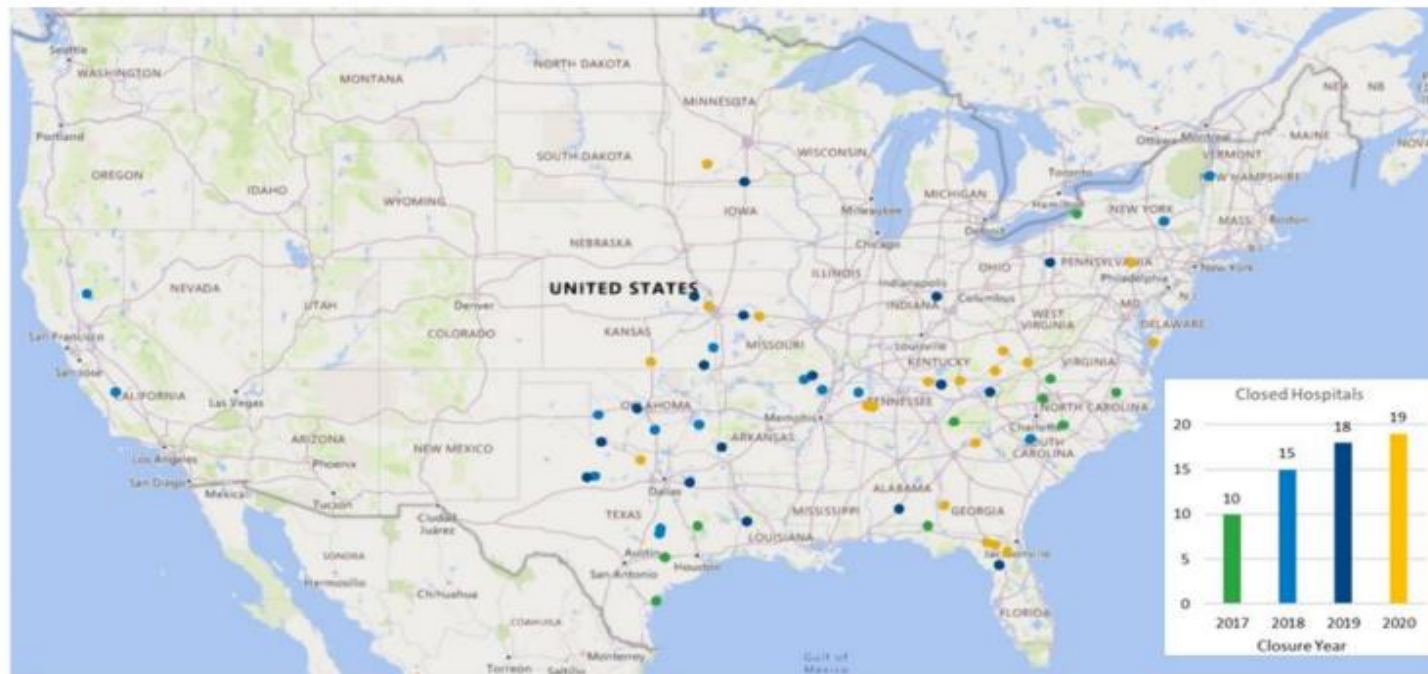
Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI)  
University of Iowa, College of Public Health

# Sustaining Rural Infrastructure for Pandemic Response: Public Health & Hospitals

## 56 Rural Hospitals Closed 2017-2020

University of North Carolina Rural Health Research

**Figure 1. Rural Hospitals that Closed Between 2017-20**



\*Map includes closure data for January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2020. Study analysis reflects only closures that were known as of August 31, 2020.



# Sustaining Rural Infrastructure for Pandemic Response: Telehealth

- ▶ Expanded uses for telehealth through COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
- ▶ But rural uptake is lower than urban uptake
- ▶ 30% of urban Medicare beneficiaries used telehealth; 22% of rural Medicare beneficiaries (May 2020)
- ▶ Primary care telehealth peaked at 25% of visits for rural; 47% for urban.
- ▶ The rate of telemedicine visits among rural patients significantly increased to 147 visits per 1000 patients in June 2020. A similar but steeper increase was observed among urban patients (220 visits per 1000 urban patients).

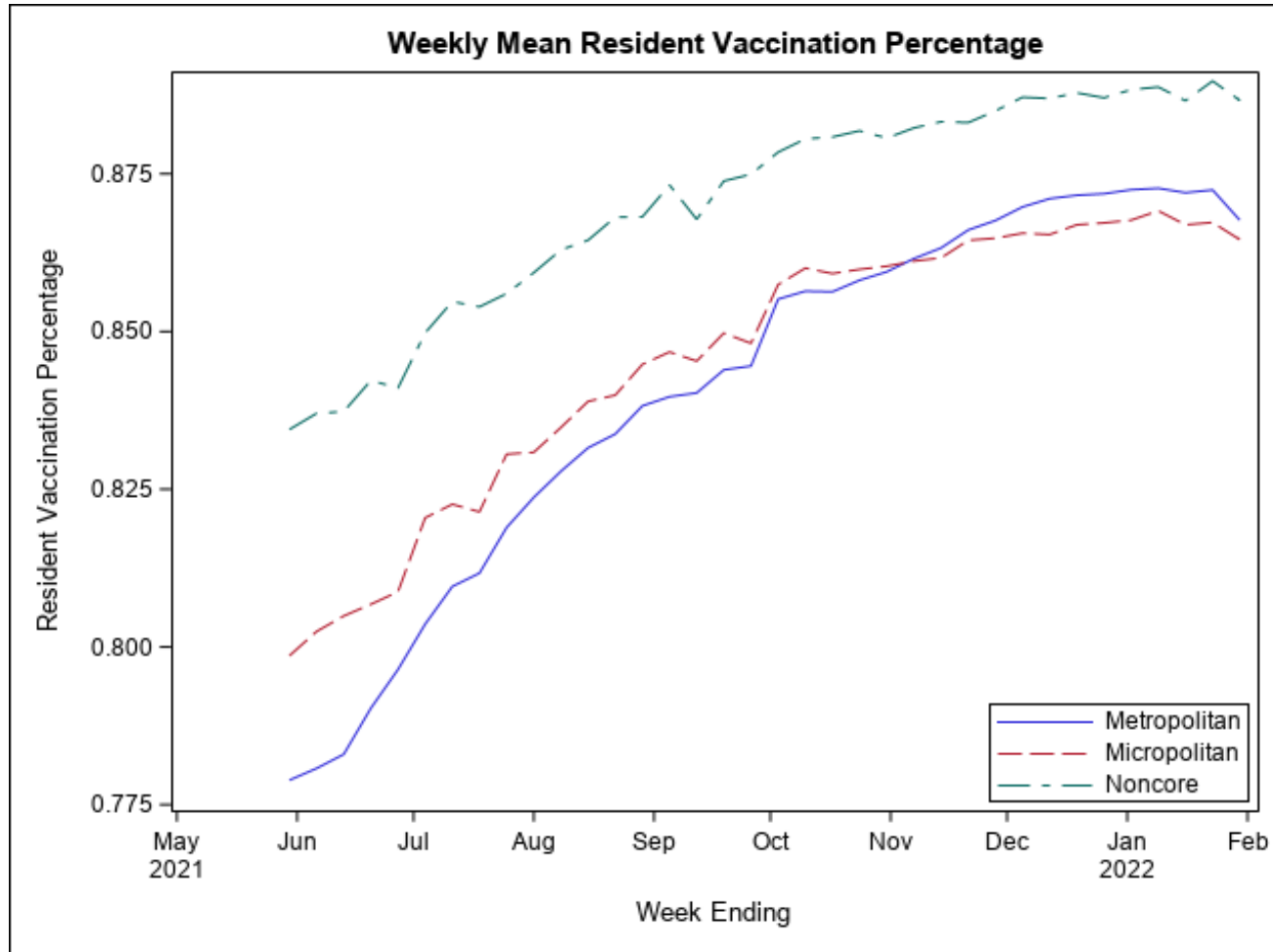
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8023379/>

