

AMERICA'S VETERANS THRIVE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

ORH MISSION

To improve the health and well-being of rural Veterans by increasing their access to care and services.



PROMOTE
health and well-being
in the rural Veteran
population



**GENERATE
AND DIFFUSE**
knowledge regarding
rural Veteran health



STRENGTHEN
community health care
infrastructure where
rural Veterans reside



INFORM
health care policy that
impacts rural Veterans &
rural health care delivery

The Office of Rural Health (ORH) implements a targeted, solution-driven approach to increase access to care for the 2.9 million Veterans living in rural communities who rely on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for health care. As VA's lead advocate for rural Veterans, ORH works to see that America's Veterans thrive in rural communities.

To accomplish this, ORH leverages its resources to study, innovate and spread enterprise-wide initiatives through local and national partnerships.

The core solutions include:

- ▶ National rural needs assessment
- ▶ Rural Promising Practices that offer new models of rural care
- ▶ Collaborative Rural Access Solutions with VA program offices

To learn more, visit www.ruralhealth.va.gov.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



ORH 2015-2019 Strategic Plan

PROMOTE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN THE RURAL VETERAN POPULATION

KEY MEASURES

- ▶ The number of rural Veterans served by ORH-funded programs that target health promotion and disease prevention
- ▶ The number of rural Veterans served by ORH-funded programs that deliver mental health services

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Incorporate the “Voice of the Rural Veteran” to inform ORH on experiences impacting rural Veterans’ health and well-being, as well as that of their communities
- ▶ Create opportunities for rural Veterans to use available VA resources that improve health and wellness
- ▶ Support training development for providers that promote health and disease prevention for rural patients

GENERATE AND DIFFUSE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING RURAL VETERAN HEALTH

KEY MEASURES

- ▶ The number of ORH-funded studies disseminated on rural Veteran health issues
- ▶ The number of unique visitors to the ORH website

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Incorporate the “Voice of the Rural Veteran” to inform and be included in ORH studies and research
- ▶ Provide information to VA and community health care providers, administrators, and policymakers regarding rural health care, care coordination and service delivery impacting rural Veterans
- ▶ Stimulate new research, studies and innovative solutions to improve rural Veteran health and health care disparities

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE WHERE RURAL VETERANS RESIDE

KEY MEASURES

- ▶ The number of VA rural sites of care that participate in ORH-funded training sessions
- ▶ The number of student trainees who receive training funded by ORH

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Use the “Voice of the Rural Veteran” to inform ORH on rural health care infrastructure needs
- ▶ Address rural workforce staffing issues to promote timely access to high quality health care for rural Veterans
- ▶ Provide rural Veterans access to high-quality specialty and primary care services

INFORM HEALTH CARE POLICY THAT IMPACTS RURAL VETERANS AND RURAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

KEY MEASURES

- ▶ Number of VA program offices that partner with ORH to implement an enterprise-wide Collaborative Rural Access Solution
- ▶ The number of ORH active engagements with national rural health policy leaders to inform on rural Veteran health issues

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Incorporate the “Voice of the Rural Veteran” to inform rural health policy
- ▶ Address integration of rural health into federal policies and planning

21.6
million
U.S. Veterans

9
million rely on
VA for care

5.2
million Veterans
are rural

2.9
million rural
Veterans, or 56%, are
enrolled in VA care

57%
enrolled rural
Veterans are 65+

6%
are enrolled rural
women Veterans

54%
earn less than
\$36,000 annually

36%
don't access
the internet

Data is from the VA Survey of Enrollees from fiscal years 2013 and 2015, the Veterans Health Administration Support Service Center Enrollment Cube from fiscal year 2015, and the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.