



Heritage
College of
Osteopathic
Medicine



AOGME Webinar, August 25, 2021

THE RTT COLLABORATIVE

Giving voice to rural communities and rural GME

Randy Longenecker, Executive Director



Objectives

- Describe the RTT Collaborative including its mission, scope and role as the only entity in the U.S. solely devoted to developing and sustaining health professions education and training in rural places
- Define a "rural program" for purposes of rural GME
- Present RTT Collaborative resources, which include reliable information, targeted technical assistance and consultation





The RTT Collaborative

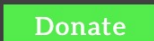
in rural health professions education and training

Growing our own...together

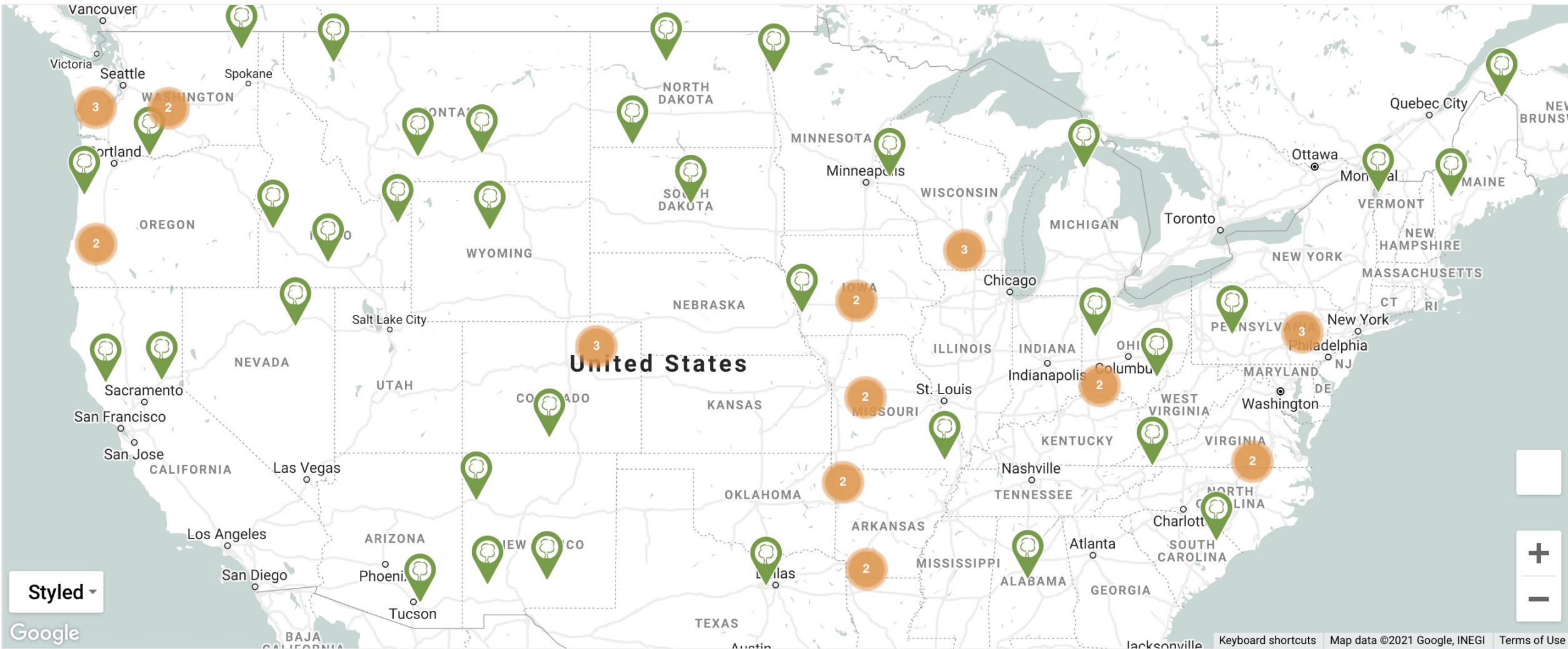
A rural health professions education network and a
cooperative extension service

“a community of practice”