# Sustaining Rural Infrastructure for Pandemic Response: Telehealth

## New Opportunities for Telehealth Usage

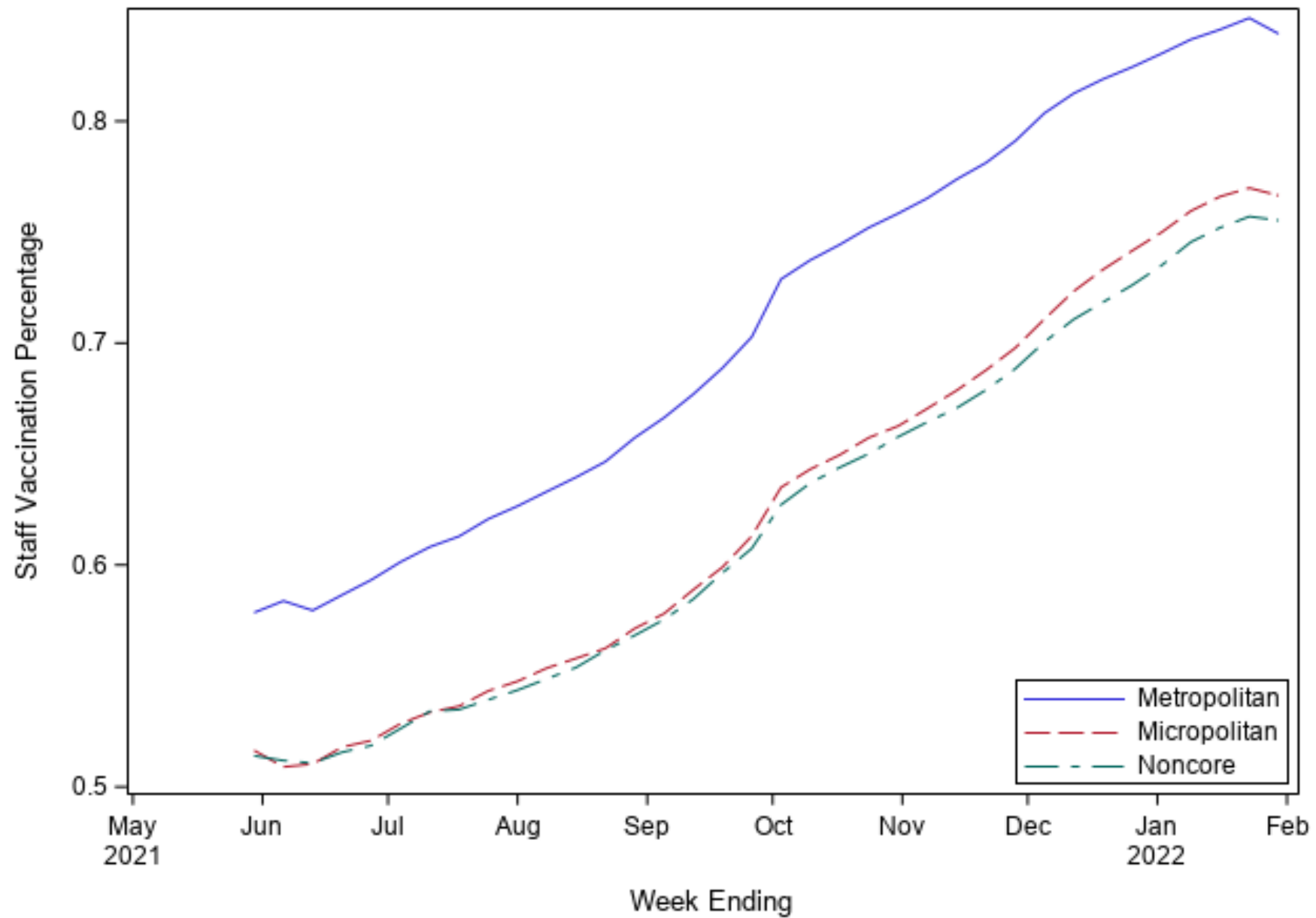
- ▶ Services eligible for Medicare payment were expanded by 135 additional services.
- ▶ Medicare beneficiaries allowed to receive telehealth-enabled visits in new locations, including their home, through payments to providers to offer these services
- ▶ Rural Health Clinics and FQHCs allowed to provide distant site telehealth services to Medicare beneficiaries
- ▶ All health care professionals, including therapists, speech language pathologists and others may deliver and bill for services through telehealth

