

INFORMATION SHEET

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, regardless of where they live, to obtain a similar standard of care to their urban counterparts.

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 facilities across the country. ORH works with EWI program managers to provide oversight, mentorship and continuous evaluation throughout the program's lifecycle.

EWIs are available in the following categories:

 Primary Care	 Workforce Training and Education	 Research
 Specialty Care	 Care Coordination	 Innovation
 Mental Health	 Telehealth Clinical Resource Hubs	 Transportation

Program Highlights

In fiscal year 2020 EWIs served an estimated 7.3 million Veterans at 689 VHA sites. This year, ORH will fund 41 EWIs at 100 percent of VA health care systems.



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



\$279 million
for Enterprise-Wide
Initiatives and Rural
Promising Practices



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



100 percent
of VA health care systems

Key EWI programs include:



Clinical Resource Hubs

use telehealth technology to connect rural Veterans with primary care, mental health and specialty care services.



Rural Interprofessional Faculty Development Initiative (RIFDI)

provides training for residency proctors, enabling them to better train, mentor, and monitor residents serving rural areas.



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.



Tele-Intensive Care Units

use 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. To learn more, visit www.ruralhealth.va.gov.