



Fact sheet: HHS Investments to Strengthen Rural Health

RURAL COMMUNITIES help to power America and represent a fifth of the U.S. population, and the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to improving health outcomes and promoting health equity in rural America. In 2021, thanks to the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the Department of Health and Human Services has invested over \$16 billion to strengthen rural health as follows:

- HHS dedicated over \$350 million to support rural health programs, including efforts to reduce morbidity and mortality from substance and opioid use disorders in rural communities, increase support for small rural hospitals, advance the availability and quality of telehealth services nationwide, and strengthen the health care workforce in rural areas. This includes:
 - \$110 million to reduce morbidity and mortality from substance use disorder in rural communities, and an additional **\$24 million for rural communities** to train first responders to respond to opioid overdoses.
 - Over \$55 million in Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants to support quality and operational improvements.
 - \$13 million to sustain a network of State Offices of Rural Health, which works to link communities with state, federal, and non-profit resources to help find long-term solutions to improve rural health.
 - \$11 million for the Rural Residency Planning and Development program, which provides funding to develop and sustain rural residency programs and train physicians in rural practice settings.
- Many tribal communities face challenges in health care access due to the rural, remote, and unique geography of tribal reservations. HHS invested **\$6.2 billion** to provide high quality health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives in non-urban areas.
- Telehealth is a vital tool for expanding access to care and improving health equity, especially for rural and medically underserved communities. HHS is investing \$34 million to support the advancement of telehealth services nationwide.
- HHS has also received supplemental funding to support rural health, including **\$8.5 billion in funds** to reimburse rural health care providers for health care expenses and lost revenues attributable to COVID-19, \$398 million to support small rural hospitals in COVID-19 testing and mitigation efforts, and \$558 million to support rural health clinics in COVID-19 response.
- HHS will also invest **\$12 million over four years** in the health of mothers in rural America through the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) program.