# Focus: Rural Nursing Homes

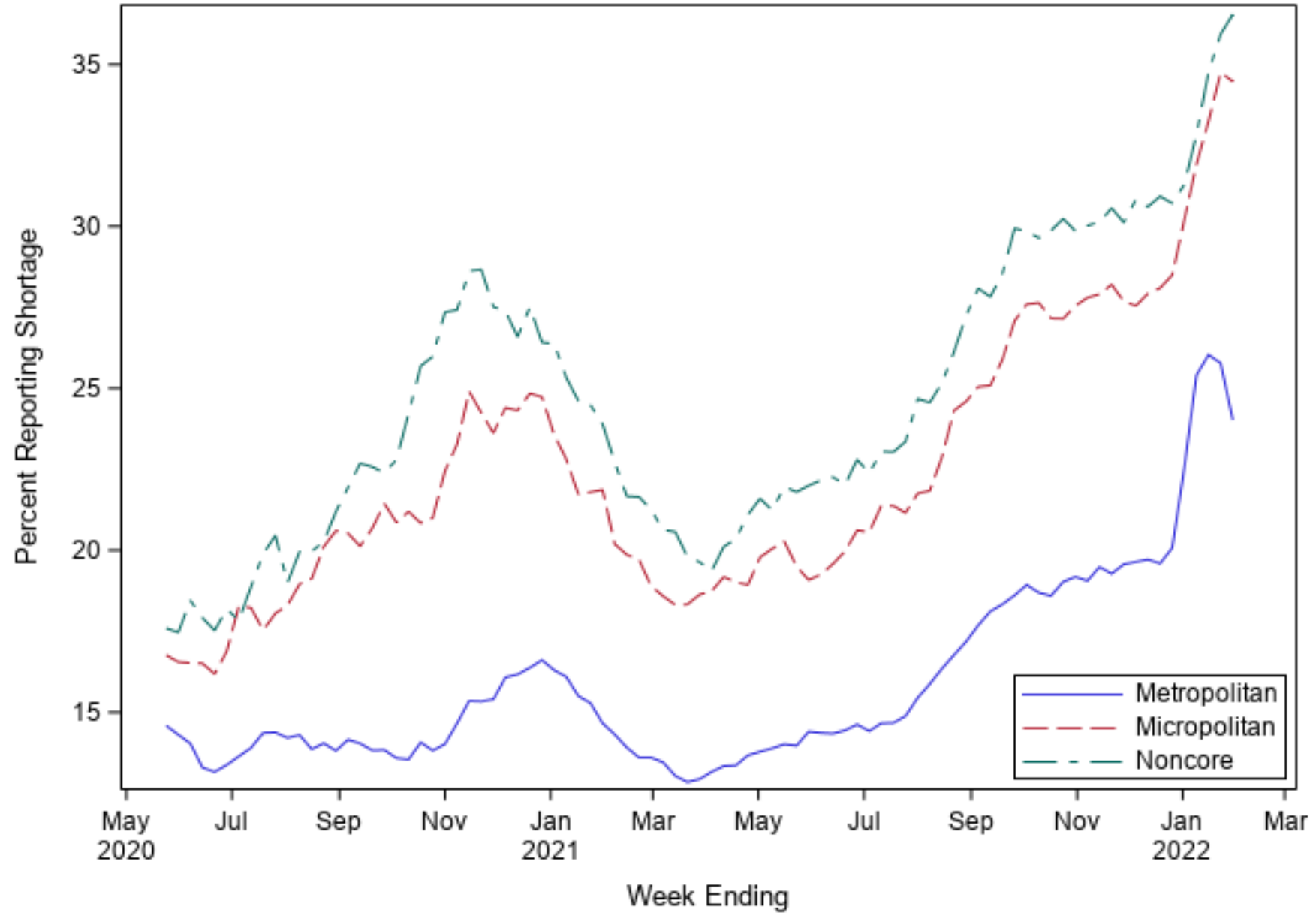




**Weekly Mean Staff Vaccination Percentage**



## Weekly Report of Nursing Staff Shortage





# Updates from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

NACo Annual Legislative Conference

*February 15, 2022*

Michael Fallahkhair

**Principal Advisor**

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

**Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People**



# Agenda

---

- Overview of HRSA, FORHP and Rurality
- Community Health
- Opioids and Substance Use Disorder
- American Rescue Plan and Workforce Funding
- COVID-19 Activities
- Expansion of Telehealth
- Policy, Research, and Resources
- FY 2022 Funding Opportunities





# Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

## Overview



- Supports more than 90 programs that provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically challenged



- Over 3,000 awardees, including community and faith-based organizations, colleges and universities, hospitals, state, local, and tribal governments, and private entities



- Every year, HRSA programs serve tens of millions of people, including people with HIV/AIDS, pregnant people and their families, and those otherwise unable to access quality health care

# The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

[Authority: Section 711 of the Social Security Act]

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) collaborates with rural communities and partners to support community programs and shape policy that will improve health in rural America.

## Cross Agency Collaboration

Works across HRSA, HHS, and several other federal partners to accomplish its goals

## Capacity Building

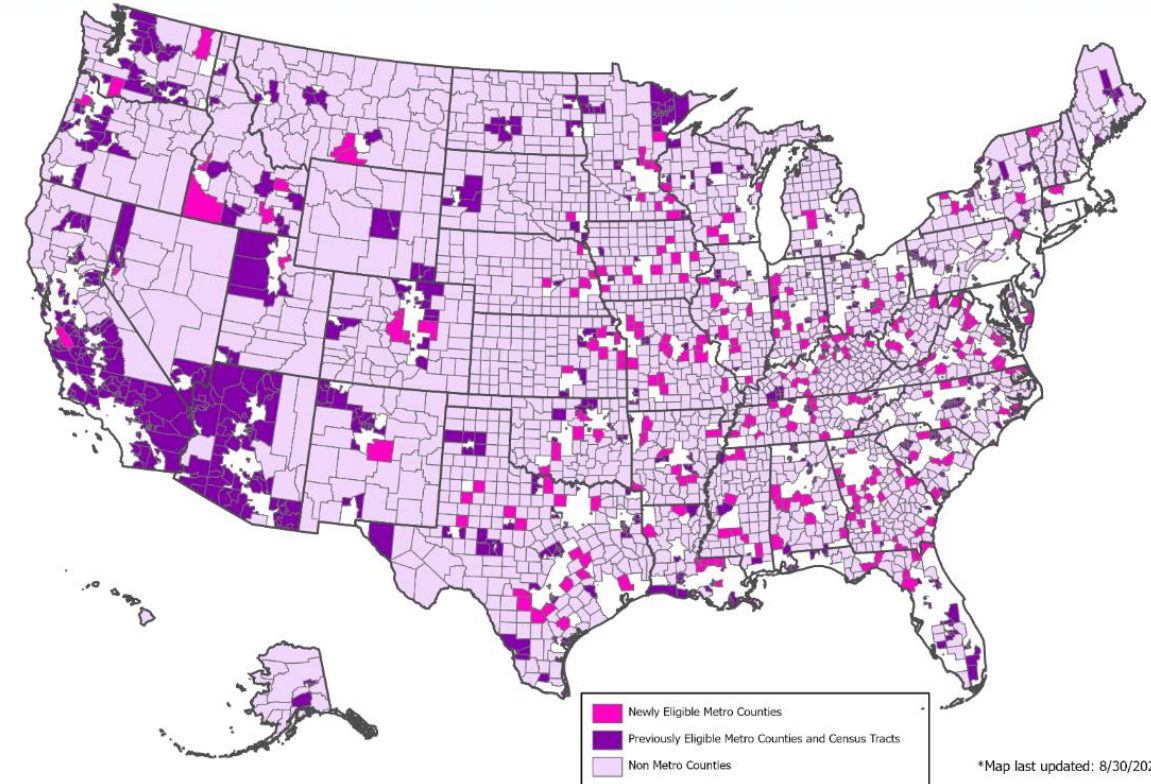
Increases access to health care for people in rural communities through grant programs and public partnerships

