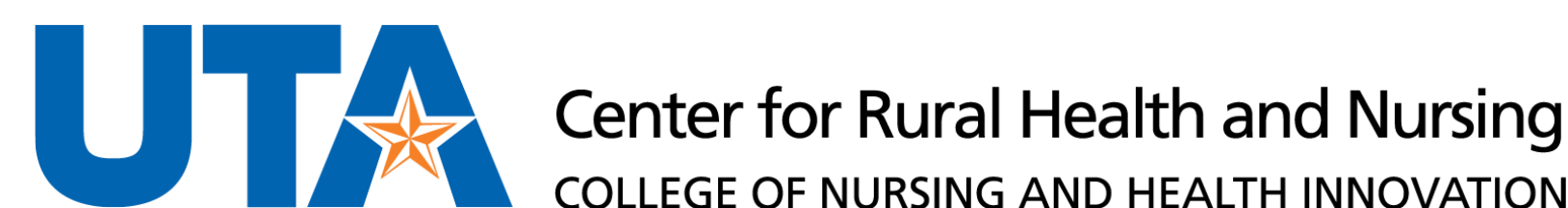


Rural Emergency Hospital Designation Program: An Overview

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RURAL HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE

Rural patients face challenges accessing health care

- Increases vulnerability to acute and chronic health problems

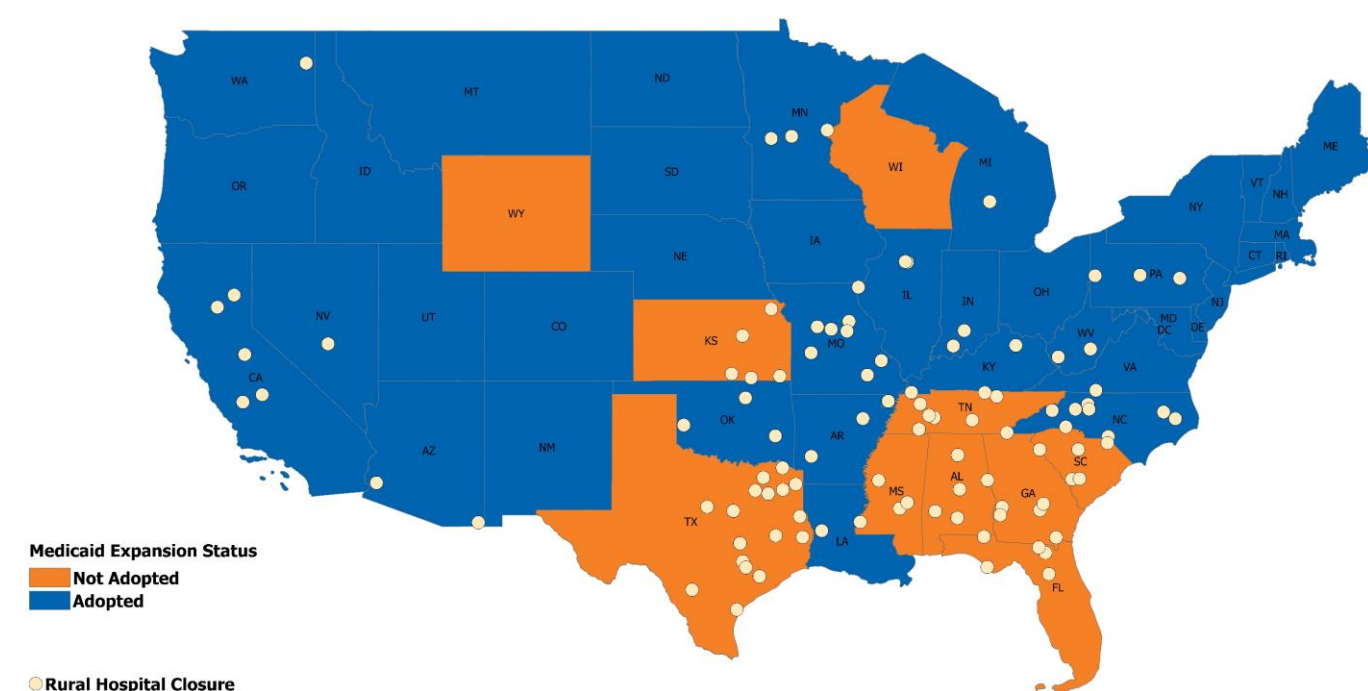
Rural areas often have

- Higher rates of uninsured, unemployment, poverty, morbidity, and mortality

Rural hospitals often the only source of health care in their communities

- Over 100 rural hospitals have closed since 2005
- Majority of closures in states that have not expanded access to Medicaid
- Texas leads nation with 17 closures

Rural Hospital Closures, Mar 2005 - Oct 2023
Medicaid Expansion Decision Status by States, 2023



Closures leave rural residents without local access to health care

- Contributes to rural disparities in morbidity and mortality

To address continued disparities

- Ensure that rural residents have access to health care via hospitals within their community

RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITAL DESIGNATION PROGRAM

Purpose

- To maintain access to critical services in rural communities

Eligibility

- Critical Access Hospitals and rural acute care hospitals with 50 or fewer beds
- Located in rural area (or have rural classification) if not designated as a Critical Access Hospital

