

Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (Flex)

Federal funding for Critical Access Hospitals, Emergency Medical Services, and Rural Health Clinics

Federal Objectives

- Quality Improvement
- Finance and Operations
- EMS
- Community Health



Federal Restrictions

- No direct patient care
- No building or equipment



Building Our Workplan

- Available data:
 - MBQIP
 - CHNAs/CHNA-IPs
 - CAHMPAS/Financial Data
- Feedback from constituents (CAHs, EMS, RHCs)

'25/'26 Highlights

HCAHPS Improvement and Engagement

- Direct-to-Hospital funding for projects that address HCAHPS improvements and engagement.

Swing Bed Optimization

- Consultation and education to optimize swing bed quality and operations in participating CAHs.

EMS Service and Municipal Leader Consultations

- Technical assistance to local governments and their EMS agencies to improve reliability and sustainability.

Transportation Barriers to Health Care Access

- Planning grant to help CAHs in identifying transportation challenges that hinder individuals from accessing necessary services and to develop actionable solutions to overcome those barriers.

These highlights are from each objective area and are just four out of the 24 projects and activities that we offer each year!