## Voice for Rural

Advises the HHS Secretary on policy and regulation that affect rural areas



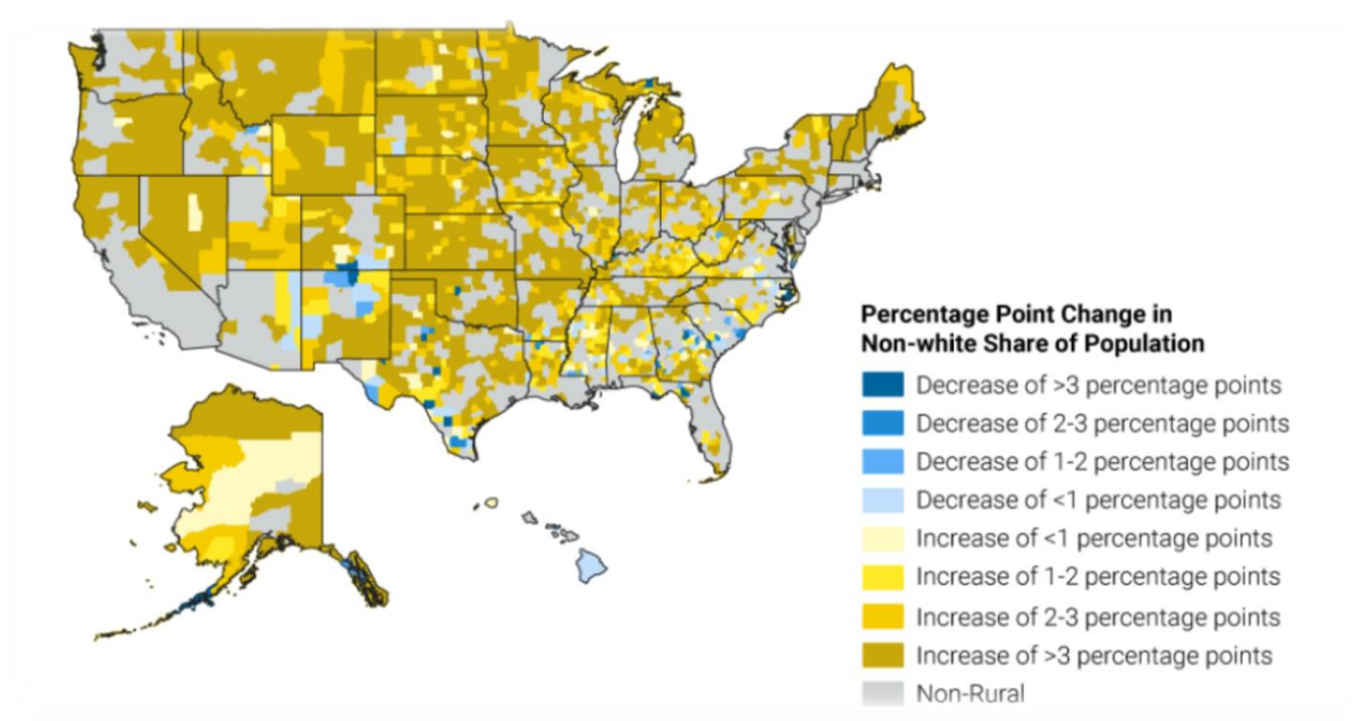
## Counties and Census Tracts Eligible for FORHP Funding



# Rural Population Diversifying

## New Census Data Shows Pattern Mirrors Broader National Trends

- The median rural community saw its population of color increase by 3.5 percentage points between 2010 and 2020
  - Two-thirds of rural counties consisted of at least 10% people of color
  - One-third were more than a quarter people of color
  - 10 percent of rural counties are majority people of color
  - 40% of AI/AN live in non-metro areas



Source: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2021/09/28/mapping-rural-americas-diversity-and-demographic-change/>



# Lifting Up Rural Community Health

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) has supported:



The goal of rural community programs is to improve health service delivery by strengthening health networks and encourage collaboration among rural health care providers.

health care providers:  
networks and encourage collaboration among rural  
health service delivery by strengthening health  
the goal of rural community programs is to improve



Watch [Improving Rural Health Outcomes: Stories from the Field](#) to hear Grantee stories.

Health Resources & Services Administration  
Bureaus & Offices | Newsroom | A-Z Index | Contact Us

Get reimbursed for COVID-19 testing and treatment of uninsured individuals. [Learn more »](#)

**HRSA**  
Health Resources & Services Administration

Grants ▾ Loans & Scholarships ▾ Data Warehouse ▾ Training & TA Hub ▾ About HRSA ▾

[Home](#) > [About HRSA](#) > [News & Events](#) > [Press Releases](#) > HRSA Awards over \$12.7 Million to Programs Enhancing Health Care Delivery to Rural Underserved Populations

## HRSA Awards over \$12.7 Million to Programs Enhancing Health Care Delivery to Rural Underserved Populations

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
Health Resources and Services Administration

HRSA NEWS ROOM  
<http://newsroom.hrsa.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 20

CONTACT: HRSA PRESS OFFICE 301-443-3376  
[Press@hrsa.gov](mailto:Press@hrsa.gov)

Today, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced more than \$12.7 million in funding to 61 public, private and non-profit entities across 35 states to serve rural communities and address rural health disparities as part of its community-based Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program (Outreach Program).

The Outreach Program expands and improves health services for rural residents by supporting innovative and evidence-based approaches tailored to the specific needs of local communities.

For the first time, funds will go toward supporting the Healthy Rural Hometown Initiative (HRHI) to address underlying factors that drive rural health disparities related to the five leading causes of avoidable death (heart disease, cancer, unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease, and stroke).

"HRSA is dedicated to supporting community-focused approaches to improve health care in rural and underserved areas," said Acting HRSA Administrator Diana Espinosa. "Through strong partnerships with local organizations, the Outreach Program will improve the health of the nation's underserved and vulnerable rural populations and expand access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services."

HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy administers the Outreach Program. The first track of the program awarded over \$8,980,000 to 45 recipients to collaborate with local health care and social service organizations to deliver health services to underserved and socioeconomically disadvantaged rural residents. Services will focus on social determinants of health, chronic disease management and prevention, care

alysis,  
am

<https://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/press-releases/hrsa-programs-enhancing-healthcare-delivery-rural-underserved-populations>



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
**HRSA**  
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

