

# **Expanding COVID-19 Response in Rural Communities through Rural Health Clinics** Fact Sheet | April 2022

To expand access to vaccines and ensure equity in COVID-19 response in rural communities, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is working with Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) across the nation to distribute vaccines, strengthen vaccine confidence, and to expand COVID-19 testing and mitigation efforts.

#### RURAL HEALTH CLINIC TESTING SUPPLY PROGRAM

The Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing Supply Program provides free COVID-19 testing supplies to CMScertified RHCs. RHCs choosing to participate receive direct shipments of COVID-19 testing supplies to distribute in their communities. Supplies available through this program include:

- At-home self-test kits
   point of care testing supplies (POC)
- other COVID-19 specific supplies such as N95 masks, as available

#### **RHC Testing Supply Program Technical Assistance**

HRSA has funded the National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) to provide participating RHCs one-on-one technical assistance.

- Email HRSA for Program Information
   Email NARHC for technical assistance
- NARHC Testing Supply Program Webpage

## RURAL HEALTH CLINIC COVID-19TESTING AND MITIGATION PROGRAM (RHCCTM)

Through the American Rescue Plan, HRSA provided over \$460 million provided to RHCs nationwide to maintain and increase COVID-19 testing efforts and expand access to COVID-19 testing and mitigation. Eligible CMS-certified RHCs received a one-time allocation of \$100,000 per RHC. As of March 2022, the RHCCTM Program and the Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Testing (RHCCT) Program supported over 25 million COVID-19 tests in rural communities.

#### **RHCCTM Program Allowable Expenses**

- COVID-19 testing-related expenses Supplies to provide testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), workforce retention and hiring efforts, health care setting/facility retrofitting
- COVID-19 mitigation Contact tracing, screening, post-COVID conditions management, community education, maintaining healthy environment
- COVID-19 mitigation-related expenses Workforce retention and hiring, health care setting/facility retrofitting, digital technologies updates
- <u>COVID-19 testing</u> Viral tests (including at-home tests) and antibody tests
- Visit the HRSA RHCCTM Program website for additional details, including important dates, allowable expenses, insurance and reimbursement, reporting, and payment process

#### **RHCCTM Program Technical Assistance**

HRSA has funded the National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) to provide participating RHCs one-on-one technical assistance.

- Email HRSA for Program Information
- Email NARHC for Technical Assistance
- Subscribe to the RHCCTM HRSA Listsery
   View Previous NARHC RHCCTM Webinars

## RURAL HEALTH CLINIC VACCINE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (RHCVD)

The RHCVD Program, developed in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, distributes COVID-19 vaccines directly to RHCs to increase the availability of COVID-19 vaccines.

#### **RHCVD Program Purpose**

- Increase COVID-19 vaccine allocation in rural communities
- Provide COVID-19 vaccine, constituent products, and supplies at no cost
- Visit the <u>HRSA RHCVD Program website</u> for additional details

#### **RHCVD Program Technical Assistance**

HRSA funded the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) to provide RHCs one-on-one technical assistance.

• Email HRSA for Technical Assistance Referral

• GHPC Resources and Webinars

## RURAL HEALTH CLINIC VACCINE CONFIDENCE PROGRAM (RHCVC)

Through the American Rescue Plan, HRSA provided over \$97 million in grant funding to 1,975 CMS-certified RHCs across 44states to strengthen vaccine confidence in rural communities. Each recipient received \$49,529 per RHC.

#### **RHCVC Program Purpose**

- Reinforce key messages about prevention and treatment of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases
- Provide information to rural residents about why, where, and how to get vaccinated
- Identify isolated and/or vaccine hesitant populations
- Provide education and outreach efforts around vaccine benefits and safety
- Visit the <u>HRSA RHCVC Program website</u> for additional details, including frequently asked questions, allowable expenses, important dates, and links to previous webinars

\$97 MILLION
TO SUPPORT
1,975 RHCs

## **RHCVC Program Technical Assistance**

HRSA funded the <u>National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health</u> (NOSORH) to provide RHCs one-on-one technical assistance.

- Email HRSA for Program Information Email NOSORH for technical assistance
- Subscribe to the HRSA RHCVCListserv NOSORH COVID-19 Resources