



North Carolina Office of Rural Health

Phone: 919.527.6440 • Fax: 919-733-8300

2015 Profile

<http://www.ncdhs.gov/divisions/orh>

Overview

In 1973, the Office of Rural Health (ORH) was created within the Department of Health and Human Services by Governor Jim Holshouser. The Office has expanded to empower communities and populations by developing innovative strategies to improve access, quality, and cost-effectiveness of health care for all. Currently, the Office has 42 employees and administers 10 programs. In SFY 2015, the Office spent \$27.6 million from state, federal, and philanthropic sources (63%, 25% and 12% of the annual budget, respectively) and administered approximately 300 contracts that support North Carolina communities.

Importance

ORH assists the underserved and vulnerable populations through the following programs:

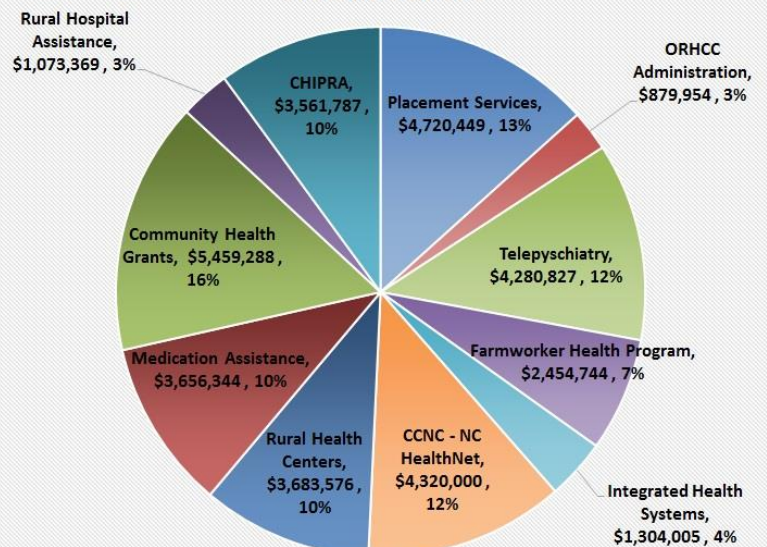
- **NC Placement Services** attracts medical, dental, and psychiatric health professionals to North Carolina's underserved areas, and offers financial incentives to eligible providers.
- **NC Rural Health Centers** create access to health care for uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid, and Medicare residents by supporting state designated rural health centers through capital grants, innovation, provider reimbursement, and technical assistance.
- **NC Community Health Grants** support the primary care safety net system to increase access or expand services to the medically indigent and vulnerable populations.
- **NC Farmworker Health Program** provides medical and dental services to members of the North Carolina agricultural labor force and their families.
- **NC Rural Hospital Program** funds operational improvement projects for the benefit of all critical access hospitals and eligible small rural hospitals in NC.
- **NC Medication Assistance Program** provides free and low-cost medications donated by pharmaceutical manufacturers to patients who cannot afford them.
- **NC HealthNet** provided quality health care via a "medical home" model by partnering with the Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) network providers and health care safety net organizations, in its final year.
- **CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant**, an enhancement to Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA), identifies strategies for improving the quality of healthcare for children.
- **NC Statewide Telepsychiatry Program** allows for the psychiatric evaluation of patients, through videoconferencing technology, in emergency departments lacking psychiatric staff.
- **NC Integrated Health Systems** provides technical assistance to communities and safety net providers seeking to improve access for vulnerable populations through integrated systems of care and innovative, strategic planning.

Program Coverage

In SFY 2015 ORH:

- Served 100 counties.
- Total Contracts:
 - 203 contracts for direct services within communities.
 - 77 contracts with incentives for providers.
 - 88% returned to rural and underserved communities
 - 146 FTEs in local community supported