<https://rttcollaborative.net/about/>



Map of Participating Programs



Styled ▾

Google



Giving Voice to Rural Communities and Rural Programs

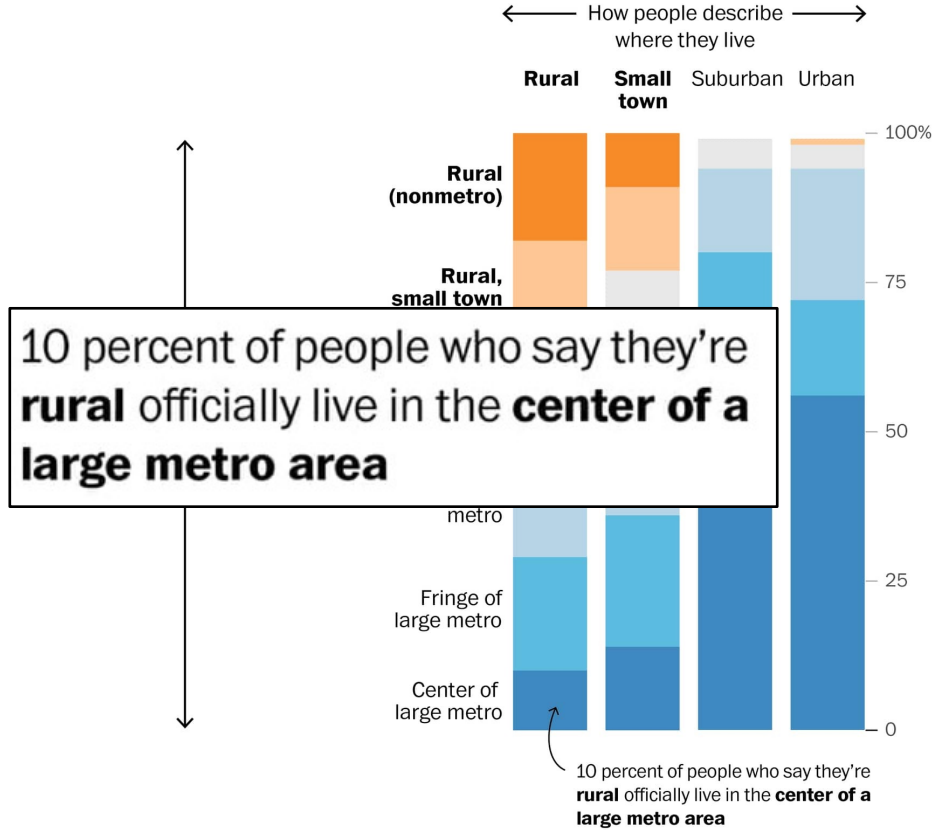
Janelle Lee, Port Angeles, WA

What is Rural?



Official classifications vs. people's perceptions

Where people who describe themselves as "rural" or "suburban" in a poll actually live, according to official statistics. (Percentages are based on columns)



Note: Percentages may not total to 100 due to rounding. Official categories are based on classifications from the National Center for Health Statistics

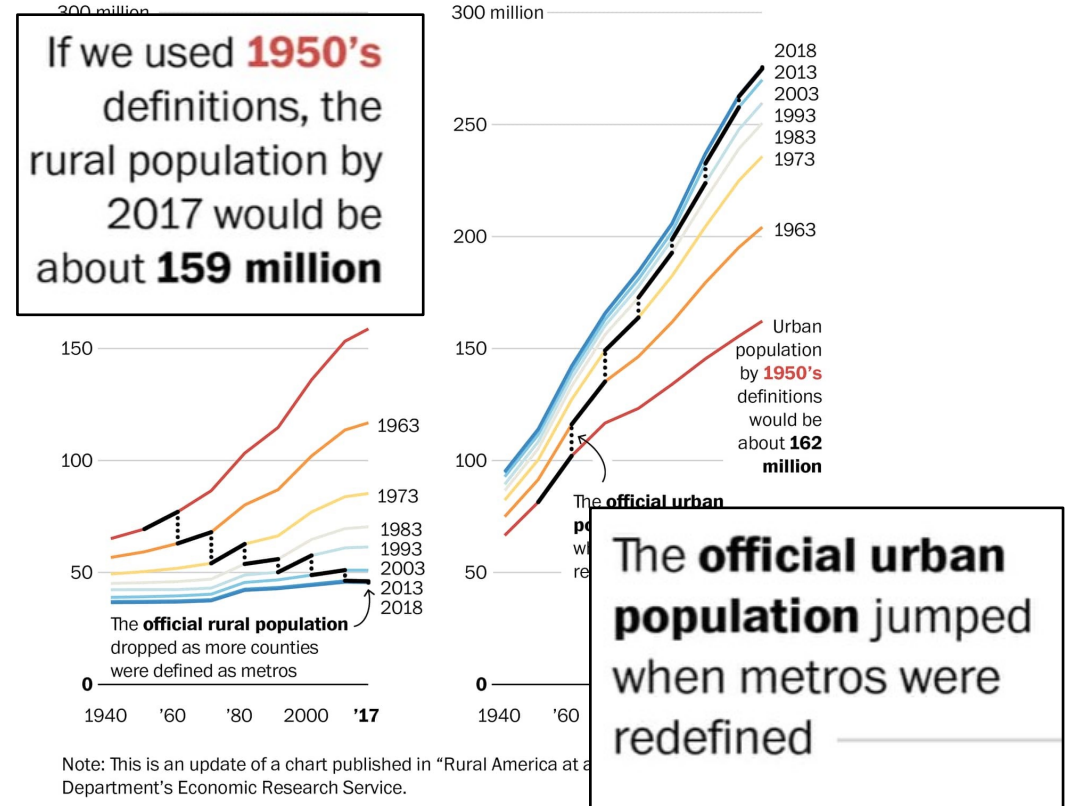
Source: Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation poll conducted in 2017
THE WASHINGTON POST