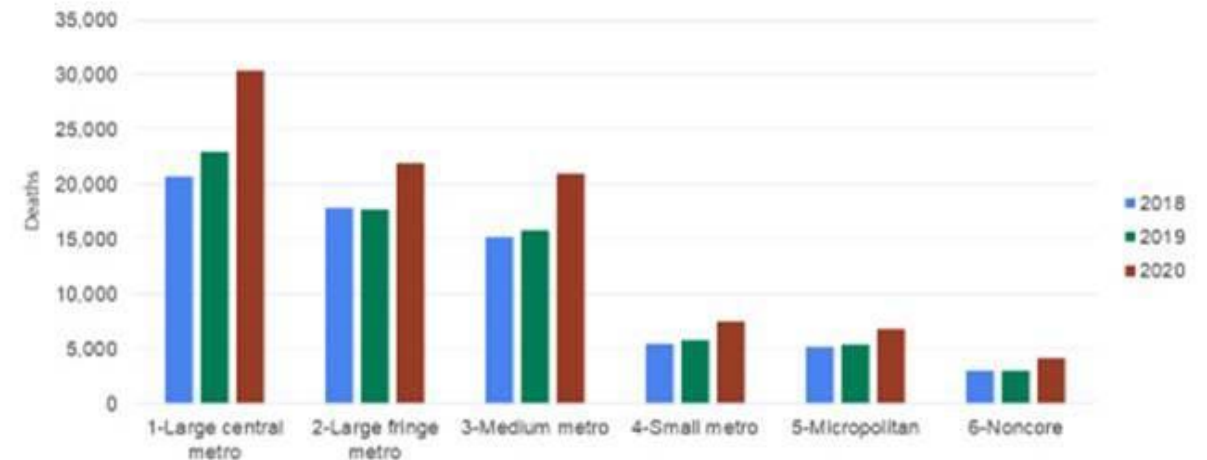


# The Rural Dimensions of the Opioid Epidemic

## Recent Data Release from the National Center for Health Statistics

- Rural overdose deaths track the rise in urban deaths
- Pandemic has driven increases
- Rural areas have limited infrastructure to offer treatment
- Rural areas are also dealing with substance use issues beyond opioids

Provisional Drug Overdose Deaths by Urban/Rural Classification:  
2018 – 2020



Source: <https://data.cdc.gov/NCHS/Provisional-Drug-Overdose-Deaths-by-Urban-Rural-CI/dtm2-meql>

# Rural Communities Opioid Response Program

RCORP is a multi-year \$440 million initiative launched in FY 2018 that provides direct funding and technical assistance to rural communities addressing behavioral health needs, including SUD/OD.



- Investments across 47 states and 2 territories, reaching 1,500+ rural counties



- In FY 2020:
  - Direct services to more than 2 million rural patients
  - Over 71,000 rural patients received medication-assisted treatment



- RCORP programs have expanded to more diverse and emerging areas:
  - Behavioral Health Services
  - Psychostimulant
  - Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

# Workforce Funding from the American Rescue Plan

## Focusing Solely on Rural Communities

### Rural Public Health Training Workforce Program

- Goals:
  - Supporting networks linking educational entities, clinical sites, key workforce stakeholders
  - Linking the training directly to potential work sites through practicums and employment
  - Ensuring that the networks are community-focused and use a shared co-equal governance approach
  - Focusing on high-need communities and develop networks with a focus on diversity and health equity
- Four Tracks:
  - Community Health Workers
  - Community Paramedicine
  - Health Information Technology, Telehealth Technical Support
  - Respiratory Therapy and Case Management/Coordination



# Rural Public Health Workforce

## Potential Network Partners ...

- County Governments
- Local Health Departments
- Rural and Critical Access Hospitals
- Rural Health Clinics
- Community Health Centers
- Community and Technical Colleges
- State and Local Workforce Investment Boards (from the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act funding)
- Non-Profits and Foundations with an interest in workforce
- Area Health Education Centers
- State Offices of Rural Health
- State Rural Health Associations
- Primary Care Associations
- Human and Social Service entities:
  - Community Action Agencies
  - Head Start and other child care providers
  - Labor One-Stop Job Centers
  - TANF Programs
  - Area Agencies on Aging
  - Housing Assistance Councils
  - Food Banks





# Rural COVID-19 Activities

---

## **Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Vaccine and OTC Test Kit Distribution Programs**

Distributes COVID-19 vaccines and over the counter test kits directly to Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to increase the availability of COVID-19 vaccines and test kits in rural communities.

## **Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation Program**

Funds to assist over 4,600 RHCs across the country in maintaining and increasing COVID-19 testing efforts, expanding access to testing in rural communities, and expanding the range of mitigation activities in local communities.

## **Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Confidence Program**

Support vaccine outreach in rural communities. Efforts include helping to increase vaccine confidence and uptake, reinforcing basic messages about prevention and treatment of COVID-19, and vaccine promotion.

## **Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation**

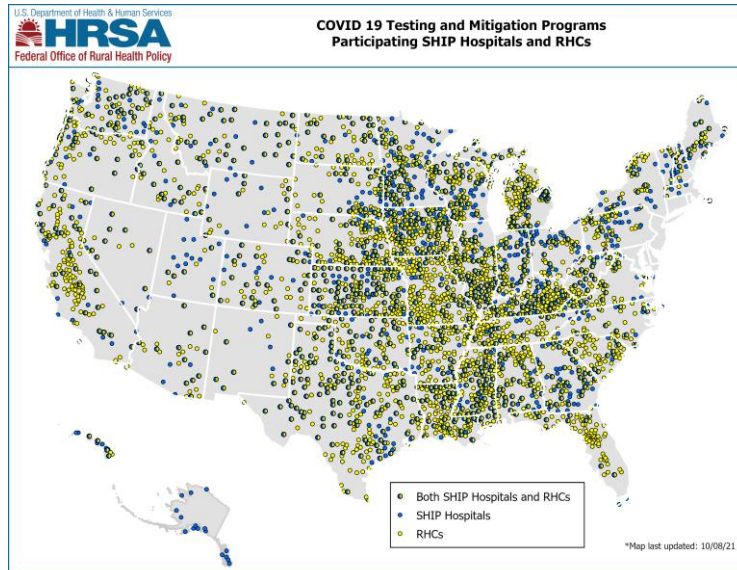
Funds the state SHIP grantees to support over 1,500 small rural hospitals to expand their COVID-19 testing and mitigation efforts.



# Mapping the Rural COVID-19 Response

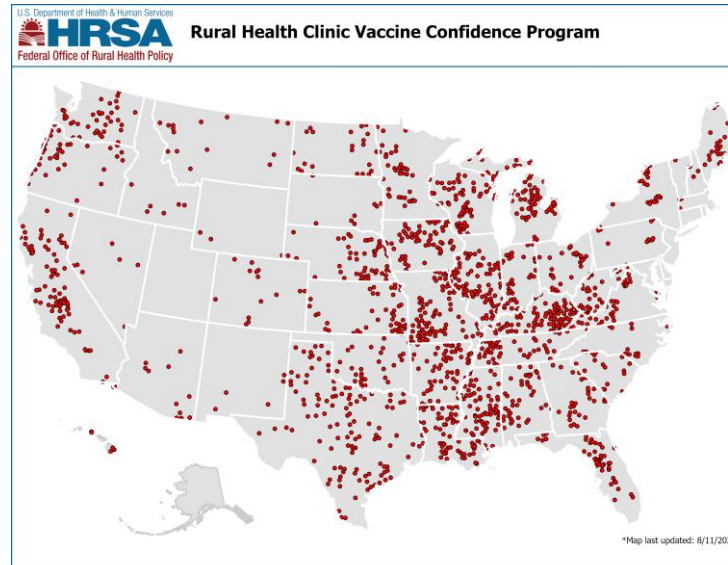
## RHC and SHIP COVID-19 Testing & Mitigation

[RHCCOVID-19Testing@hrsa.gov](mailto:RHCCOVID-19Testing@hrsa.gov)



