

Safety Net Health Care Facilities

Powered by the National Recruitment and Retention Network

3RNET.org | 1-800-787-2512 | info@3RNET.org



About 3RNET

3RNET is the most trusted resource for health professionals seeking careers in rural and underserved communities.

3RNET Mission

3RNET works to improve rural and underserved communities' access to quality health care through recruitment of physicians and other health care professionals, development of community based recruitment and retention activities, and national advocacy relative to rural and underserved health care workforce issues.

3RNET Vision

3RNET is the national leader for community-based health professional recruitment and retention, using interactive technologies and communication.

3RNET.org

Health professionals have trusted 3RNET.org to find jobs across the United States since 1995.

Rural and underserved health care employers' trusted, national platform for promoting their job openings.

3RNET's Network Coordinators

3RNET is powered by the National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network.

3RNET Network Coordinators can guide health professionals through their job search process.

Network Coordinators support employers in rural and underserved communities with hiring and keeping mission-focused health professionals.



About this Guide

This guide is a basic overview of the different types of safety net health care facilities.

Trusted, Reliable Information

3RNET and our national network of Coordinators, the National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network, are committed to providing unbiased, reliable information for health professionals.

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This guide was created in a collaborative effort to combine the expertise and industry knowledge of 3RNet's Network Coordinators.

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The Health Care Safety Net

What is the
“Health Care Safety Net”?

We define a health care safety net facility as a rural, urban, public or nonprofit healthcare organization with a stated mission or mandate of serving a low-income population, regardless of patients’ insurance coverage, ability to pay or immigration status.



Types of Safety Net Facilities

Critical Access Hospital (CAH)

Rural hospitals with 25 or fewer acute care inpatient beds that provide 24/7 emergency care services.

Community Health Center (CHC)

Nonprofit, patient-governed organizations that provide high-quality, comprehensive primary healthcare to people living in areas with few primary care providers. Health centers help increase access to crucial primary care by reducing barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, distance, and language for their patients.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)

Specially-designated clinic required to serve anyone who requests care for mental health or substance use, regardless of their ability to pay, place of residence, or age, and are designed to ensure quick access to coordinated comprehensive behavioral health care.

[CCBHC Locator: List of CCBHCs by State](#)

Correctional Health Facility

Community health encompassing healthcare and well-being for individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system.

Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)

Community-based programs that offer a variety of services to support mental health.

Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)

FQHCs, also referred to as community health centers, are public and private non-profit community-based and patient-directed health care organizations that receive federal funding to provide primary care, dental care, and behavioral health care to all patients, regardless of income or insurance status. FQHCs include community health centers, migrant health centers, healthcare for the homeless health centers, and public housing primary care centers.

FQHC Look-a-Like

Health centers that provide similar services as FQHCs but do not receive federal health center funding.

Indian Health Service site (IHS)

Part of the federal government that delivers health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives and provides funds for tribal and urban Indian health programs.

Types of Safety Net Facilities

Rural Health Clinic (RHC)

Utilize the skills of primary care Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioners and receive enhanced Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements which allow clinicians to live and practice in rural, underserved areas of the country.

Rural Emergency Hospital

Designed to maintain access to emergency outpatient hospital services in communities that may not be able to support or sustain a Critical Access Hospital or small rural hospital. REHs are required to provide 24-hour emergency and observation services and can elect to furnish other outpatient services. An REH cannot have inpatient beds, except those furnished in a distinct part unit licensed as a skilled nursing facility.

State Mental Health Hospital

A facility that provides specialized inpatient care for mental health conditions. Also referred to as Psychiatric Hospitals, which are facilities that provide specialized inpatient care for mental health conditions.

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facility

Inpatient or outpatient facility providing treatment program for substance use disorders offering individual, group, or family therapy sessions.

Veterans Affairs (VA) site

Provides Veterans with the full continuum of health care, which comprises health promotion, disease prevention, diagnostics, therapeutic and rehabilitative care, recovery and palliative care.



Other Types of Health Care Employers

- Academic Training Institutions
- Ambulatory/Outpatient Surgical Centers
- Clinics and medical offices (private or hospital-based)
- Community Hospitals (private or non-profit)
- Dental Clinics
- Dialysis Facilities
- Hospice Care Facilities
- Imaging and Radiology Centers
- Large Medical Centers
- Long-term Care Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Pharmacy
- Private Practices
- Rehabilitation Centers
- School-based Clinics
- State Department of Health /County health clinics
- Telehealth
- Urgent Care Centers



Resources

Government Offices Supporting Safety Net Facilities

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)
<https://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/forhp>

Primary Care Offices (PCO)
<https://bhw.hrsa.gov/shortage-designation/hpsa/primary-care-offices>

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
<https://www.samhsa.gov/>

Other Helpful Resources

Health Centers: A Guide for Patients
<https://bphc.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bphc/about/health-center-handout.pdf>

Rural Health Information Hub (RHInfo)
<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Map (CCBHC Locator Map from The National Council for Mental Wellbeing)
<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/program/ccbhc-success-center/ccbhc-locator/>

Associations Supporting Safety Net Facilities

3RNET
<https://www.3rnet.org/>

American Hospital Association Rural Health Services (AHA)
<https://www.aha.org/advocacy/rural-health-services>

Association Of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)
<https://clinicians.org/>

National Association of Rural Mental Health (NARMH)
<https://www.narmh.org/>

National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)
<https://www.nachc.org/>

National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC)
<https://www.narhc.org/narhc/Default.asp>

National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA)
<https://www.nnoha.org/>

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing (NCMW)
<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org>

National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH)
<https://nosorh.org/>

National Rural Health Association (NRHA)
<https://www.ruralhealth.us/>

Primary Care Associations (PCA)
<https://bphc.hrsa.gov/technical-assistance/strategic-partnerships/primary-care-associations>



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The Nation's Most Trusted Resource for Health Professionals
Seeking Careers in Rural and Underserved Communities.