Where rural America would be under prior definitions

When we break the United States down by older county classifications, we see the entire population shift from rural to urban comes from fast-growing counties being redefined as metropolitan statistical areas.

Rural (nonmetropolitan)

Urban (metropolitan areas)



Note: This is an update of a chart published in "Rural America at a Department's Economic Research Service.

Sources: Office of Management and Budget; Census Bureau via NRGIS
THE WASHINGTON POST

What is Rural?

Am I Rural?



1. More than 75 definitions across all federal agencies
2. More than 20 federal definitions used in the area of rural health
3. Those commonly used:
 - Metro and Non-metro counties (CBSA and Non-CBSA) – Not urban
 - FORHP (Federal Office of Rural Health Policy)
 - RUCC (Rural-Urban Continuum Codes; county level)
 - RUCA (Rural-Urban Commuting Area codes; census block or zip)
 - FAR (Frontier and Remote codes; distance from urban)



What is a Rural Program?

The RTT Collaborative (2017)

An accredited residency program in which residents spend the majority of their time training (more than 50%, as reported to CMS and/or HRSA) in a rural place. The location of a rural program in Family Medicine is defined by the geographic location of the primary Family Medicine Practice (FMP) where residents meet the ABFM requirement for 24 months continuing practice.



The RTT Collaborative

Students & Residents

Admin & Faculty

Community



Donate

About

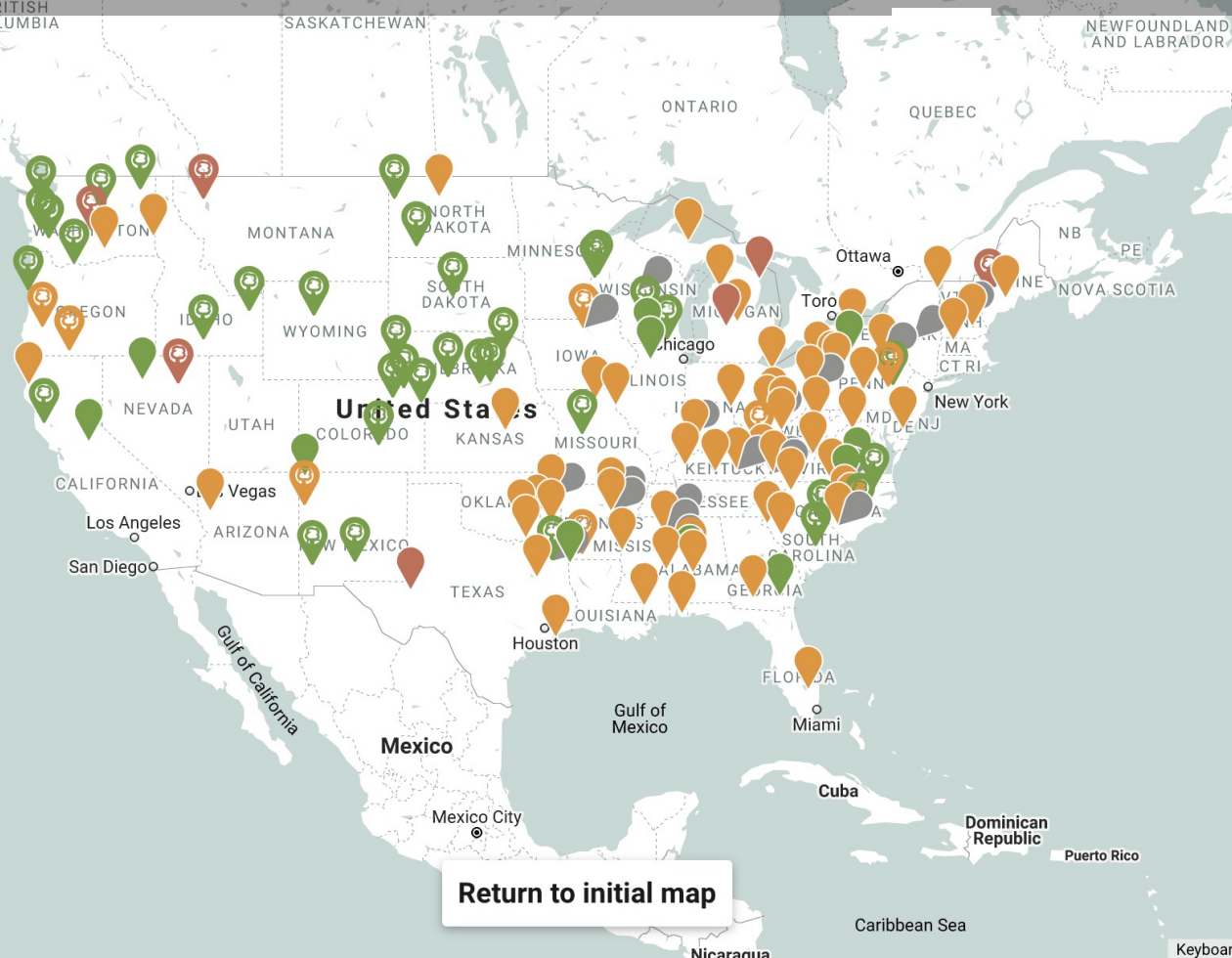
News

Explore

Assistance

Meetings

Contact



Program Type Filter

- IRTT-like/FamMed
- IRTT/FamMed
- Rural Programs/Other
- Rurally located/FamMed

Icon Legend

- RTTC participating program



Styled ▾

Google

Return to initial map



Keyboard shortcuts | Map data ©2021 Google, INEGI | Terms of Use



<https://rttcollaborative.net/rural-programs/residency-map/>



What is a Rural Program?

- Rurally located program (>50% training in a rural place)
- Rural Track Program (RTP; >50% training in a rural place, with an urban or larger rural partner)
- Rural pathway for individual residents in an urban program (<50%)
- Longitudinal curricula (e.g., one rural month a year for 3 years)
- Rurally focused urban programs - >35% placement of graduates into a rural place of practice averaged over 3 years, or >3 graduates per year. See RTTC [Rural Graduation Recognition List](#).

