North Carolina Office of Rural Health
2022 Profile (Data from State Fiscal Year 2022 and current as of 6/30/2022)

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.

Community Health Worker Initiative
ORH managed seven vendors, funded through other NC DHHS Divisions 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, 526 CHWs supported 100 counties with high COVID-19 caseloads, connecting 2,205,791 North Carolinians to medical and social support resources. The program expended $36,358,909 in funds during FY 22 generating an average of $16 contributed per person served.

Programs:
- Rural Hospital
  - Support operational improvement projects for the benefit of all critical access hospitals and eligible small rural hospitals
- Medication Assistance
  - Provide free and low-cost medications donated by pharmaceutical manufacturers to patients who cannot afford them
- NC Statewide Telepsychiatry
  - Support psychiatric evaluation of patients through video-conferencing in emergency departments and community settings
- Community Health Grants
  - Support medical, dental and educational services for members of the North Carolina agricultural labor force and their families
- NC Farmworker Health
  - Support the primary care safety net system with increasing access to health care for vulnerable populations
- 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
- Analytics & Innovations
  - Support data analytics, shortage designations, and pioneering efforts to improve health
- Health Information Technology/Telehealth
  - Provide technical assistance to improve the use of Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems and the use of the health information exchange

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- Medication Assistance
- NC Statewide Telepsychiatry
- Community Health Grants
- NC Farmworker Health
- Placement and HPSA Services
- Rural Health Operations
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Return On Investment and Economic Impact
Source: IMPLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORH Expenditures</th>
<th>Created Economic Impact</th>
<th>Total Impact</th>
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<td>$26,402,246</td>
<td>$27,071,378</td>
<td>$53,473,624</td>
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Each ORH grant dollar has a total economic impact of $2.03

*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.*
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Technical Assistance
3,987 Activities in 95 Counties
Provided by ORH Staff

Support Recruitment And Retention
2,212 Activities

Community Development/Assistance
475 Activities

Disseminate Rural Health Information
520 Activities

Site Development
219 Activities

Other Activities
98 Activities

Contract Development
152 Activities

Conference/Regional Meetings
136 Activities

Training Sessions
89 Activities

Software Assistance
86 Activities

Program Reach
100
Total counties covered
70
Rural counties covered

174
Agencies funded

Total Program Budget
$50,659,055

- Farmworker Health, $5,401,943 (11%)
- Placement Services, $8,545,501 (17%)
- Rural Health Centers, $3,471,029 (7%)
- ORH Administration, $1,252,660 (2%)
- Analytics and Innovations, $2,794,116 (6%)
- Telepsychiatry, $1,833,137 (4%)
- Rural Hospital Assistance, $6,143,130, (12%)
- Health Information Technology, $1,052,121 (2%)

Service Points Receiving ORH Support

- State Designated Rural Health Center (23 Sites Covering 16 Counties)
- Medication Assistance Program Grantee (168 Activities Covering 47 Counties)
- Critical Access Hospital (20 Sites Covering 10 Counties)
- Small Rural Hospital (11 Sites Covering 10 Counties)
- Telepsychiatry Site (68 Sites Covering 49 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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