The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) Office of Rural Health (ORH), in collaboration with its Veterans Rural Health Resource Centers, uses VA’s Rural Health Initiative budget of $270 million to build rural-focused health solutions that enable Veterans, regardless of where they live, to obtain a similar standard of care to their urban counterparts.

To enable VA to rapidly address systemic health care and access challenges experienced by Veterans in rural communities, ORH uses its budget to support Enterprise-Wide Initiatives (EWIs). EWIs expand national program office access efforts to VA medical centers and health care systems to better serve rural Veterans nationwide.

ORH leverages resources to study, innovate and disseminate EWIs through local and national partnerships. Initial funding support is available through ORH for VA applicants to support implementation of innovations in VA facilities across the country. ORH works with EWI program managers to provide oversight, mentorship and continuous evaluation throughout the program’s lifecycle.

EWIs are available in the following categories:

- Primary Care
- Workforce Training and Education
- Research
- Specialty Care
- Care Coordination
- Innovation
- Mental Health
- Health IT Modernization
- Transportation

### Program Highlights

In fiscal year 2018 EWIs served an estimated 2.5 million Veterans at 575 VHA sites. This year, ORH will fund 55 EWIs at 97 percent of VA medical centers across all 18 Veterans Integrated Service Networks.

- **2.5 million+ Veterans** estimated to be impacted through Enterprise-Wide Initiatives
- **$251 million** ORH funding for Enterprise-Wide Initiatives
- **50+ Enterprise-Wide Initiatives** in coordination with VHA program office partners
- **97 percent** of VA medical centers across all 18 Veterans Integrated Service Networks
Key EWI programs include:

- **Clinical Resource Hubs**
  - Use telehealth technology to connect rural Veterans with primary care, mental health and specialty care services.

- **The National Telestroke Program**
  - Virtually connects neurologists with Veterans exhibiting stroke symptoms at rural-serving VA medical centers that lack qualified clinicians.

- **Tele-Intensive Care Units**
  - Use telehealth to connect VA intensivists with rural Veterans who require emergency services and specialty inpatient care.

- **The National Teleradiology Program**
  - Provides rural VA facilities with 24-hour diagnostic image interpretation, including access to sub-specialty radiologists within VA.

To view a complete list of EWIs, visit the ORH EWI web page.

**Program Evaluation**

ORH uses the RE-AIM framework to measure the effectiveness of EWI program implementation processes and to show where those processes can be improved. Elements of the framework include:

- **Reach**: The absolute number, proportion and representativeness of individuals who are willing to participate in a given initiative, intervention or program

- **Effectiveness**: The impact of an intervention on important outcomes, including potential negative effects, quality of life, and economic outcomes

- **Adoption**: The absolute number, proportion and representativeness of settings and staff who actually initiate a program

- **Implementation**: How closely the facilities and staff adhered to the various elements of an intervention’s protocol, including consistency of delivery as intended and the time and cost of the intervention

- **Maintenance**: The extent to which a program or policy becomes institutionalized or part of the routine organizational practices and policies

Read more about the RE-AIM framework and EWI evaluations [here](#).

Congress established the Veterans Health Administration Office of Rural Health (ORH) in 2006 (38 USC § 7308) to conduct, coordinate, promote and disseminate research on issues that affect the nearly five million Veterans who reside in rural communities. The mandate also requires ORH to develop, refine and promulgate policies, best practices, lessons learned, and innovative and successful programs. Learn more at [www.ruralhealth.va.gov](http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov).