



# AMERICA'S VETERANS THRIVE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

## ORH MISSION

**Improve the health and well-being of rural Veterans through research, innovation, and the dissemination of best practices.**



### PROMOTE

**federal and community care solutions for rural Veterans**



### REDUCE

**rural health care workforce disparities**



### ENRICH

**rural Veteran health research and innovation**

The Office of Rural Health (ORH) implements a targeted, solution-driven approach to increase access to care for the 2.7 million Veterans living in rural communities who rely on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for health care. ORH works to see that America's Veterans thrive in rural communities.

To accomplish this, ORH leverages its resources to research, innovate and disseminate enterprise-wide initiatives through local and national partnerships.

### The core solutions include:

- ▶ National rural needs assessment
- ▶ Rural Promising Practices that offer new models of rural care
- ▶ Enterprise-Wide Initiatives
- ▶ Public-private partnerships
- ▶ Cross-agency collaboration

**To learn more, visit [www.ruralhealth.va.gov](http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov).**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**VHA** | OFFICE OF  
RURAL  
HEALTH

# ORH 2020-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

## PROMOTE FEDERAL AND COMMUNITY CARE SOLUTIONS FOR RURAL VETERANS

### OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Unite relationships within VA and the federal government to exchange rural-centered information
- ▶ Collaborate with non-governmental organizations that support rural Veterans' health and well-being
- ▶ Expand ORH's partnership and programming reach

## REDUCE RURAL HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DISPARITIES

### OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Expand understanding of current rural health care workforce
- ▶ Support rural implications of the MISSION Act

## ENRICH RURAL VETERAN HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

### OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Increase rural Veteran health research
- ▶ Innovate new models of care for Veterans who live in rural communities
- ▶ Build recognition of VA's rural research, innovations and outcomes

## KEY MEASURES

- The number of Veterans served by ORH-funded programs
- The number of ORH-funded programs
- The number of ORH-funded telehealth programs
- The number of unique VA sites of care that participate in ORH-funded programs.

**19.9**

million U.S. Veterans

**8.4**

million rely on VA for care

**4.7**

million Veterans are rural

**2.7**

million rural Veterans, or 32%, are enrolled in VA care

**55%**

enrolled rural Veterans are 65+

**7%**

are enrolled rural women Veterans

**55%**

earn less than \$35,000 annually

**35%**

of rural Veterans don't access the internet

Data is from the VA Survey of Enrollees from fiscal year 2018, the Veterans Health Administration Support Service Center Enrollment Cube from fiscal years 2017 and 2018, and the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.