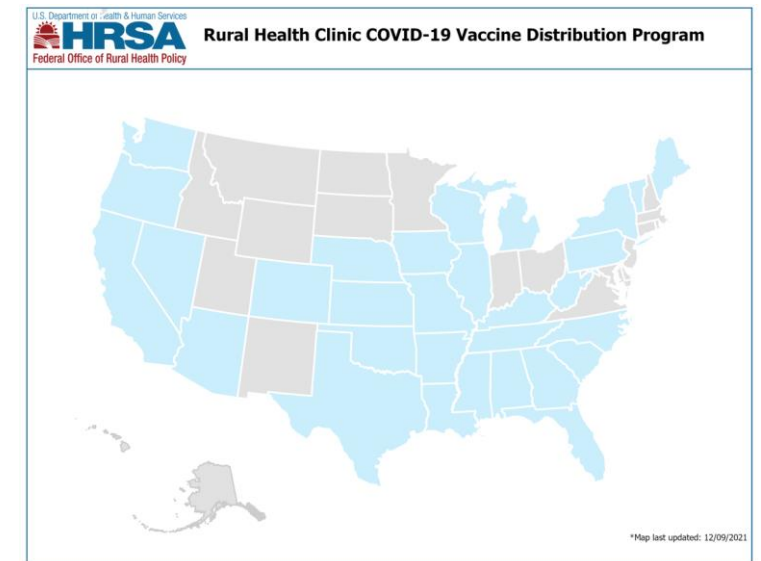
## RHC Vaccine Confidence

[RHCVaxConfidence@hrsa.gov](mailto:RHCVaxConfidence@hrsa.gov)



## RHC COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

[RHCVaxDistribution@hrsa.gov](mailto:RHCVaxDistribution@hrsa.gov)



[Find More Information Here](#)

# Expansion of Telehealth

## Expanding HRSA's Focus

- Pandemic-driven acceleration aided by reduction or regulatory barriers
- New resources on licensure burden
- Elevation of the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth within HRSA
- Challenges and opportunities with Broadband



# HHS Telehealth Resources

- **Telehealth.HHS.gov**  
<https://telehealth.hhs.gov/>
- **Telehealth Resource Centers**  
<https://www.telehealthresourcecenter.org/>
- **ProviderBridge**  
<https://www.providerbridge.org/>
- **Multi-Discipline Licensure Resource Project**  
<https://licensureproject.org/>
- **Rural Telehealth Research Center**  
<https://ruraltelehealth.org/>

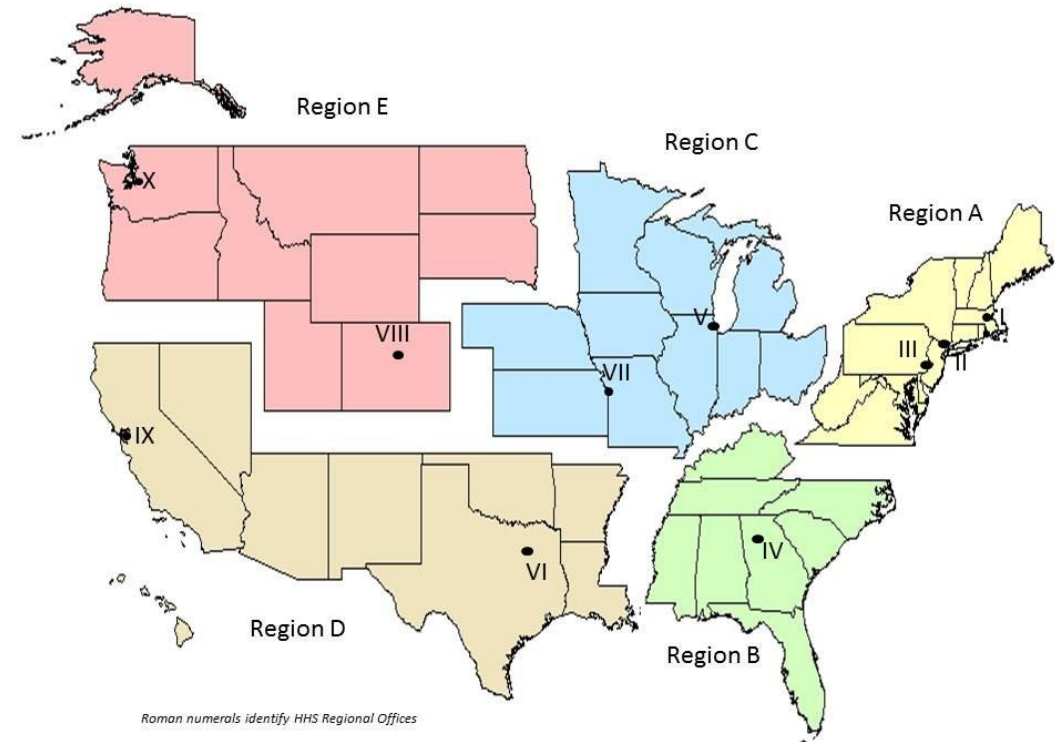
TELEHEALTH.HHS.GOV





# State Offices of Rural Health

- Share information, resources and innovative projects with other rural health stakeholders
- Coordinate with other state partners on rural health issues
- Link rural health stakeholders to Federal and state resources
- Rural recruitment and retention

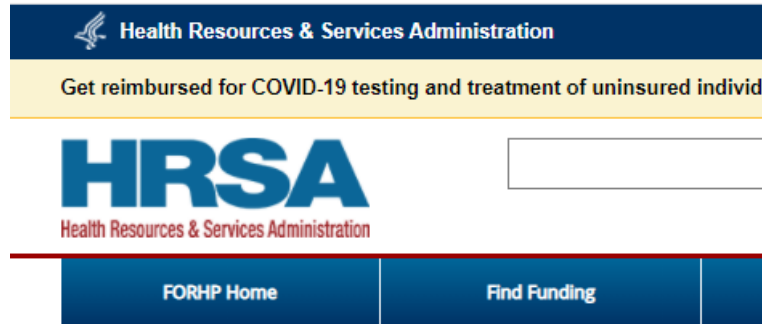


Connect with your SORH: <https://nosorh.org/nosorh-members/>



# Health Policy & Research

## Accessible and Through a Rural Lens



## Questions about Policy Updates?

Write to [ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov](mailto:ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov)

[Home](#) > [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy](#) > Rural Health Policy

## Rural Health Policy

### Regulatory Review

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is charged in [Section 1102\(b\) of the Social Security Act](#) with advising the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the effect that federal health care policies and regulations may have on rural communities. Monitoring current and proposed changes, including programs established under titles XVIII and XIX (Medicare and Medicaid), FORHP analyzes their impact on the financial viability of small rural hospitals and clinics, on the ability of rural areas to attract health professionals, and on rural areas' access to high quality care.

