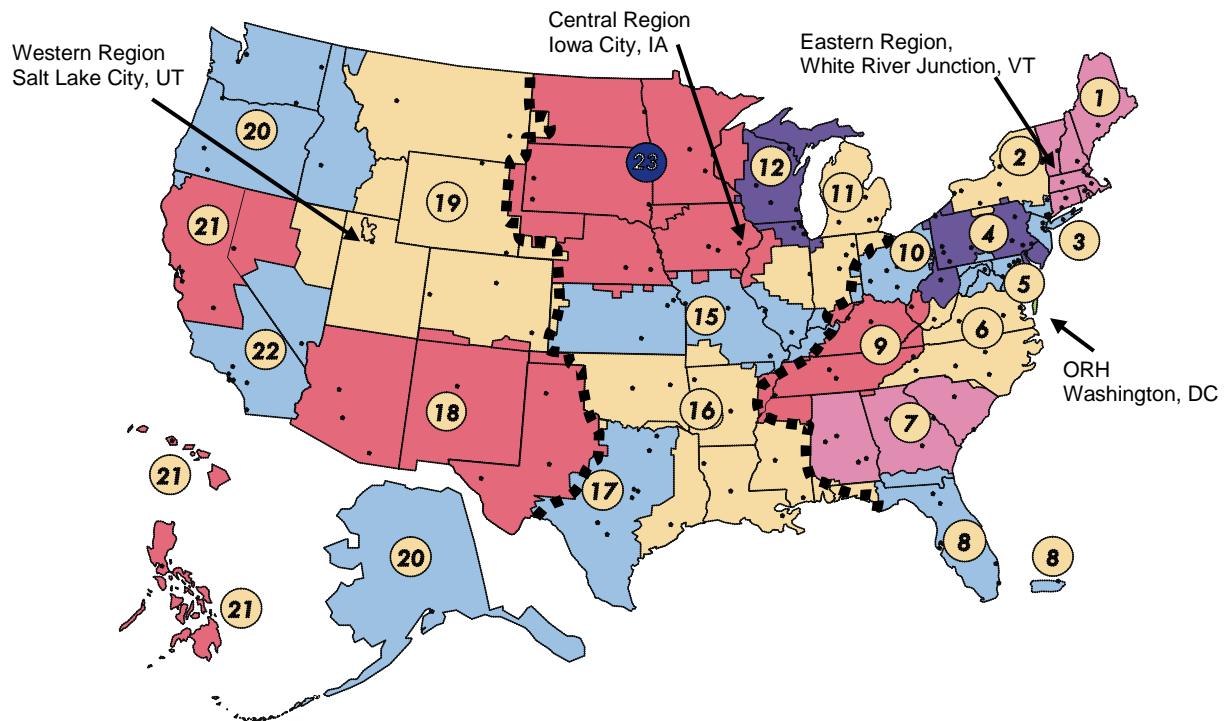




VA Rural Health Resource Center Western Region

Mission:

The Veterans Rural Health Resource Center- Western Region, based at the VA Salt Lake Health Care System, facilitates the creation of modular delivery systems targeting older and minority rural veterans that can be used as a model and adapted to all rural veteran populations. This model addresses the needs of most rural veterans and initiate timely interventions for their care.



Background:

- 38% of enrolled veterans live in rural areas
- 75% of rural veterans are over the age of 65
- These veterans consume 2-3 times more resources than their younger counterparts
- Special access issues exist for Native American & minority populations

The VRHRC-WR concentrates on three main Office of Rural Health (ORH) areas of focus:

- Access: Access is made up of two main components. First, we are assessing the needs, current level of access, and delivery gaps for veterans living in large rural cities, small rural towns, isolated rural towns, and frontier areas. Second, we are developing a clinical demonstration plan that will increase access based on identified deficiencies in the current system.
- Collaboration: A critical feature of the resource center is to partner with public and private entities to develop mutually beneficial projects in rural communities. This is especially important since many rural areas currently have no VA infrastructure. The purpose of these collaborations is to establish shared responsibilities and resources to develop and sustain healthcare for rural veterans.
- Technology: Clinical demonstrations are using telehealth, web-based, and in-home monitoring systems to address access difficulties currently present in rural communities. Technology is also used to disseminate lessons learned from each focus area to relevant groups including national, regional and local partners, healthcare providers, veterans, and caregivers of veterans.

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