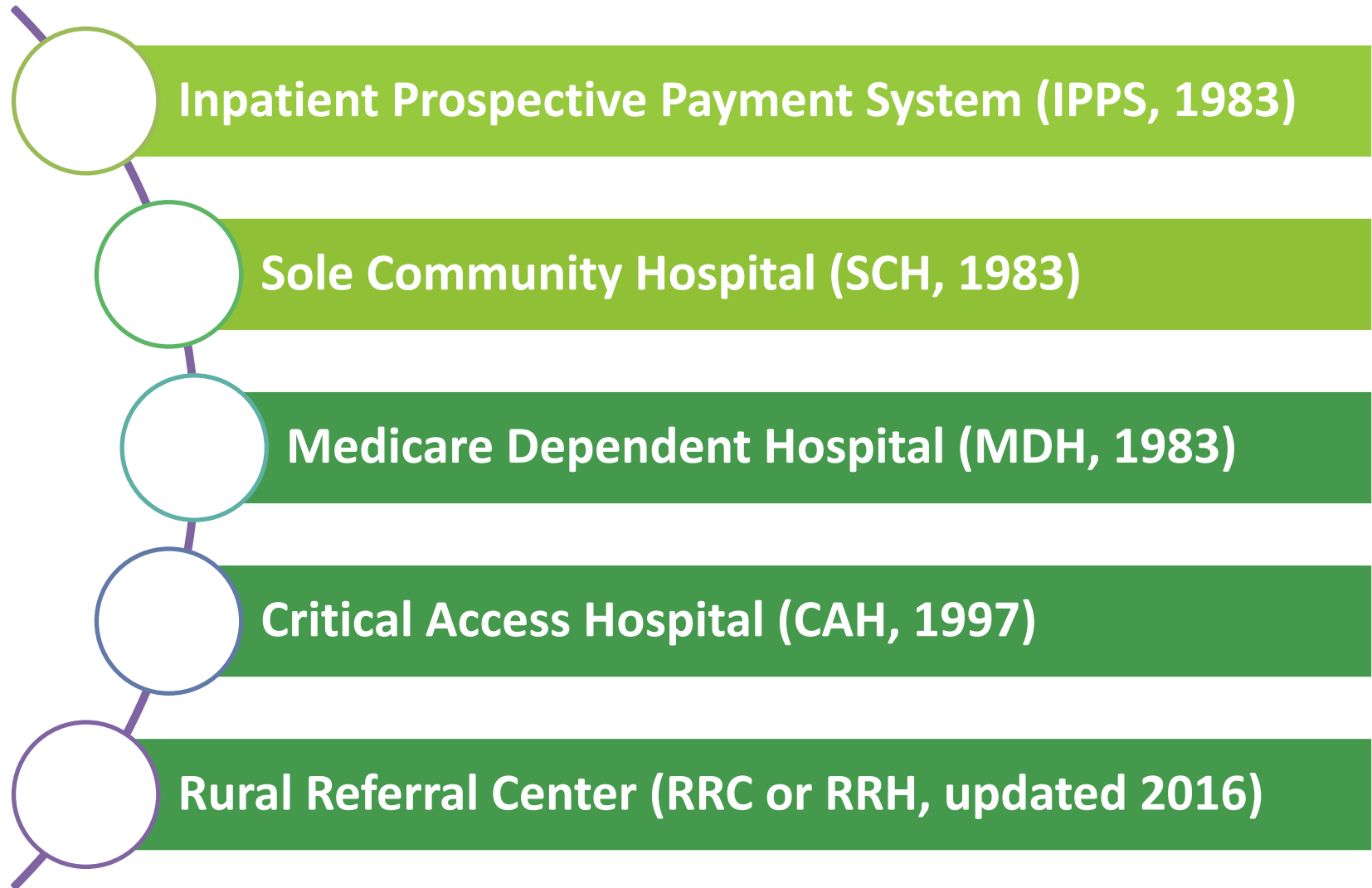
CMS Definition for Rural GME

“Am I Rural for GME purposes?”

Two categories:

