

N.C. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Rural Health

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https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh



North Carolina Health Information Technology/Telehealth Program 2024 Profile (Data from State Fiscal Year 2024)

Program Facts

123

ORH grantees Connected to NC HealthConnex

72%

ORH grantees utilizing Telehealth applications

\$10M

Direct Appropriations from General Assembly for Virtual Behavioral Health

Hospitals awarded Virtual Behavioral **Health Grants**

16

Community Paramedicine, NC Cooperative Extension and other health educator pilot sites for program funded by ODO

Presentations and meetings with state & local EMS and rural health centers on topics related to Community Paramedicine, including telehealth

Overview:

Since 2017, the Health Information Technology/Telehealth (HITT) program at the Office of Rural Health (ORH) promotes, supports, and assists ORH grantees and safety net partners with the use of health information technology and telehealth to enhance healthcare access and delivery statewide. HITT works with the North Carolina safety net to advance telehealth and technology initiatives to address the needs of diverse populations, including rural communities, underserved populations, and individuals with complex needs. Through collaboration with NCCARE360, AHEC, and NC Health Connex, there is joint support for data sharing, health service integration, training, and technical assistance to reduce disparities and improve outcomes. The HITT program administers grants and funding and provides technical assistance to increase digital skills and literacy for patients and providers, while expanding telepsychiatry adoption across the state.

Telehealth Infrastructure Grant Program:

In Session Law 2023-134, the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$5 million in SFY 2024 and \$15 million in SFY 2025 to provide competitive grants to rural healthcare providers for telehealth-related items. Awarding of these funds to applicants will commence in SFY 2025.

HITT Initiatives

The Telehealth Infrastructure Grant (TIG) Program provides critical funding to enhance telehealth services across North Carolina. With support from the NC General Assembly, this initiative helps healthcare organizations expand telehealth capabilities by funding essential equipment, high-speed internet access, provider and patient training, and infrastructure improvements. The TIG program is designed to improve healthcare access for rural communities, reducing barriers to care and supporting providers in delivering high-quality, technology-driven health services. Priority is given to independent primary care and OB-GYN practices to ensure sustainable and impactful telehealth integration.

Virtual Behavioral Health

Telehealth

Infrastructure

Grant Program

The N.C. General Assembly appropriated State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) in Session Law 2021-180 to create the competitive Virtual Behavioral Health Services Grant Program The aim of this funding is to expand telepsychiatry capacities to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This initiative allows patients being served in primary care settings to access hospital-based virtual psychiatric assessments and consultations from a primary care provider's office, home, or another non-hospital setting.

Office of Digital **Opportunity** Through the NC Department of Information Technology's Office of Digital Opportunity, funding offered via the NC Digital Equity Act, HITT is implementing a rural community-centered digital capacity program to promote digital skills and knowledge of health language to reduce healthcare delivery gaps in communities. The project consists of initiatives that include train-the-trainer, digital skills, and health language curriculum resources, technical support, capacity building for safety net sites as well as a collaborative effort to increase broadband access with affordable, robust, highspeed internet.



COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE



HITT has promoted the use of skilled Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals beyond their normal their normal emergency response and transport roles to serve as an extension of primary care delivery for medically underserved populations. This program allows providers to extend their reach in rural areas to meet the needs of patients at their residences and provide preventive medicine and chronic disease management previously unavailable to many in rural locations. Community Paramedics have been instrumental in the successful roll out of the NC public health and primary healthcare "Hospital-at-Home" (H.a.H.) model.





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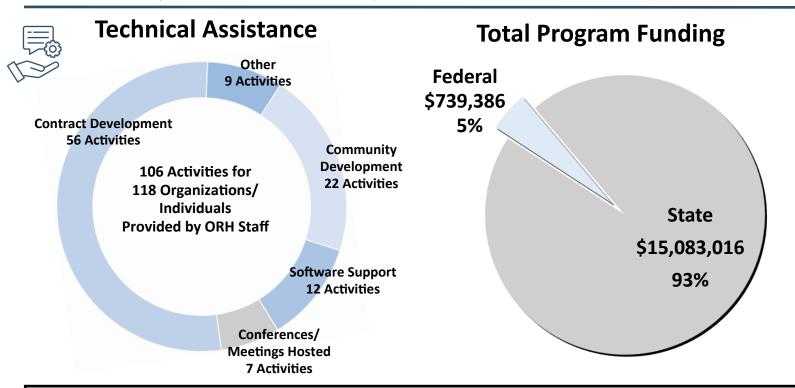
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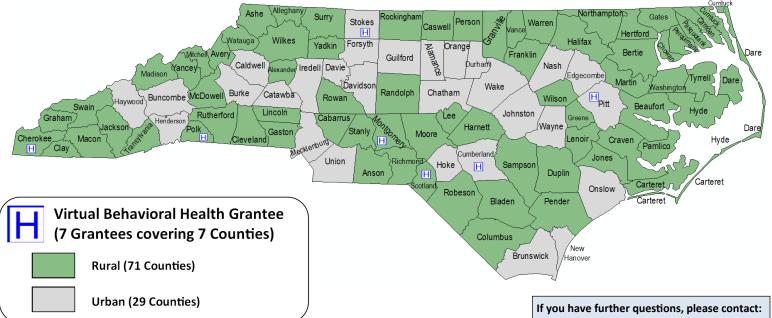


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Program Reach Rural Counties with grantees Grantees Counties with grantees





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