

# CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities

## Rural Health Overview

Rural communities comprise vast and varied landscapes that encompass micropolitan, frontier, and tribal lands, as well as U.S. territories and other island communities. In the United States, approximately one in five Americans reside in a rural, tribal, or geographically isolated (RTGI) community. These communities, made up of more than 67 million people, produce much of the nation's drinking water, food, and energy, and they have vibrant cultural heritages and strong community ties. Despite their economic and cultural importance, RTGI communities face challenges accessing essential health services and adequate health insurance coverage, which contribute to poor health outcomes and health disparities. Addressing the geographic barriers that can limit access to services and resources is important to help everyone attain their highest level of health.

## CMS Framework for Rural Health Priorities



**Priority 1:** Apply a Community-Informed Geographic Lens to CMS Programs and Policies



**Priority 2:** Increase Collection and Use of Standardized Data to Improve Health Care for Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities



**Priority 3:** Strengthen and Support Health Care Professionals in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities



**Priority 4:** Optimize Medical and Communication Technology for Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities



**Priority 5:** Expand Access to Comprehensive Health Care Coverage, Benefits, and Services and Supports for Individuals in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities



**Priority 6:** Drive Innovation and Value-Based Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities

To receive the latest news on rural health care policy and programs, [sign up for the rural health listserv](#).

To read the CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities, visit, [go.cms.gov/ruralhealth](https://go.cms.gov/ruralhealth).

The CMS Office of Minority Health offers technical assistance resources aimed to help health care organizations improve quality and advance optimal health. If you are looking for assistance, visit [our website](#) or email [CMSOMHTechnicalAssistance@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:CMSOMHTechnicalAssistance@cms.hhs.gov).

