Rural Transportation Opportunities
NORC at the University of Chicago is an objective and non-partisan research institution that delivers reliable data and rigorous analysis to guide critical programmatic, business, and policy decisions.

NORC’s Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, established in 1996, conducts timely policy analysis, research, and evaluation that address the needs of policy makers, the health care workforce, and the public on issues that affect health care and public health in rural America. The Walsh Center is based in Bethesda, MD.
Evidence-based Toolkits for Rural Communities

• Conducted on behalf of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

• A compilation of evidence-based practices and resources that can strengthen rural health programs

• New toolkits each year on different topics that target FORHP grantees, future applicants, and rural communities

• Applicable to organizations with different levels of knowledge and at different stages of implementation

• Hosted by the Rural Health Information Hub on the Community Health Gateway
1. Identify evidence-based and promising community health programs in rural communities

2. Study experiences of these programs including facilitators of their success

3. Disseminate lessons learned through Evidence-Based Toolkits

Rural Health Information Hub: https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/
Organization of Toolkits

Module 1: Introduction to Topic Area

Module 2: Program Models

Module 3: Implementation Considerations

Module 4: Sustainability Strategies

Module 5: Evaluation Considerations

Module 6: Dissemination of Best Practices

Module 7: Program Clearinghouse
Rural Transportation Toolkit

Welcome to the Rural Transportation Toolkit. This toolkit compiles promising models and resources to support organizations implementing transportation programs in rural communities across the United States.

The modules in the toolkit contain resources and information focused on developing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining rural transportation programs. There are more resources on general community health strategies available in the Rural Community Health Toolkit.
Organization of the Toolkit

IN THIS TOOLKIT

Modules

1: Introduction
2: Program Models
3: Program Clearinghouse
4: Implementation
5: Evaluation
6: Sustainability
7: Dissemination

About This Toolkit

• Models to Improve Access to Transportation
• Models to Overcome Transportation Barriers
• Models to Improve Transportation Safety or Infrastructure
Promising Practices for Increasing Access to Transportation in Rural Communities

Access to safe, reliable, affordable, and convenient transportation improves the livability of rural communities and quality of life for rural residents. Transportation connects residents of rural communities to employment, education, health care, child care, recreation, and other activities of daily life. Transportation also supports rural economic growth in agriculture, tourism, and service industries.

The personal vehicle is central to the transportation landscape in rural communities. Over 90% of passenger trips in rural areas occur in automobiles, compared to 84% of trips in urban areas. Public transit is limited in rural communities. 4% of rural households use public transit compared to 33% of urban households. Public transit includes fixed-route services, such as buses, which operate on a predetermined route and schedule; demand-response services, also known as dial-a-ride, which use automobiles, buses, and vans that are dispatched on demand as well as paratransit for people who cannot use fixed-route services (e.g., people with disabilities); and flex-route services, whereby drivers deviate from a fixed route upon request. Transportation safety is also an issue in rural communities due to limited investments in infrastructure and the increasing use of rural roads over time. An estimated 40% of roads in rural areas are currently inadequate for travel, while nearly 50% of bridges over 20 feet long are currently considered structurally deficient. The lower population density in rural communities further contributes to challenges constructing and maintaining transportation systems due to a lack of funding for rural transit projects.

Transportation is a significant challenge for many rural residents who cannot or do not wish to drive, or who do not have access to public transit or other transportation modes that meet their needs. The Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) funds rural communities as part of the Section 330A Outreach Authority grant program to address unique health care challenges and increase access to health care services. The Section 330A grant programs are focused on outreach and service delivery, network planning and development; clinical training, recruitment, and retention; emergency services; community and health care services outreach; and benefits counseling, among other services. Many grantees also address social determinants of health, including access to transportation, as a secondary focus area of their projects.