Data collection and analysis is essential to understanding the challenges in rural communities, how those communities are impacted by policy, and setting policy for the future. For this reason, the work of the [Rural Health Research Centers](#) informs that of FORHP's policy team and vice versa.

### Policy Updates

April 1

[CMS Guidance to Resume Hospital Survey Activities](#) (PDF - 265 KB). As of March 23, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is lifting the suspension on hospital survey activities, which was put in place due to the public health emergency. Non-immediate jeopardy

### Reports

[Guide for Rural Health Care Collaboration and Coordination](#) (2019) (PDF - 2 MB) This Guide describes how rural hospitals, community health centers, local public health departments, and other rural stakeholders can work together to assess and address their rural communities' health needs.

[Interim Report to Congress on Frontier Health Demonstration Project](#) (2018) (PDF - 565 KB)

[Final Report to Congress on Frontier Health Demonstration Project](#) (2020) (PDF - 345 KB) This final Report to Congress expands on the interim report, with findings from the duration of the 3-year model and recommendations for legislative and administrative action.



[ruralhealthresearch.org](http://ruralhealthresearch.org)

The Rural Health Research Gateway is an online library of research and expertise. The website is free to use, searchable, and provides access to the work of the Rural Health Research Centers and Analysis Initiatives funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.

The Rural Health Research Center program is the only federal program that is dedicated entirely to producing policy-relevant research on healthcare in rural areas. The centers study critical issues facing rural communities in a quest to secure adequate, affordable, high-quality health services for rural residents.

### This online resource of research connects you to:

- Research and policy centers
- Products and journal publications
- Fact sheets
- Policy briefs
- Research projects
- Email alerts
- Experts
- Dissemination toolkit

### Connect with us

- [info@ruralhealthresearch.org](mailto:info@ruralhealthresearch.org)
- [facebook.com/RHRGateway](https://facebook.com/RHRGateway)
- [twitter.com/shrgateway](https://twitter.com/shrgateway)



This project was supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).



# Resources

## Rural Health Information Hub (RHIfhub)

### Topic Guides

#### MORE ON THIS TOPIC

##### Introduction

##### FAQs

##### Chart Gallery

##### Resources

##### Organizations

##### Funding & Opportunities

##### News

##### Events

##### Models and Innovations

##### About This Guide

[Rural Health](#) > [Topics & States](#) > [Topics](#)

### Rural Healthcare Workforce

Maintaining the healthcare workforce is fundamental to providing access to quality healthcare in rural areas. Rural healthcare facilities must employ enough healthcare professionals to meet the needs of the community. They must have proper licensure, adequate education and training, and cultural competency skills. Equally important, optimizing how health professionals are used and enhancing coordination among them helps ensure that patients are getting the best care possible.

Strategies can include:

- Using interprofessional teams to provide coordinated and efficient care for patients and to extend the reach of each provider
- Ensuring that all professionals are fully utilizing their skill sets and working at the top of their license; that is, practicing to the full extent of their training and allowed scope of practice.
- Removing state and federal barriers to professional practice, where appropriate
- Changing policy to allow alternative provider types, once evidence shows they can provide quality care

### Funding Opportunities

#### MORE ON THIS TOPIC

##### Introduction

##### Chart Gallery

##### Resources

##### Organizations

##### Funding & Opportunities

##### News

##### Events

##### Models and Innovations

##### About This Guide

[Rural Health](#) > [Topics & States](#) > [Topics](#)

### Rural Healthcare Workforce – Funding & Opportunities

For additional funding options, please see RHIfhub's [Online Library: Funding & Opportunities](#)

Sort By: [Date](#) | [Name](#) ☐ Hide Inactive Funding

[Narrow by type](#)

[Narrow by geography](#)

[Narrow by topic](#)

#### Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program

Loan repayment for undergraduate and graduate health professional educational loans in return for full-time clinical service in Indian Health Service programs.

Geographic coverage: Nationwide

Application Deadline: Aug 15, 2019

Sponsors: Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

#### NIDDK Education Program Grants (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Grants to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs. Institutions are encouraged to diversify their student and faculty populations to enhance the participation of individuals from groups identified as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences.

### Models and Innovations

#### MORE ON THIS TOPIC

##### Introduction

##### Chart Gallery

##### Resources

##### Organizations

##### Funding & Opportunities

##### News

##### Events

##### Models and Innovations

##### About This Guide

[Rural Health](#) > [Topics & States](#) > [Topics](#)

### Rural Healthcare Workforce – Models and Innovations

These stories feature model programs and successful rural projects that can serve as a source of ideas and provide lessons others have learned. Some of the projects or programs may no longer be active. Read about the [criteria and evidence-base](#) for programs included.

Sort By: [Date](#) | [Name](#)

[Narrow by geography](#)

[Narrow by topic](#)

#### Promising Examples

##### High Plains Community Health Center Care Teams

Updated/reviewed February 2019

- **Need:** Meeting health care demands in a region with a limited number of physicians, where recruiting additional providers is considered impractical.
- **Intervention:** Using the additional support of health coaches, implementation of care teams consisting of 3 medical assistants to support each provider.
- **Results:** More patients seen per provider hour, with improved patient outcomes and clinic cost savings.

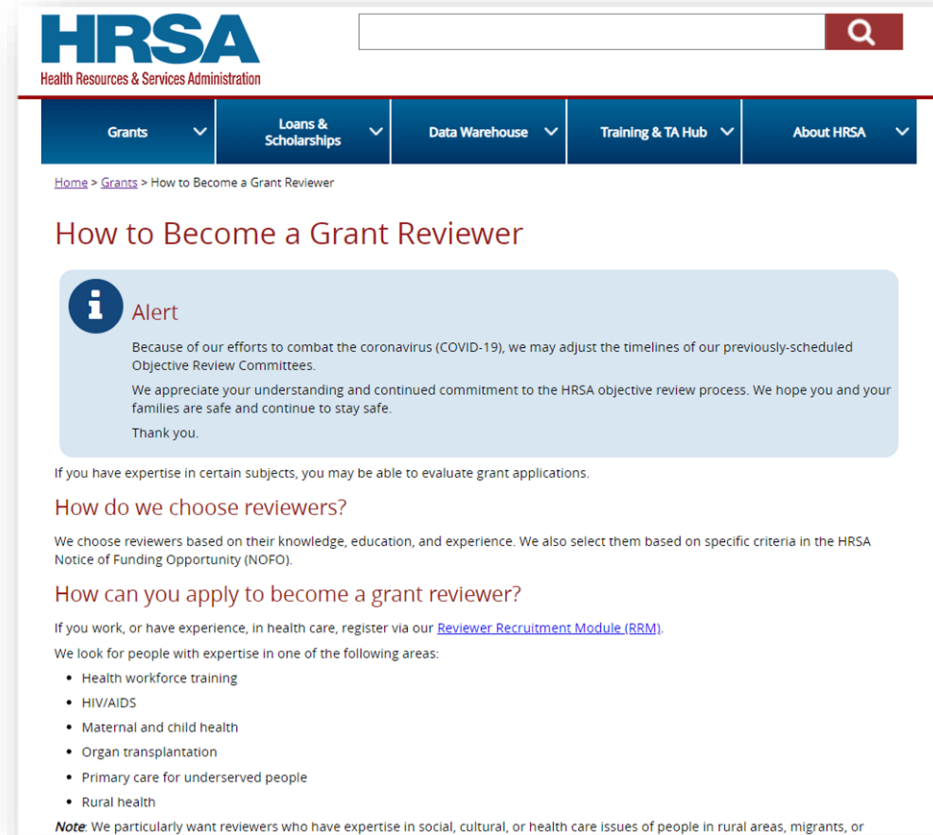


<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
**HRSA**  
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