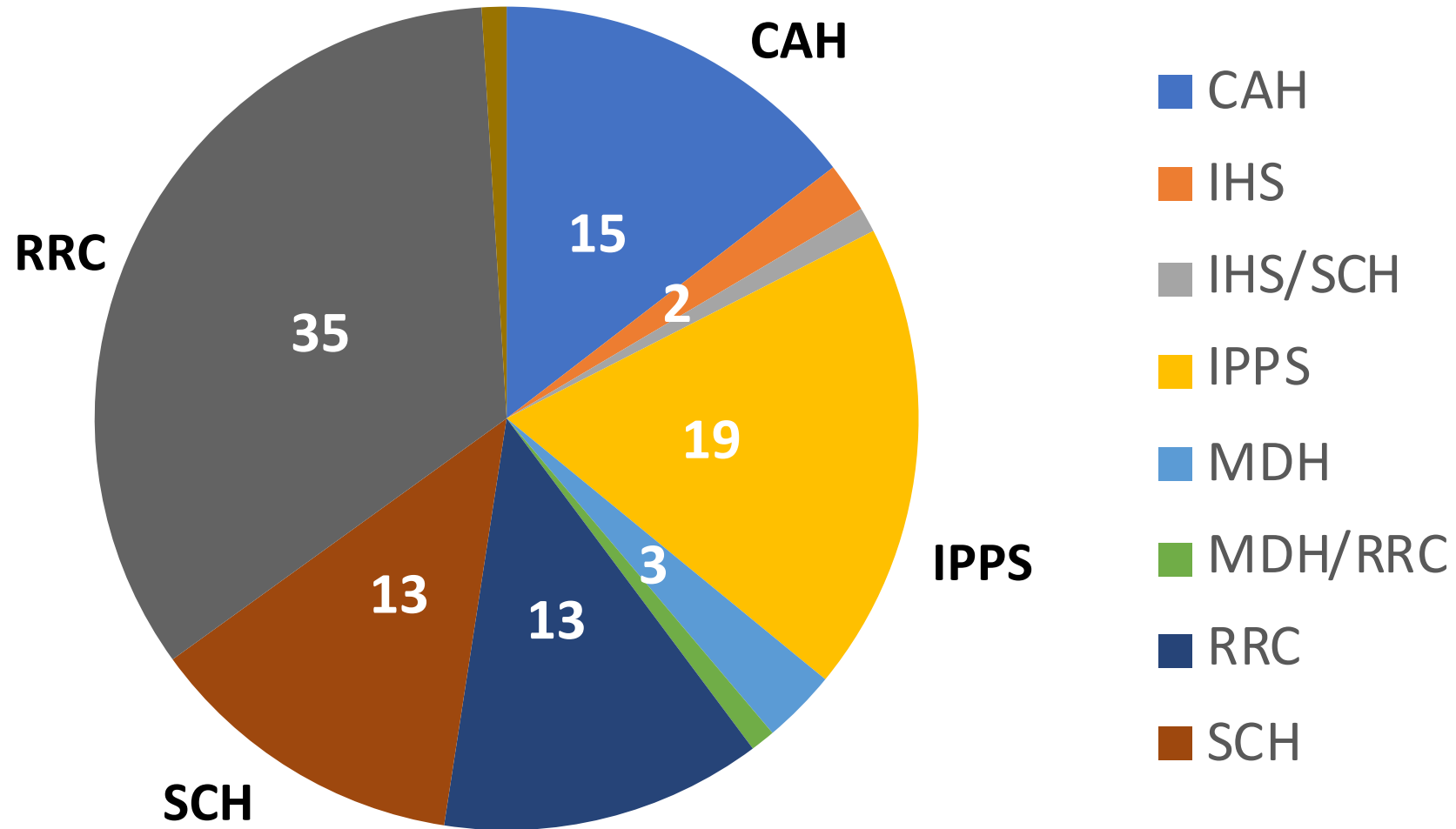
- ❖ Metropolitan county (CBSA)
- ❖ Everything else (Rural)

Rural Hospital Medicare Provider Types





