



# CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities

## Rural Health Overview

Rural communities comprise vast and varied landscapes that encompass micropolitan, frontier, and tribal lands, as well as U.S. territories and other island communities. These communities are increasingly diverse; nearly a quarter of people living in rural areas are from racial or ethnic minority groups. CMS is working to advance health equity across the nation's health system to enable people living and working in rural, tribal, and geographically isolated communities to attain their optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, preferred language, or other factors that affect access to care and health outcomes.

## CMS Framework for Rural Health Priorities



**Priority 1:** Apply a Community-Informed Geographic Lens to CMS Programs and Policies



**Priority 2:** Increase Collection and Use of Standardized Data to Improve Health Care for Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities



**Priority 3:** Strengthen and Support Health Care Professionals in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities



**Priority 4:** Optimize Medical and Communication Technology for Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities



**Priority 5:** Expand Access to Comprehensive Health Care Coverage, Benefits, and Services and Supports for Individuals in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities



**Priority 6:** Drive Innovation and Value-Based Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities

To receive the latest news on rural health care policy and programs, [sign up for the rural health listserv](#).

To read the **CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities**, visit, [go.cms.gov/ruralhealth](https://go.cms.gov/ruralhealth).

The CMS Office of Minority Health offers health equity technical assistance resources, aimed to help health care organizations take action against health disparities. If you are looking for assistance, visit [go.cms.gov/healthequityta](https://go.cms.gov/healthequityta) or email [HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov).

