



North Carolina Office of Rural Health

2021 Profile (Data from State Fiscal Year 2021 and current as of 6/30/2021)

Grant Facts

\$31.1M

Available grant funding (federal, state, philanthropic)

227 FTEs

Full-time equivalent employees supported in local communities

254

Contracts to support communities

Direct Services

435,420

Patients served

84%

Of ORH funding is spent directly on communities

\$56.01

Average annual contribution by ORH per patient



71%

Patients with well controlled diabetes, as evidenced by A1c levels \leq 9



66%

Patients with well controlled hypertension, as evidenced by blood pressure levels \leq 140/90



58%

Patients screened for obesity through Body Mass Index (BMI) testing



74%

Patients screened for tobacco cessation and treatment

Overview

In 1973, the North Carolina Office of Rural Health (ORH) became the first State Office of Rural Health in the nation. Created to focus on the needs of rural and underserved communities, ORH continues to empower communities and populations by developing strategies to improve quality and cost-effectiveness of health care for all. While ORH does not provide direct care, its programs support numerous health care safety net organizations throughout the state. Continued support and recurring funding for ORH strengthened North Carolina's health care safety net infrastructure to ensure that all of the state's medically vulnerable residents (Uninsured, Underinsured, Medicare and Medicaid) have access to affordable and appropriate high quality primary care. It is a conservative estimate that the State's primary care safety net system serves 1.1 million vulnerable residents.

New Initiatives

ORH managed seven vendors selected through a NC DHHS Request for Proposals to employ Community Health Workers (CHWs) across the state. A CHW is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has a close understanding of the community served. With this program, 425 CHWs supported 55 counties with high COVID-19 caseloads, connecting 716,085 North Carolinians to medical and social support resources. The program expended \$26,493,899 in funds during FY 21 generating an average of \$37 contributed per person served.

Programs:



Rural Hospital Program

Support operational improvement projects for the benefit of all critical access hospitals and eligible small rural hospitals



Medication Assistance Program

Provide free and low-cost medications donated by pharmaceutical manufacturers to patients who cannot afford them



NC Statewide Telepsychiatry Program

Support psychiatric evaluation of patients through video-conferencing in emergency departments and community settings



Analytics & Innovations Program

Support data analytics, shortage designations, and pioneering efforts to improve health



Placement and HPSA Services

Recruit providers to health professional shortage areas



Rural Health Operations

Support state designated rural health centers that serve the entire community



Community Health Grants

Support the primary care safety net system with increasing access to health care for vulnerable populations



NC Farmworker Health Program

Support medical, dental and educational services for members of the North Carolina agricultural labor force and their families



Rural Health Information Technology Program

Provide technical assistance to improve the use of Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems and the use of the health information exchange

Return On Investment and Economic Impact



Each ORH grant dollar has a total economic impact of

\$1.94



*Economic impact is estimated to be much greater because improved health outcomes can lead to fewer missed work days, reduced health care costs, and reduced premature morbidity and mortality. Some expenses such as out of state purchases, overhead, and rollover payments are not captured for ROI and economic impact. 2019 Dataset was used for this ROI study.





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Technical Assistance

4,168 Activities in
94 Counties

Provided by ORH Staff

**Support
Recruitment
And Retention**

1,560 Activities

**Community
Development/
Assistance**

764 Activities

**Disseminate
Rural Health
Information**

699 Activities

**Other
Activities**
-Citizen Assistance
-Board Meeting
Assistance
-Data Submission
-Hosting/Attending
Conference
88 Activities