Rural FM Residency Hospital Types 2020





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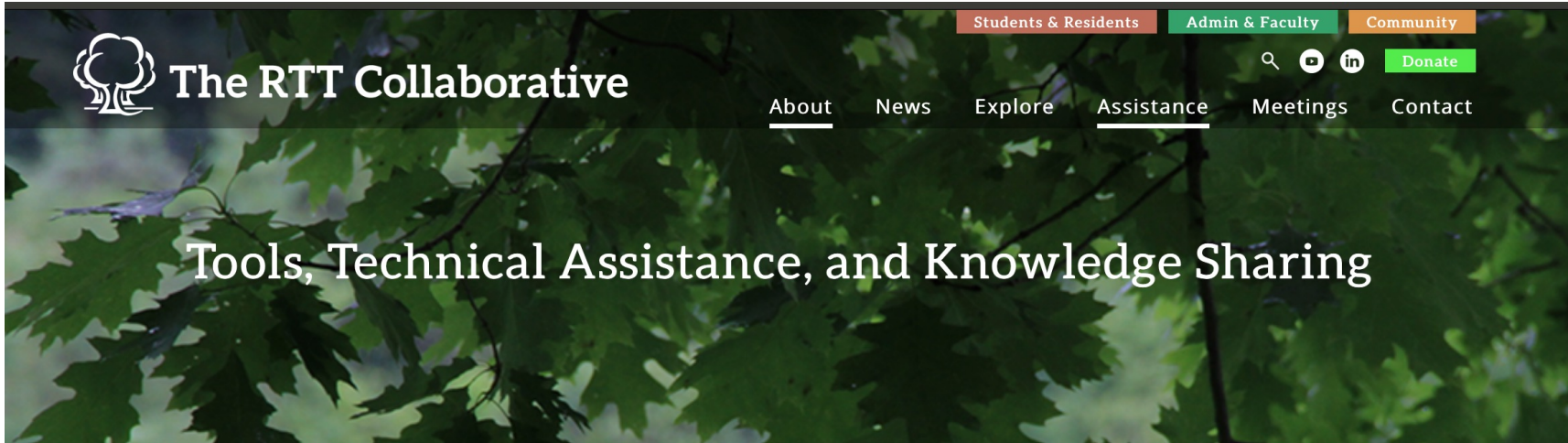
“a community of practice”

