

Enterprise-Wide Initiatives

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Rural Health (ORH) and its five Veterans Rural Health Resource Centers use VA's rural health initiative budget to build rural-focused health solutions that enable Veterans to obtain a similar standard of care, regardless of where they live.

To enable VA to rapidly address systemic health care and access challenges experienced by Veterans in rural communities, ORH supports Enterprise-Wide Initiatives (EWIs). EWIs expand national program office access efforts to VA medical centers and health care systems to better serve rural Veterans nationwide.

ORH leverages resources to research, innovate, and disseminate EWIs through local and national partnerships. Initial funding support is available through ORH for VA applicants to support implementation of innovations in VA health care facilities across the country. ORH works with EWI program managers to provide oversight, mentorship, and continuous evaluation throughout the program's lifecycle.

EWI categories include:



Primary Care



Specialty Care



Mental Health



Workforce Training and Education



Care Coordination



Telehealth Clinical Resource Hubs



Research



Innovation



Transportation

Program Highlights

In fiscal year 2022, EWIs served an estimated 1.3 million+ Veterans at 646 VHA sites. This year, ORH will fund 36 EWIs at 100% of VA health care systems.

1.3 million+ Veterans estimated to be impacted through Enterprise-Wide Initiatives

35+ Enterprise-Wide Initiatives in coordination with VHA program office partners

\$267.6 million for Enterprise-Wide Initiatives and Rural Promising Practices

100% of VA health care systems

Key EWI programs include:



Clinical Resource Hubs use telehealth technology to connect rural Veterans with primary care, mental health, medical specialty, rehabilitation and extended care, and surgery services.



The National Telestroke Program virtually connects neurologists with Veterans exhibiting stroke symptoms at rural-serving VA medical centers and emergency departments that lack qualified clinicians.



Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI) provides training for residency proctors, enabling them to better train, mentor, and monitor residents serving rural areas.



National Telecritical Care (TCC) Program uses telehealth to connect VA intensivists with rural Veterans who require emergency services and specialty inpatient care.

To view a complete list of EWIs, [visit](#) the ORH EWI web page.

Program Evaluation

ORH uses the RE-AIM framework to measure the effectiveness of EWI program implementation processes and to show where those processes can be improved. Elements of the framework include:

- ✓ **Reach:** The absolute number, proportion, and representativeness of individuals who are willing to participate in a given initiative, intervention or program
- ✓ **Effectiveness:** The impact of an intervention on important outcomes, including potential negative effects, quality of life, and economic outcomes
- ✓ **Adoption:** The absolute number, proportion, and representativeness of settings and staff who actually initiate a program
- ✓ **Implementation:** How closely the facilities and staff adhered to the various elements of an intervention's protocol, including consistency of delivery as intended and the time and cost of the intervention
- ✓ **Maintenance:** The extent to which a program or policy becomes institutionalized or part of the routine organizational practices and policies

Read more about the RE-AIM framework and EWI evaluations [here](#).

The Office of Rural Health (ORH) works to see that America's Veterans thrive in rural communities. To support the health and well-being of rural Veterans, ORH and its Veterans Rural Health Resource Centers establish and disseminate initiatives that increase access to care for the 2.7 million rural Veterans enrolled in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' health care system. Key focus areas include programs that address workforce shortages, transportation, primary care, mental health, telehealth, and specialty care.