



## **Rural and Community Health**

*December 2016*

Washington's rural health program works to sustain access to high quality health care services in rural communities and to resolve the disparities in health and access to care that face rural populations. We provide technical assistance and help communities address local problems, often linking people to others who have found solutions or who have relevant resources. We work to make sure health professionals of all kinds are available to work in rural and urban underserved communities. The Rural Health team provides information about rural health systems to the public, legislators and other policy makers.

### **Services**

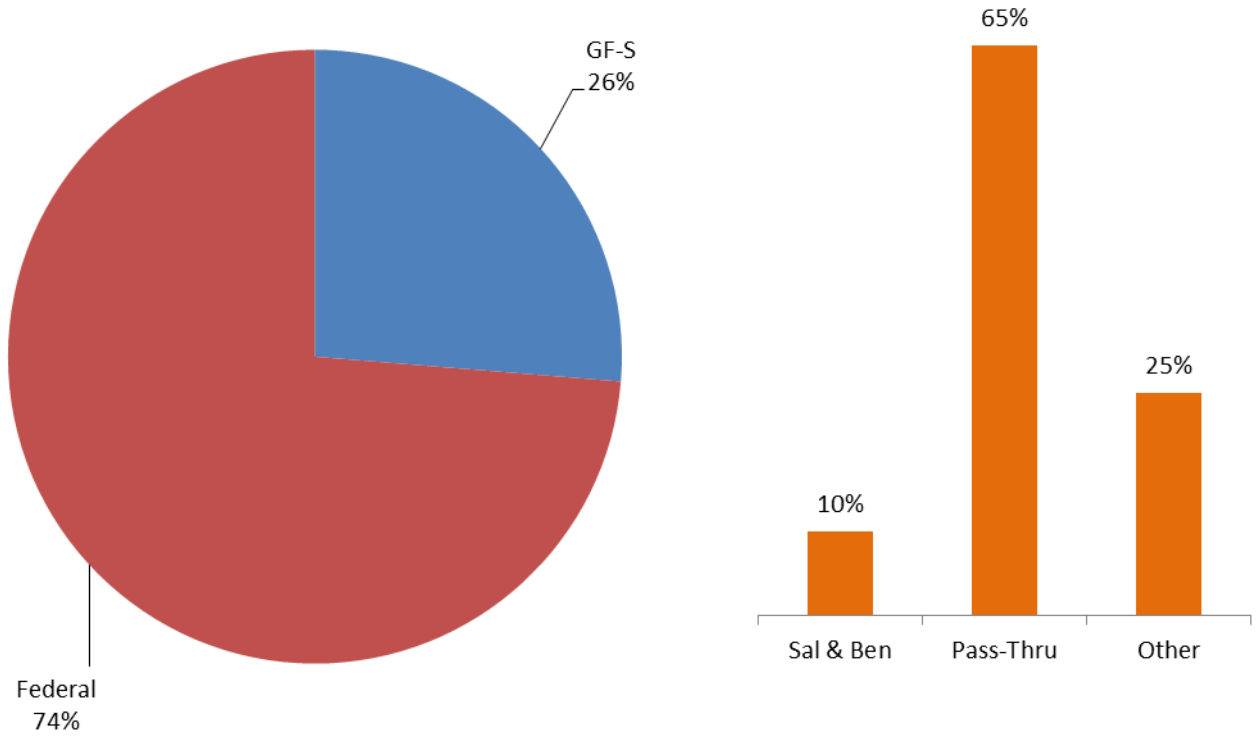
- Help to establish, maintain and support certified Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Critical Access Hospitals, rural Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and other health care settings.
- Improve healthcare quality at Washington State Critical Access Hospitals.
- Pay malpractice insurance and license fees for clinicians volunteering their professional services through the Volunteer Retired Provider program.
- Provide data and other information on healthcare access and rural-urban health disparities.
- Identify and help designate federal Health Professional Shortage Areas, which result in millions of additional federal dollars for providers and clinics located in those areas.
- Support the Washington State American Indian Health Commission and tribal health services.
- Work with healthcare organizations to recruit and retain doctors, dentists and other health care professionals.
- Create incentives for health care providers to work in areas where they are needed through management of federal programs including: State Office of Rural Health, Primary Care Office, J-1 Visa Waiver program, offering technical assistance for the National Health Service Corps, and State Loan Repayment Programs.
- Contract with Washington's two Area Health Education Centers to:
  - Expose high school students to health careers and rural practice.
  - Offer workforce development coordination, planning, technical assistance and expertise.
  - Develop distance education programs for remote facilities, students and providers.
  - Work with rural communities looking for innovations in healthcare education or delivery.
- Through a collection of themes from rural health systems, develop policy change concepts

### **Stakeholders**

- Rural hospitals, clinics, and practitioners (doctors, dentists, nurses, etc.)
- Free clinics and volunteer practitioners
- Rural communities
- Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian Health Programs
- Medicaid/ Medicare clients, low-income, working poor underinsured and uninsured people.
- Other organizations and agencies representing rural and underserved health and health workforce.

**2015-17 Biennium**

**Rural Health Fiscal Information**



	GF-S	Federal	Dedicated*	Fees**	Total	Sal & Ben	Pass-Thru	Other
Total	1,851,000	5,189,000	0	0	7,040,000	679,000	4,573,000	1,788,000

\*Dedicated Marijuana Account – Administered by the Liquor and Cannabis Board

\*\*Local funding – Fees charged for services