

# **FY22 VETERANS RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

**Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee (VRHAC)**

**Fiscal Year 2022 Recommendations**

***To the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the VRHAC makes the following recommendations:***

**Recommendation 1: Conduct a Study to Assess VA Human Resources (HR) Hiring Processes in Rural VA Medical Centers and Community-Based Outpatient Clinics.**

- In collaboration with existing ORH efforts to assess rural workforce, fund an independent study team to complete a comprehensive study to assess VA's hiring process, focusing specifically on rural facilities and applicants. The study should begin by June 1, 2023, with a final report due by February 1, 2024.

**Recommendation 2: Conduct a Study to Understand the Mindset of Healthcare Professionals**

- Fund an independent study team to complete a future of the healthcare professions workforce study that assesses healthcare trainees' and new employees' perceptions of VA and their likelihood to practice in a rural environment. The study should include a range of health professionals (e.g., physician, nurse, medical technologist, nursing assistant, etc.) The study should begin by June 1, 2023, with a final report due by February 1, 2024.

**Recommendation 3: Enhance Rural Clinician Applicant Pipeline**

- Form a sub-committee to launch a strategic planning initiative that identifies innovative methods to enhance the rural health professionals (e.g., physician, nurse, medical technologist, nursing assistant, etc.) applicant pipeline. Strategies may include collaborating with academic partners or identifying relevant private sector initiatives.