

Rural Emergency Hospitals

What is a Rural Emergency Hospital?

Rural Emergency Hospital is a Medicare designation given to rural facilities designed to maintain access to essential emergency and outpatient hospital services within communities that cannot sustain inpatient hospital operations.

REH Service Requirements

- 24-Hour emergency & observation services
- Laboratory services
- Diagnostic radiologic services
- Discharge planning
- Pharmacy
- Additional outpatient & telehealth services



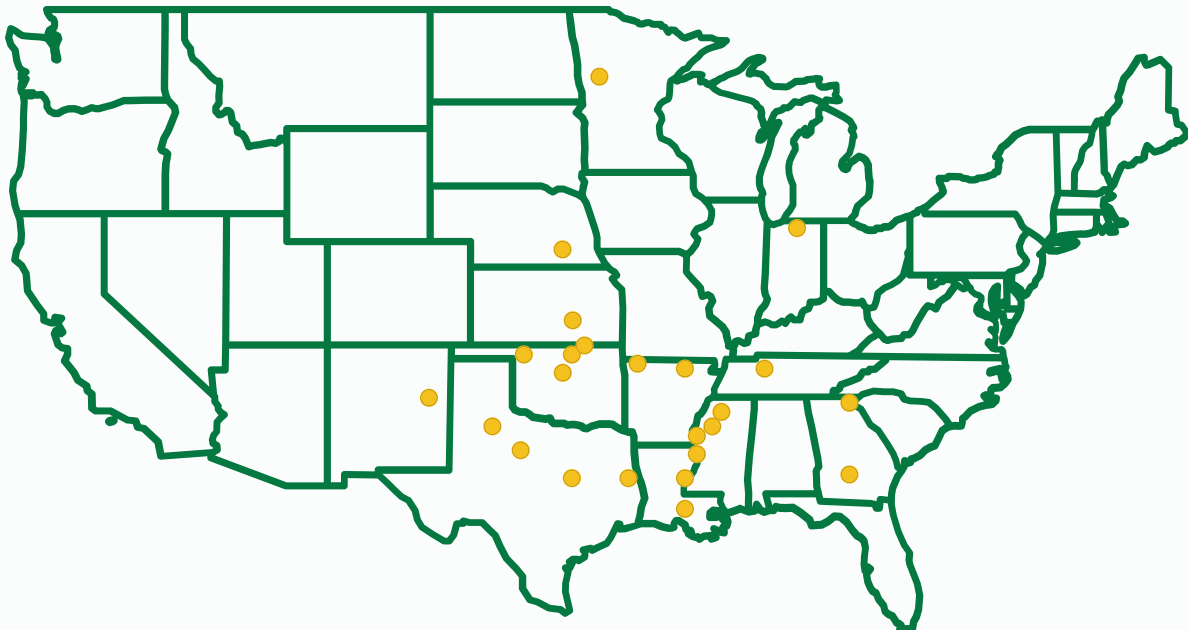
Facilities Eligible for REH Status

- Critical Access Hospitals and rural PPS hospitals with fewer than 50 beds that were in operation on December 27, 2020.
- Facilities that closed after December 27, 2020 are eligible to re-open as an REH if they meet REH Conditions of Participation.



Map of Rural Emergency Hospitals

27 hospitals have converted to a Rural Emergency Hospital since January 2023



NRHA Legislative Priorities

Rural Emergency Hospital Improvement Act (S. 4322)

Sens. Moran (R-KS) and Smith (D-MN)

Authorizes REHs to provide swing bed services



Allows DPUs for inpatient psychiatric and inpatient rehabilitation and allows obstetric labor and delivery units



Creates waiver program to allow facilities operating similarly to an REH to convert

5% add-on payment for laboratory services under Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule

Makes REHs eligible for SHIP grants and to serve as National Health Service Corps sites

Rural 340B Access Act (S. 8144 / H.R. 8144)

Sen. Peters (D-MI), Reps. Bergman (R-MI) and Dingell (D-MI)



Allows inclusion of REHs as eligible for 340B, making it a more viable option for providers and helping to keep rural ERs operational.