**Site
Development**

466 Activities

**Clinic
Assistance**

129 Activities

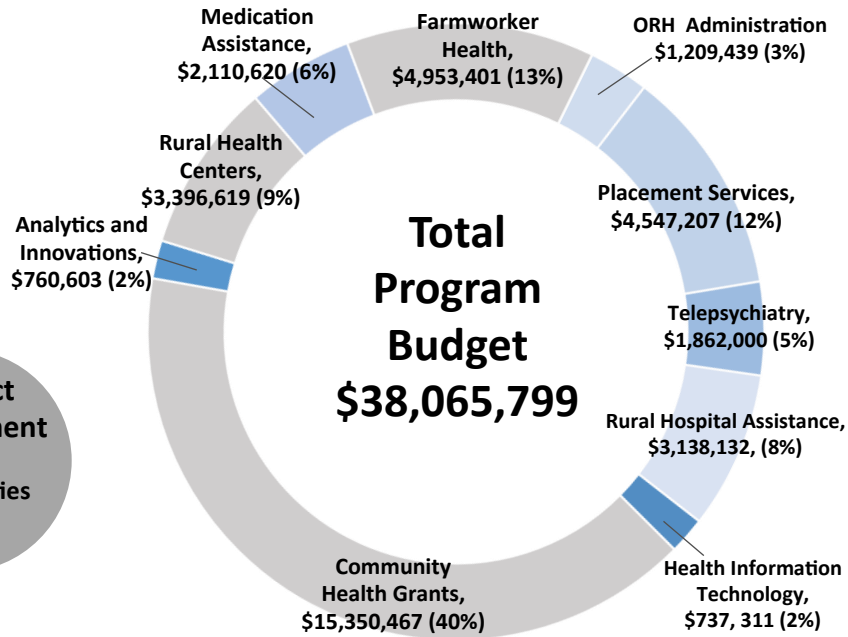
**Training
Sessions**
93 Activities

**Contract
Development**

257 Activities

**Software
Assistance**

112 Activities



Program Reach

174

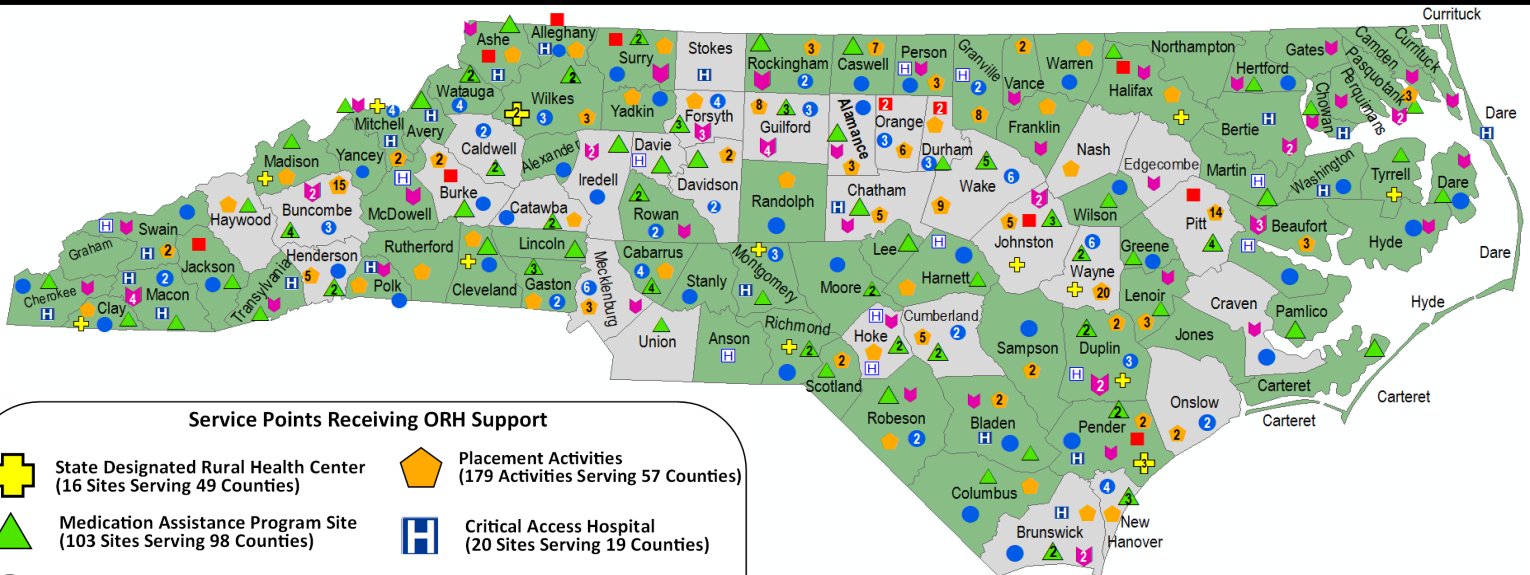
Agencies funded

100

Total counties covered

70

Rural counties covered



Service Points Receiving ORH Support

- State Designated Rural Health Center (16 Sites Serving 49 Counties)
- Medication Assistance Program Site (103 Sites Serving 98 Counties)
- Community Health Grantee (115 Grantees Serving 68 Counties)
- Farmworker Health Grantee (13 Grantees Serving 63 Counties)
- Placement Activities (179 Activities Serving 57 Counties)
- Critical Access Hospital (20 Sites Serving 19 Counties)
- Small Rural Hospital (12 Sites Serving 11 Counties)
- Telepsychiatry Site (61 Sites Serving 43 Counties)

Rural County (70 Counties)

Urban County (30 Counties)

*Numbers inside of symbols indicate number of sites, grantees, or placements, based on symbol



If you have further questions, please contact:

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