<https://rttcollaborative.net/about/>



Join the movement

- [Attend an annual meeting](#)
- [Join the RTT Collaborative listserv as an individual](#) and receive a quarterly newsletter
- [Become a participating program](#) by completing and submitting an application and paying an annual participation fee
- [Ask for a consultation or other service](#)



The RTT Collaborative provides free and fee-based services to individuals and organizations.

Free Tool for Determining Community Capacity for Residency Education

Planting TREES [TREES-2019-Optimized.pdf \(2 MB pdf\)](#)

Our approach to residency design and development is [organic and place-based](#). For a published commentary on this approach, [click here](#). For an outline of this process for academic-community engagement and collaborative decision-making and a portfolio of tools and links to additional resources download this [TREES-2019-Optimized.pdf \(2 MB pdf\)](#)

. This is a free resource, developed in collaboration with Western Montana Family Medicine Residency and funded in large part by a HRSA Residency Training in Primary Care grant #D58HP23226 and the RTT Technical Assistance Program has been refined in use over the past 3 years. Initially named CERE-R it has been renamed “TREES” for **Training and Rural health professions Education that is community Engaged and Sustainable**.

Formal and Informal Consultation

[Start with an email](#) *to request a 15-30 minute free phone call, or complete and email an [RTTC Consultation Request](#).*

As a network of programs and individuals with experience in professional education and health practices in rural areas, one of our most important assets is the distributed knowledge and technical expertise represented by our participants. Such knowledge is integral to the sustainability and improvement of education for health professionals in rural places, and the RTT Collaborative is committed to making that knowledge easily accessible in both formal and informal ways.

Communications and Knowledge Sharing

Learn more about our consultative services and fees

A formal consultation may aid in accreditation, curriculum design, and/or sustainability planning, and can be conducted through telephone, videoconferencing, and on-site visits. This service is important for programs that are designing and developing a new residency or other rural programs, need help with strategic planning, are trying to develop community initiatives, are having difficulty with sustainability or conflict, or are simply looking to improve the performance of an existing program.

To initiate a conversation regarding your options, contact Dr. Longenecker by email at longenec@ohio.edu.

About our Consultants

Each of our consultants has personal experience in the design, development, and direction of rural residency programs and as such is a “near-peer” to others engaged in the same work.



Consultation Services

Growing and Sustaining Rural Programs

Design first, then build and sustain

A design consult and paired peer visit, either in person or online, is an important first step on the [Roadmap to Rural Residency Program Development](#). Only after careful attention to building for sustainability can recommendations be made regarding financial estimates, necessary capital improvements, the process of accreditation, faculty recruitment and development, further community engagement, and promotion of the program to prospective trainees. Like building a house, success depends upon good design. The RTT Collaborative team brings deep knowledge on matters of accreditation, finance, governance and community engagement to this task. We conduct consultations in pairs, with expertise tailored to the community's and program's needs.

Brief videoconference consultations and targeted technical assistance (\$300* per hour)