# HRSA Needs Your Help!

## Consider Being a HRSA Grant Reviewer



The screenshot shows the HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) website. The header includes the HRSA logo and a search bar. A navigation menu contains links for Grants, Loans & Scholarships, Data Warehouse, Training & TA Hub, and About HRSA. The main content area is titled 'How to Become a Grant Reviewer' and includes an alert box with information about COVID-19 adjustments to review timelines. Below the alert, there is a section titled 'How do we choose reviewers?' and another titled 'How can you apply to become a grant reviewer?' which lists various expertise areas and provides a link to the Reviewer Recruitment Module (RBM).

**HRSA**  
Health Resources & Services Administration

Grants | Loans & Scholarships | Data Warehouse | Training & TA Hub | About HRSA

Home > Grants > How to Become a Grant Reviewer

### How to Become a Grant Reviewer

**i Alert**

Because of our efforts to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19), we may adjust the timelines of our previously-scheduled Objective Review Committees.

We appreciate your understanding and continued commitment to the HRSA objective review process. We hope you and your families are safe and continue to stay safe.

Thank you.

If you have expertise in certain subjects, you may be able to evaluate grant applications.

#### How do we choose reviewers?

We choose reviewers based on their knowledge, education, and experience. We also select them based on specific criteria in the HRSA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

#### How can you apply to become a grant reviewer?

If you work, or have experience, in health care, register via our [Reviewer Recruitment Module \(RBM\)](#).

We look for people with expertise in one of the following areas:

- Health workforce training
- HIV/AIDS
- Maternal and child health
- Organ transplantation
- Primary care for underserved people
- Rural health

**Note:** We particularly want reviewers who have expertise in social, cultural, or health care issues of people in rural areas, migrants, or

<https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/reviewers>




# FORHP Weekly Announcements

## Focus on ...

- ✓ Rural-focused Funding opportunities
- ✓ Policy and Regulatory Developments Affecting Rural Providers and Communities
- ✓ Rural Research findings
- ✓ Policy updates from a Rural Perspective

To sign up: Email Michelle Daniels at [mdaniels@hrsa.gov](mailto:mdaniels@hrsa.gov)



Announcements from the  
**Federal Office of Rural Health Policy**

---

July 15, 2021

**What's New**

**HHS Boosts Funding for COVID-19 Response in Rural Areas.** On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) announced \$398 Million for COVID-19 testing and mitigation. The funds will be distributed by State Offices of Rural Health to 1,540 rural hospitals through the [Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program](#).

**One Month Left to Enroll in, or Change, Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage.** Last week, HHS released a report on current [trends and challenges to accessing affordable health care in rural America](#). Analysts found that, although uninsured rates have fallen in rural areas, other barriers to care such as geographic distances, infrastructure limitations, and provider shortages contribute to rural health disparities. The report comes one month before the special enrollment period [for qualified individuals and families](#) ends on August 15. As noted in the HHS brief, 65 percent of the 1.9 million rural uninsured individuals in [HealthCare.gov states](#) may be able to find a zero-premium plan on the platform.

**NOSORH Accepting 2021 Community Star Nominations.** The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) seeks nominations until August 2 of individuals, organizations, or consortia making a big difference in the health of rural communities.

---

**COVID-19 Resources**

**Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Distribution (RHCVD) Program.** Under the program, Medicare-certified RHCs will receive direct COVID-19 vaccines in addition to their normal jurisdictions' weekly allocation. Contact [RHCvaxDistribution@hrsa.gov](mailto:RHCvaxDistribution@hrsa.gov) for more information.



# Connect with HRSA

Learn more about our agency at:

[www.HRSA.gov](http://www.HRSA.gov)



[Sign up for the HRSA eNews](#)

FOLLOW US:



# FY 2022 FORHP Funding

Grant Program	Background	Anticipated Application Due Date	Potential Project Start Date
<a href="#"><u>Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation</u></a>	\$50 M in funding (\$1 million each) to support prevention, treatment, and recovery service delivery in rural communities.	1/13/2022	9/1/2022
<a href="#"><u>Rural Health Network Development Planning</u></a>	\$1.1 million in funding for planning and strategic efforts towards the development of new rural health networks	1/28/2022	7/1/2022
<a href="#"><u>Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program</u></a>	\$47 million in funding; up to 31 awards to expand public health capacity by supporting health care job development, training and placement in rural and tribal communities	3/15/2022	8/1/2022
<a href="#"><u>Rural Residency Planning and Development Program</u></a>	\$11 million in funding to award recipients to create new rural residency programs	12/20/2022	8/1/2022
<a href="#"><u>Delta Region Rural Health Workforce Training Program</u></a>	The purpose of this program is to educate and train future and current health professionals in the rural counties and parishes of the Mississippi River Delta Region and Alabama Black Belt	1/25/2022	9/1/2022



# FY 2022 FORHP Funding

Grant Program	Background	Anticipated Application Due Date	Potential Project Start Date
<a href="#"><u>Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) - Behavioral Health Care Support</u></a>	\$13 million for behavioral health care services and address health inequities including through evidence-based, trauma-informed treatment for substance use disorder	3/18/2022	9/1/2022
<a href="#"><u>Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program – Emergency Medical Services Supplement</u></a>	This is part of an ongoing program that goes to State Offices of Rural Health and focuses on rural EMS issues.	3/11/2022	9/1/2022
<a href="#"><u>Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program</u></a>	Up to \$8 million to support the planning and implementation of quality improvement activities for rural primary care providers	3/21/2022	8/1/2022



# Community-Based Division

## Outreach Funding Opportunity Forecast

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>Rural Health Care Services Outreach</b>				NOFO Available Fall 2024 Project Period Start 5/1/2021
<b>Rural Health Network Development</b>		NOFO Available Summer 2022 Project Period Start 7/1/2023		
<b>Rural Health Network Development Planning</b>	NOFO Available Fall 2021 Project Period Start 7/1/2022	NOFO Available Fall 2022 Project Period Start 7/1/2023	NOFO Available Fall 2023 Project Period Start 7/1/2024	NOFO Available Fall 2024 Project Period Start 7/1/2025
<b>Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement</b>	NOFO Available Winter 2022 Project Period Start 8/1/2022			
<b>Delta States Rural Development Network</b>		NOFO Available Summer 2022 Project Period Start 8/1/2023		

