

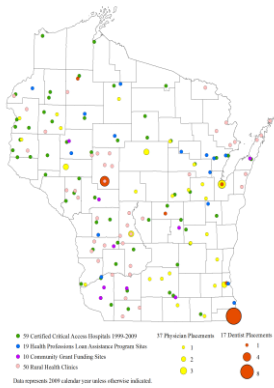


Wisconsin Office of Rural Health

Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program

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- Workforce**
 - Full time Physician and Dentist Recruiters
 - (Allied) Health Careers Website
 - Loan Assistance Program
 - WI Academy of Rural Medicine (WARM)
- Rural Hospitals/Clinics/EMS**
 - Flex Program
 - SHIP Program
- Informational Resource**
 - Daily News Feed
 - Website of resources
 - Fed/State/Regional research
- Rural Communities**
 - Rural Capacity Building
 - Rural Health Development Council
 - Health Information Technology
- Advocacy** (Federal, state and regional)
 - Connecting independent efforts
 - Academic/community partnerships

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The Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program: History

- The "Flex" Program was established by the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997
- Created the Critical Access Hospitals designation, allowing for cost-based reimbursement
- Provided Federal Funds for:
 - CAH Conversion
 - Creation of Rural Health Networks
 - Promoted regionalization of rural health services
 - Improved access to hospitals & rural health care

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Program Basics: State Flex Programs 101

- Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Rural Health Policy administers the Flex Program nationally
- Program guidelines for 10/11 focus on:
 - Quality Improvement (QI)
 - Operational and Financial Improvement
 - Emphasis on multi-state and multi-CAH projects
 - Supporting and Sustaining Critical Access Hospitals
 - Health System Development & Community Engagement: collaborations with CAHs, RHCs, EMS, CHCs
 - One-Third of funding for EMS-related projects
- 45 states participate annually
- Wisconsin was fully funded for 10/11. Grant started 9/1/2010

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2010/2011 “Flex” Projects Supporting and Sustaining CAHs

- Workshops and training
- Community Grants
- Quality Improvement Initiatives
- Technical assistance: Regulations, Reimbursement
- CAH Relocation assistance & support
- Listservs: CahCoalition, CAH Nurses, CAH Financial Managers, RHCs, EMS
- Site Visits

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2010/2011 “Flex” Projects Rural Health Clinics

- Wisconsin Rural Health Clinics Meeting
- Technical assistance: Regulations, Reimbursement
- RHC Listserv
- Case Study
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Manual
- Wisconsin Rural Health Summit
- Collaboration with WHITEC (Wisconsin Health Information Technology Extension Center) to distribute information to RHCs
- What are some other ways we can help RHCs?

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2010/2011 “Flex” Projects

Quality Improvement

- Wisconsin Pressure Ulcer Reduction & Prevention Project (with MetaStar)
- Rural Hospitals Stroke Improvement Project (with RWHC and American Heart Association)
- Improve the rate of the administration of vaccinations to eligible inpatients (with RWHC)
- Reduction in “Potentially Preventable Hospital Readmissions” (with WHA)

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2010/2011 “Flex” Projects

Health Information Technology

Collaborations with the Rural WI Health Cooperative:

- A “How-To” Manual for Meaningful Use Quality Reporting Requirements
- Weekly monitoring of national HIT, TeleHealth and ARRA news (www.worh.org/hit)
- Collaboration with the Wisconsin Health Information Technology Extension Center (WHITEC)

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2010/2011 “Flex” Projects

Financial/Operational Improvement

- 2011 Financial Impact of CAH Conversion Report
- Foundation Workshop
- Grants Management/Stewardship Workshop
- CAH Finance Workshop
- Lean Management Course
- Board Training Workshop “Trustee Boot Camp”

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2010/2011 "Flex" Projects

Rural General Surgery Initiative

- Seven Rural Hospitals will participate in a pilot program
- Goal: to assist in assuring timely access to general surgery for rural residents
- Goal: Rural hospitals are provided the right strategies to sustain appropriate general surgery services
- WORH will partially subsidize the cost of hospital participation
- WORH and RWHC will contract with a Rural Health Consultant to conduct a study

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2010/2011 "Flex" Projects

Emergency Medical Services

- "Frequent User" Study/Pilot that will determine the feasibility of EMS, CAHs, social services and Public Health working collaboratively to reduce "frequent users" of EMS and ER services
- Management and Leadership training courses
- Sponsorship of the Emergency Care and Trauma Symposium
- Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) Courses

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Small Rural Hospitals Improvement Program (SHIP)

- Applications were submitted from 58 Hospitals (of 50 Staffed Beds or less)
- Grants for approximately \$9,000 each
- Funding available 9/1/2010 – 8/31/2011
- Funds could be used in four project areas:
 - Value-Based Purchasing
 - Accountable Care Organizations
 - Payment Bundling
 - Prospective Payment Systems

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Upcoming Events

- Boot Camp for Trustees: December 4th
- Be Prepared: Take Charge of the Survey Process: December 2nd
- EMS Leadership Academies: Starting in January 2011
- WIPFLI RHC and CAH Workshop: Feb 1-3, 2011 - Bloomington MN
- WIPFLI RHC Workshop: March 15-16, 2011 in Green Bay
- WHITEC Meaningful Use Forum: Nov 18 in Pewaukee
- Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) Course: November 15-17 in Burlington

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