ORH Services and Budgets for SFY 2014-2015





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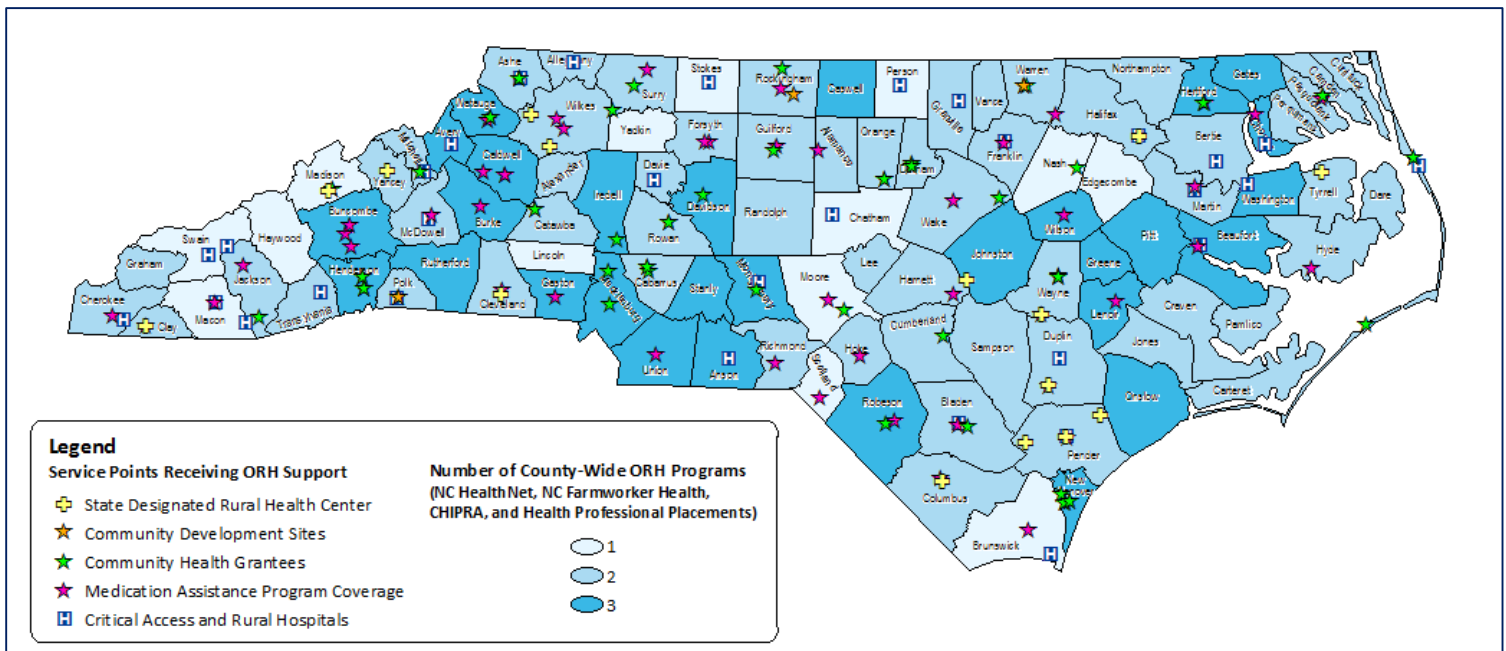
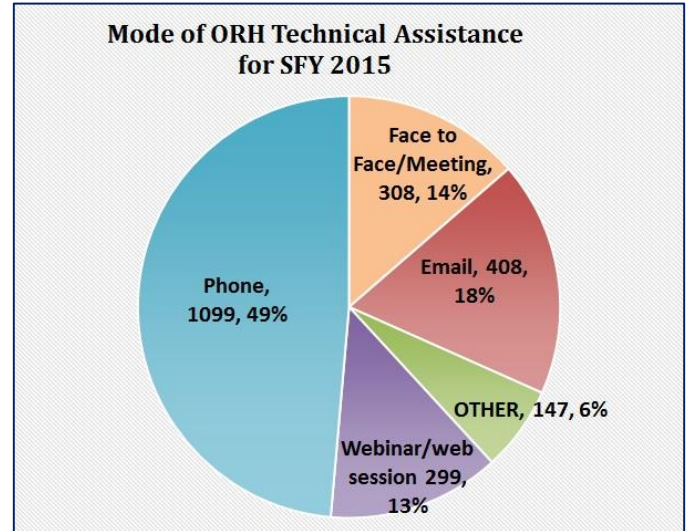
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Technical Assistance Provided by ORH

ORH provides technical assistance in addition to providing financial support. As a condition of a federal grant, the Office is required to track this information and report it on an annual basis. The nature of this technical assistance is varied and can range from directing members of the public to where they can find free and low-cost health services to advising small rural health centers and hospitals how to adapt to improve business practices. In SFY 2015, all ORH programs provided some technical assistance.

In SFY 2015, ORH provided technical assistance through 2,265 activities. The primary means of providing technical assistance was by telephone (1099 encounters), followed by email (408 encounters), face-to-face meetings (308 encounters) and webinars (299 encounters). The remaining technical assistance (147 encounters) were provided by conference calls, presentations, work groups and videoconferencing. Cumulatively, these encounters represent 1,928 person-hours or OHR staff time.



ORH provided four in depth regional ICD-10 education sessions for 256 Safetynet attendees.

If you have further questions, please contact:

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