Conditions of participation (partial list)

- No acute inpatient care services
- Staffed Emergency Department
- Average annual length of stay less than 24 hours
- Not eligible to participate in 340B program

Medicare payments

- Outpatient Prospective Payment System rate plus 5%
- Receive an additional facility payment every month

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF CONVERTING

Benefits

- Preserves access to emergency care in rural communities
- Reduces financial strain/risk of closure
- Rural hospitals can still provide skilled nursing

Challenges

- Loss of services for rural communities
- Hospital could be seen as “abandoning” community
- Potential job loss for community
- Effect on highly vulnerable populations is unclear
- Issues surrounding transportation

RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITALS IN TEXAS

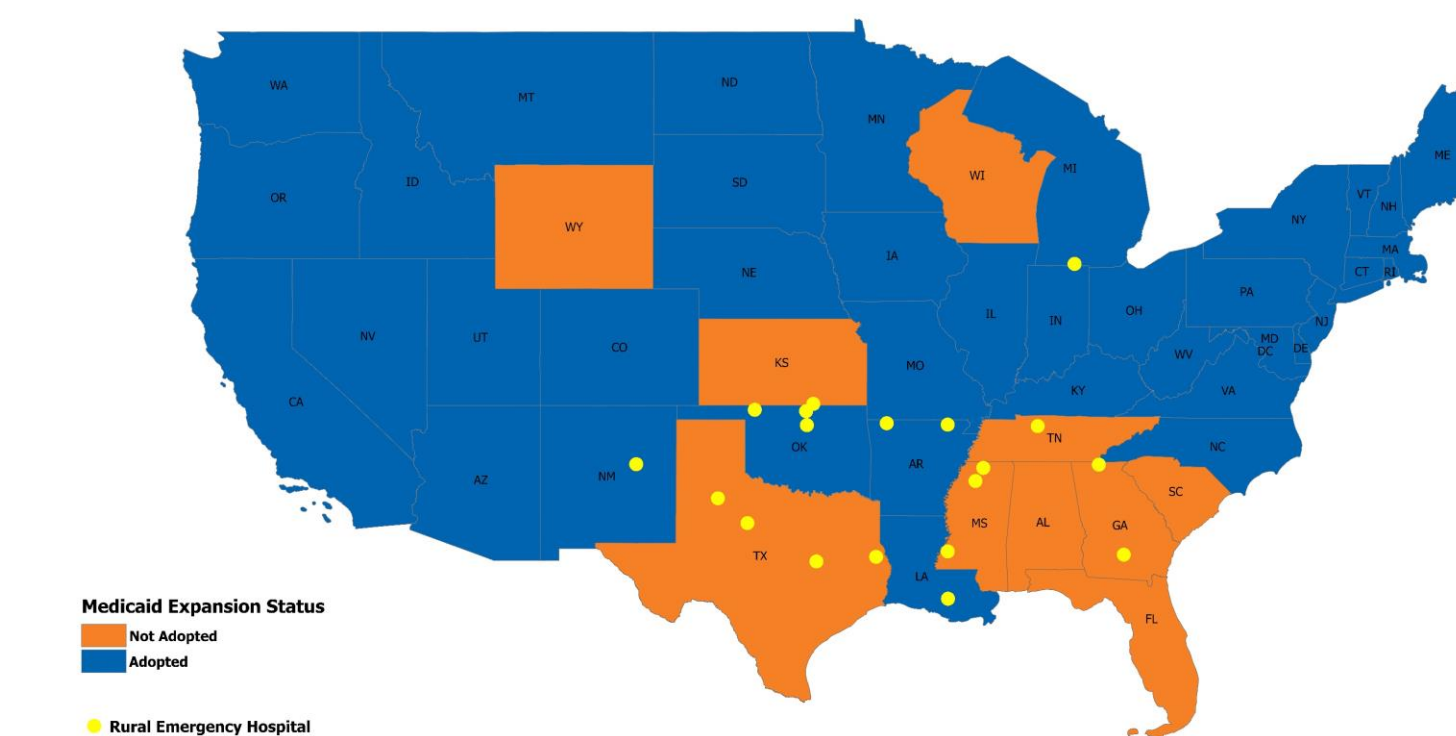
States must establish licensing, staffing, and regulatory requirements before hospitals can convert

- 15 states, including Texas, have done so

19 hospitals across the United States have converted to Rural Emergency Hospitals as of 12/1/2023

- Many in states that have not expanded access to Medicaid

Hospitals Converted to Rural Emergency Hospitals, 1/30/2023 - 12/1/2023
Medicaid Expansion Decision Status by States, 2023



Rural Emergency Hospitals in Texas

- First hospital to convert was in Texas
 - Crosbyton Hospital
- Three additional rural emergency hospitals
 - Anson General Hospital
 - Falls Community Hospital and Clinic
 - St. Luke’s Health Memorial Hospital-San Augustine
- First rural emergency hospital to close in United States
 - St. Mark’s Medical Center in LaGrange, TX

