

Maryland State Office of Rural Health

The Maryland State Office of Rural Health (SORH) is a state and federally funded program housed within the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA), Office of Primary Care Access (OPCA) in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The overall goal of SORH is to ensure the health needs of rural Maryland by focusing on three areas of implementation:

1. Increasing the rural community's use of data measurement and utilization to identify segments of their population with poor health outcomes and develop innovative solutions that facilitate better health outcomes.
2. Increasing workforce capacity through recruitment, retention and training of health care providers in rural areas.
3. Collaborating with DHMH, other state partners and community based organizations to facilitate strategic direction, target existing resources, and provide technical assistance to rural entities throughout Maryland.

Grant Programs SORH administers two federally funded grants from the Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA):

1. **State Rural Health Grant:** The purpose of this grant is to support the above implementation areas through collecting and disseminating information relevant to rural health partners, coordinating rural health care activities among state and community partners to avoid duplication and providing technical assistance to public and non-profit entities. A major component of these activities is funding the University of Maryland Baltimore's two Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) that serve Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore. For more information on the AHECs [click here](#).
2. **Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program:** This program provides funds to federally designated rural hospitals as defined by the HRSA Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) to help small rural hospitals meet the costs of implementing data systems, comply with HIPAA, reduce medical errors, enhance revenue cycle improvements, and support quality improvement. The program currently funds Garrett Regional Medical Center in Garrett County and McCready Health, Inc. in Somerset County.

For more information contact:

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