



Access to Quality Rural Health Services

Phone: 1-800-308-5986

<http://idph.iowa.gov/ohds/rural-health-primary-care/rural-health>

Protecting & Improving
the Health of Iowans



Rural Iowa has charming towns and productive farmlands. Residents are known for their strong work ethic and Midwest, rural way of life. However, living in rural areas sometimes means a lack of timely access to needed health care services. There are 82 critical access hospitals (25 beds or less), eight tweener (26 to 49 beds), 163 federally certified rural health clinics, and several other medical clinics and public health offices offering health and safety services to rural residents.

IDPH's Rural Health programs collaborate with key partners to coordinate strategies that ensure rural Iowans access to quality health care, occupational safety programs, coordinated community care, disease prevention services; and benefit from health professional recruitment and retention. In the most recent IDPH Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan (CHNA & HIP), health care infrastructure, including access to health services, rated as the second highest need by Iowa counties.

Did you know? According to American Community Survey 5 Year 2011–2015 estimate data, 43% of Iowans live in rural areas with 79 of the 99 Iowa counties considered rural. Agricultural workers, including those in crop and animal production, comprised 6.2% of the Iowa workforce in 2015, but accounted for 25% of all occupational fatalities.* Hospitals, clinic providers, EMS and several Iowa agricultural organizations are working aggressively to decrease farm accidents and improve the safety and health status of farmers, farm workers and farm families.

*Data calculated by the IDPH Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance Program, using US Bureau of Labor Statistics data (Current Population Study and Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries).

Why is Access to Quality Rural Health Services important to protecting and improving the health of Iowans?

- All Iowans need timely emergency health care services.
- Health care transitions to population health and coordinated community care can best serve Iowans.
- All Iowans need primary health care services, required medications to prevent serious health consequences and to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits.
- Statewide partnerships provide a high level of advocacy for health care access.
- Collaborative actions support statewide health workforce recruitment and retention strategies.
- The Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems programs maintain Iowa's commitment to become the healthiest state in the nation.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Strengthen the health infrastructure

What do we do?

- Provide funding to rural hospitals, organizations and health systems to implement projects that improve health care quality, collect and submit national data, improve financial and operational performance, and develop innovative health delivery systems.
- Provide technical assistance for a variety of improvement activities including project management, staffing, education, technology purchases and community engagement.
- Collect and disseminate information on local, state and national level rural health issues.
- Develop projects and activities that serve as models for communities throughout Iowa.
- Three rural health delivery system programs (State Office of Rural Health (SORH), Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (FLEX), and Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) collaborate with federal-state partnerships to solve challenges to rural health care access.
- Collaborate with stakeholders and partners to deliver educational offerings and training for health care providers, clinical/clerical staff, local EMS and public health staff.

How do we measure our progress?

1 Percent of Iowa hospitals reporting to Hospital Compare

	Q1 2015 to Q2 2016	SFY 2017 Goal
% of Iowa CAHs Reporting	87.8%	90%
% of US CAHs Reporting	84.8%	Unknown

Data Source: Flex Monitoring Team

www.flexmonitoring.org/data/state-level-data/

How are we doing? Hospital Compare initiative provides an important opportunity for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) to publicly report, assess and improve their performance on national standards of care.

2 Number of rural health care providers by type of facility

	SFY 2014	SFY 2015	SFY 2016	SFY 2017
Rural Health Clinics	153	157	165	163
Critical Access Hospitals	82	82	82	82

Data Source: Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

How are we doing? Access to health care services in rural areas is a national topic of conversation. Iowa has maintained the number of Critical Access Hospitals in the state and has grown the number of Rural Health Clinics over the past four years, maintaining access to health care for Iowans.

What can Iowans do to help?

1. Learn more about the Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems and the importance of rural health care access by visiting <http://idph.iowa.gov/ohds/rural-health-primary-care>.
2. Take part in local community health assessment and planning.
3. Live a healthful life, get preventive health screenings, exercise and eat nutritiously to stay well.

Expenditures

FLEX: federal grant: 0153-0914. **SORH:** federal grant: 0153-0902. **SHIP:** federal grant: 0153-0916. **Health Delivery Systems:** general fund; State funds are used for a 3:1 match for the Office of Rural Health Grant: K07-0767; K09-0905.

	State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2017 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2018 Estimate
State funds	\$396,081	\$391,084	\$231,670
Federal funds	\$1,638,952	\$1,601,567	\$1,424,074
Total funds	\$2,035,033	\$1,992,651	\$1,655,744
FTEs	4.34	5.81	5.80

Note: Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.

Iowa Department of Public Health ◆ Division of Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention ◆ Bureau of Oral & Health Delivery Systems ◆ Access to Quality Rural Health Services

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FLEX – Phone: 515-314-6912 ◆ <http://idph.iowa.gov/ohds/rural-health-primary-care/flex>

SHIP – Phone: 515-981-8944 ◆ <http://idph.iowa.gov/ohds/rural-health-primary-care/ship>

State Office of Rural Health – Phone: 515-499-4467 ◆ <http://idph.iowa.gov/ohds/rural-health-primary-care/rural-health>