One of the lessons learned from the experiences of the Section 330A program is that there is a need to identify and compile promising practices and resources for rural communities to address community-specific challenges and concerns. The experiences of Section 330A grantees suggest promising strategies that can be adapted and applied in other rural communities. Grantees have successfully implemented a variety of promising practices, including:

- Transportation as a significant challenge for rural residents who cannot or do not wish to drive, or who do not have access to public transit or other modes of transportation that meet their needs.
- Barriers to accessing transportation services in rural communities include long travel distances, low population density, and safety and infrastructure issues.
- Rural communities are implementing programs that provide transportation to people on demand, for any reason.
- Mobility on demand models utilize technologies such as smartphones and mobile apps to increase access to transportation.
- Rural communities are implementing ride-sharing programs using volunteer drivers.
- When implementing rural transportation programs, it is important to collaborate with organizations that are working on transportation issues in the community.
- Rural transportation programs are exploring options to reduce social isolation for older adults and people with disabilities.

The Rural Transportation Toolkit is available at: https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/toolkit/transportation
Other Rural Toolkits

**Rural Community Health Toolkit**
Start here for a guide to building rural community health programs to address any type of health issue. Learn how to identify community needs, find evidence-based models, plan and implement your program, evaluate results, and much more.

**Aging in Place Toolkit**
Explore program models and approaches to support rural aging in place.

**Access to Care for Rural People with Disabilities Toolkit**
Learn about approaches rural communities can use to improve access to care for people with disabilities.

**Care Coordination Toolkit**
Find models and program examples for delivering high-quality care across different rural healthcare settings.

**Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Toolkit**
Learn how to develop programs to address COPD in rural communities.

**Community Health Workers Toolkit**
Learn about roles community health workers (CHWs) fill, as well as CHW training approaches.

**Diabetes Prevention and Management Toolkit**
Find resources and best practices to develop diabetes prevention and management programs in rural areas.

**Food Access Toolkit**
Explore how rural communities can improve access to healthy food.

**Health Networks and Coalitions Toolkit**
Find resources and strategies to help create or expand a rural health network or coalition.

**Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Toolkit**
Learn about strategies and models for rural health promotion and disease prevention in the community, clinic, and workplace.

**HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Toolkit**
Explore models and resources for implementing HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs in rural communities.

**Mental Health Toolkit**
Discover resources and models to develop rural mental health programs, with a primary focus on adult mental health.

**Obesity Prevention Toolkit**
Find out how rural communities, schools, and healthcare providers can develop programs to help address obesity.

**Oral Health Toolkit**
Discover rural oral health approaches that focus on workforce, access, outreach, schools, and more.

**Philanthropy Toolkit**
Find emerging practices and resources for building successful relationships with philanthropies.

**Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders Toolkit**
Learn about models and resources for developing substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs in rural communities.

**Social Determinants of Health Toolkit**
Discover evidence-based models and resources to address social determinants of health in rural communities.

**Services Integration Toolkit**
Learn how rural communities can integrate health and human services to increase care coordination, improve health outcomes, and reduce healthcare costs.

**Suicide Prevention Toolkit**
Find evidence-based models and resources for implementing a suicide prevention program in rural areas.

**Telehealth Toolkit**
Discover program examples and resources for developing a telehealth program to address access issues in rural America.

**Tobacco Control and Prevention Toolkit**
Explore program examples and resources for implementing tobacco control and prevention programs in rural areas.

**Transportation Toolkit**
Explore how communities can provide transportation services to help rural residents maintain their health and well-being.
Your First **STOP** for **Rural Health INFORMATION**

- Visit the website
  - Online library
  - Funding opportunities
  - 50+ topic guides on key rural health issues
  - State guides
  - Toolkits and model programs
  - Chart gallery and data explorer with county-level data
  - Am I Rural tool
  - More…

- **Sign up for email updates and custom alerts**
- **Contact our Resource and Referral Service**
  - 800.270.1898 or info@ruralhealthinfo.org

**All services are free!**
ruralhealthinfo.org
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Thank You!

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