



Community Education Group

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<b>The Issue</b>	<b>The Providers</b>
<p>A significant number of vital health services providers are currently functionally ineligible to receive, or even apply for, many federal funding opportunities as a result of existing eligibility standards.</p> <p>Examples of this include the Provider Relief Fund, established under the CARES Act, the eligibility requirements for which excluded many providers, including free clinics, because they lack a federal designation and cannot make it through the HRSA Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer.</p> <p><b>Rural Health Service Providers (RHSPs)</b> are a vital component of the American public health infrastructure that often serve as entry points into care for vulnerable populations that may not otherwise engage in health or social services.</p>	<p><b>Rural Health Services Providers (RHSPs)</b> are domestic public or private, non-profit or for-profit organizations and corporations, including faith-based and community-based organizations that may be located in rural, suburban, or urban areas, but are providing any number of healthcare-related services in rural counties, as designated by the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), or rural census tracts in urban counties.</p> <p><b>RHSPs</b> may provide clinical, behavioral, recovery, and/or mental health services, but are not designated as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), FQHC Look-A-Likes (LALs), Indian Health Services (IHS), Tribal Hospitals, Dual-Funded Community Health Centers/Tribal Clinics, or CMS-Certified Rural Health Clinics (RHCs).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Ask</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">We are seeking four things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.) A legislative federal designation for <b>Rural Health Service Providers</b></li><li>2.) A legislative change to the definition of “rural” that would expand eligibility calculation for funding opportunities housed within the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)</li><li>3.) A \$2.5 million federal allocation for a study to determine the barriers and facilitators to accessing funds for <b>RHSPs</b></li><li>4.) A \$5 billion federal grant allocation in the next COVID-19 relief package specifically targeted at RHSPs that will allow them to build, repair, expand, modernize, and mobilize their operations</li></ol>	