



Colorado Rural Health Center

Colorado Rural Outreach Program (CROP)

The mission of Colorado Rural Outreach Program (CROP) is to strengthen the ability of Colorado's rural communities to recruit and retain healthcare providers. CROP grants can be used for payment of educational loans to help recruit and/or retain healthcare providers.

Educational Loan Repayment

Funds can be used to help with the reduction of healthcare professional educational loans. Healthcare professionals include physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, providers of mental and dental health services, allied health professionals (for example lab or radiology technicians), and pharmacists. The maximum amount of funding available is \$10,000 each year. Applicants are eligible to apply for a second and third year of funding, but preference will be given to new applicants. A loan repayment award can be requested to serve as an incentive in recruitment of a critically needed healthcare professional or as a means of retention if the provider is vital to the community and loan repayment is a part of a larger retention plan.

→ *Contact the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) to determine whether or not a specific type of provider is eligible.*

What is the definition of rural? For purposes of this program, rural is defined as:

- In a county outside Colorado's seventeen (17) Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Gilpin, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Park, Pueblo, Teller, and Weld;
OR
 - In one of these MSA counties, but located more than 30 miles from the nearest hospital of more than twenty five beds.
- *CRHC will make final determinations regarding whether a community qualifies as rural for purposes of participation in CROP.*

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"Enhancing healthcare services in Colorado by providing information, education, linkages, tools & energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues."

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