Meet our Consultants

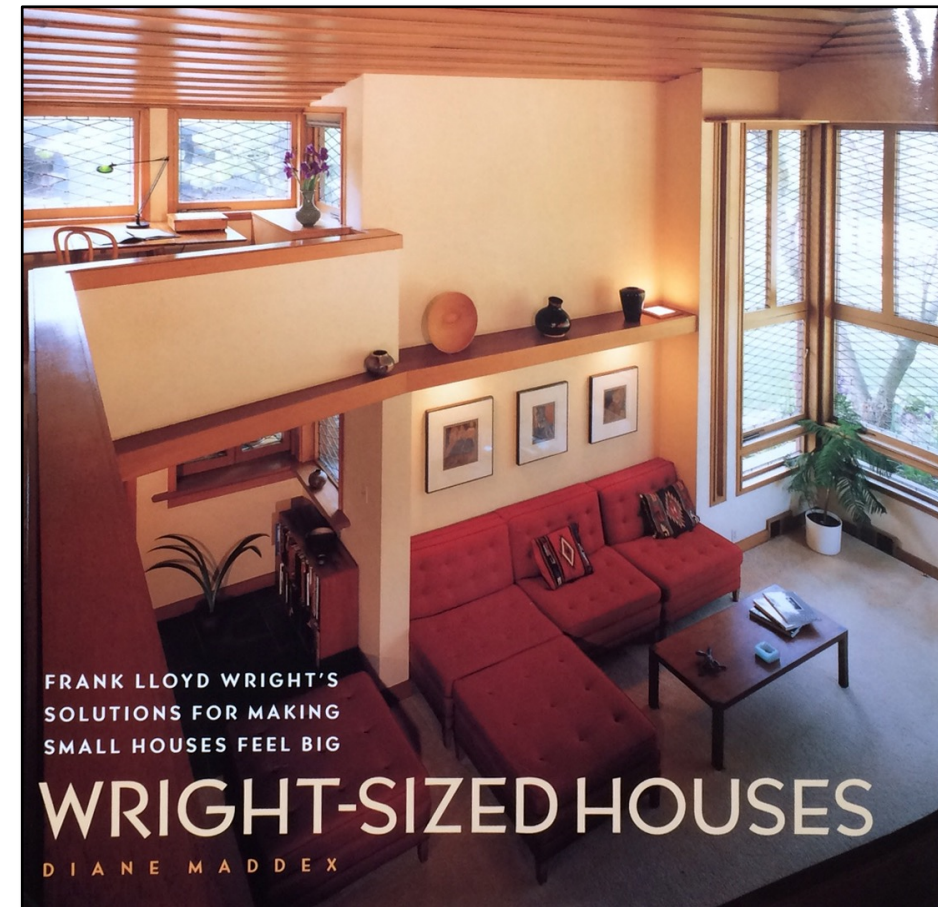
The RTT Collaborative provides brief, targeted assistance in the form of videoconference consultation billed at an hourly rate.





An Organic Approach

- Designed to fit the assets and capacity of the rural community, all within the rules of accreditation and finance, but creatively adapting those rules to local realities
- Grown over time, not imposed
- One size does not fit all





Students and Residents

- Rural Life & Practice
- Facts & Myths
- Rural Residencies**
- Residency & Map
- Real Stories
- Financial Resources (RHI Hub)
- Write Rural Doc

Rural Residency Fest July 21, 2021

Click [here](#) to find out more and to register – this year for students of any specialty interest. View video of last year's event below, focused on Family Medicine.

Rural Residency Fest 2020

Rural Residency Fest - Online

July 22, 2020

Courtesy of The RTT Collaborative - <https://rttcollaborative.net>

Watch on YouTube

Opportunity for Funding of Scholarly Activity

Microresearch Details

[Learn more about it here](#)

National and International Groups of Interest, Open to Students

AAFP Rural Health Member Interest group (AAFP Student Members welcome)

[Learn more about them here](#)

National Rural Health Association Student Constituency Group (Student membership \$16; Residents \$79)

[Learn More](#)

[Membership Information](#)





RURAL RESIDENCY RESOURCES

If you would like to access our portal containing resources for developing rural residencies, please use the link below to register online.

[REGISTER](#)

[RURAL GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



Comments? Questions?

References



Longenecker R. An Organic Approach to Health Professions Education and Health Equity: Learning In and With Underserved Communities, *J Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, November 2020, Supplement;31(4):114-119.

Planting Trees: Free Tool for Determining Community Capacity for Residency Education;
<https://rttcollaborative.net/about/tools-and-assistance/>

Hawes EM, Weidner A, Page C, Longenecker R, Pauwels J, Crane S, Chen F, Fraher E. A Roadmap to Rural Residency Program Development, *Journal of Graduate Medical Education* August 2020;12(4):384-7. <https://doi.org/10.4300/JGME-D-19-00932.1>

Longenecker R, Hawes E, Page C. Cultivating Healthy Governance in Rural Programs, *J Grad Med Educ* (2021) ;13(2):174–176. <https://doi.org/10.4300/JGME-D-20-00825.1>

Rural Residency Planning and Development – Portal of resources: <https://www.ruralgme.org>

Contact



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Thanks!