

Rural Health Office

The mission of the Rural Health Office (RHO) is to promote the health of rural and medically underserved individuals, families, and communities through service, education, and research.

The office is located in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. Funding for the RHO comes from a variety of federal, state, and private resources.

One of our major priorities is the reduction of health disparities in rural Arizona. We continually address this priority through our service, education, and research activities.

Following are some examples of our activities that address our mission and priority area:

- Administer the state's Rural Hospital Flexibility Program to strengthen the rural hospital infrastructure through training programs and performance improvement initiatives.
- Recruit youth into health careers programs.
- Provide prevention services through a mobile health program for people without health insurance.
- Serve as an Information Clearinghouse to keep rural health advocates and providers informed about issues pertinent to their work.
- Perform rural health needs assessments in collaboration with local communities.
- Provide participatory program evaluation to support rural grant programs, with emphasis on the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Provide physician recruitment services to rural providers using the National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3-R Net).

Current Activities

- Electronic newsletter disseminated statewide
- Rural Health Resource Directory available on RHO Web site
- Arizona Rural Health Plan available on Web site
- Grant-writing skill development
- Annual rural health conference
- Annual rural health legislative forum
- Northern and southern rural health forums
- Virtual network exchanges on current issues (e.g., Lessons Learned from the Rodeo-Chediski Fire, Influenza Vaccine Shortage, Understanding and Treating West Nile Virus, Diabetes Management and Control Strategies)
- Rural hospital board governance training
- Rural Hospital Flexibility Conference
- Trauma training for ER nurses and first responders
- Balanced Scorecard Performance Improvement Initiative
- Patient Safety Performance Improvement Initiative
- Service and Education activities in collaboration with Arizona Tribes and Nations
- Quality Managers Network
- Diabetes Coordinators Network

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Web Sites

<http://www.rho.arizona.edu/>
<http://azflexprogram.publichealth.arizona.edu/>