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## 2026 Rural Hospital Excellence in Innovation Award

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### Rural Hospital Excellence in Innovation Instructions

Please click [here](#) and read all instructions before completing this application.

Questions with a red asterisk are required. If you cannot complete all fields, please enter 0 or NA.

### Hospital and Contact Information

#### Hospital Name

#### Health System Name

(if wholly owned or affiliated rural hospital)

#### Salutation

#### Contact First Name

#### Contact Last Name

#### Degrees/Certifications

(e.g. MD, RN, etc)

#### Contact Job Title

#### Contact Email Address

**Contact Phone #****Primary Address****Street Address****Line 2****City****Country****State / Province****Zip / Postal Code****Where did you learn about the AHA Rural Hospital Excellence in Innovation Award?**

- ☐ AHA Meeting/Conference
- ☐ AHA Regional Executive
- ☐ AHA Member-Led Group (e.g., Rural Health Services Committee or RPB)
- ☐ AHA Rural Email or Newsletter
- ☐ AHA Rural Health Services Team
- ☐ AHA Website
- ☐ Health Care Colleague/Executive
- ☐ Microsoft Email or Newsletter Referral
- ☐ Rural Health Services Committee Member
- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ Other

**Acknowledgment**

The following should be read and acknowledged by the **hospital president/CEO and board chair**:

*We acknowledge and support this application, confirm that the information provided is accurate, that there are no outstanding clinical, financial or legal matters that would preclude the organization from being considered for the AHA Rural Hospital Excellence in Innovation Award and that the AHA has permission to use and disseminate the information as part of the application process.*

- ☐ I agree

**President/Chief Executive Officer's Name**

Official Title

Today's Date

Save

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## 2026 Rural Hospital Excellence in Innovation Award

**Contact Info and Agreement**



**Organizational Demographics**



**Organizational Innovation**

### Organizational Demographics

#### Hospital Ownership

- ☐ Independent
- ☐ Part of a system

#### Type of Hospital

- ☐ Government, nonfederal
- ☐ Nongovernment, not-for-profit
- ☐ Investor-owned, for-profit
- ☐ Government, federal

#### How many acute care beds are currently set up and staffed for use in your hospital?

- ☐ CAH with 25 or fewer beds
- ☐ 25-50 beds
- ☐ 51-100 beds
- ☐ 101-299 beds
- ☐ 300+ beds

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## 2026 Rural Hospital Excellence in Innovation Award

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### 1. Organizational Overview

#### Prioritization of Innovative Programs and Services

How does your hospital's leadership and governance structure prioritize establishing and sustaining innovative programs or services that align with its strategic plan to improve patient and community health needs and/or advance overall well-being?

Word count: 0 / 250

#### Integrating Innovation

Describe how your hospital integrates innovation into its culture, including specific strategies and initiatives for fostering innovation, support systems for employees and medical staff, and involvement of patients and families in innovative health care solutions.

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## 2. Synopsis

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### Identifying Innovation and Service Opportunities

Describe the initiative or service featured in the application including how the need was identified. Detail the resources invested to initiate and sustain it, short-term goals, population and patient demographic reach, organizational approach and how it differentiates your hospital.

Word count: 0 / 500

## 3. Innovation

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### Development and/or Implementation

How has your hospital developed and/or implemented emerging or innovative community health or care delivery approaches that utilize technologies, processes, or services to enhance clinical and operational offerings? Please describe how these initiatives have improved outcomes or quality of life for patients and the broader community.

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## 4. Collaboration and Sustainability

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### Community Engagement and Collaboration

How has your hospital developed and/or implemented emerging or innovative community health or care delivery approaches that utilize technologies, processes, or services to enhance clinical and operational offerings? Please describe how these initiatives have improved outcomes or quality of life for patients and the broader community.

Word count: 0 / 250

## 5. Scalability and Broader Application

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### Scalability and Broad Application Likelihood

Please describe the likelihood of scalability and broad application of your innovative programs or services, and how they can be adapted to benefit other rural hospitals and communities.

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## 6. Impact

### Program Efficacy

Please describe how the efficacy of your program or project is measured using any or all of the following metrics:

- **Health Outcomes:** Improvements in patient health, such as reduced disease incidence, lower mortality rates, or better management of chronic conditions.
- **Process Measures:** Efficiency of healthcare delivery, such as wait times, adherence to clinical guidelines, and patient throughput.
- **Patient Satisfaction:** Surveys and feedback to gauge patient experience and satisfaction with the care provided.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Analysis of the costs associated with the program relative to the health benefits achieved.

Word count: 0 / 250

## 7. Patient or Recipient Testimonials

### Testimonials

In addition to data, substantiate application through storytelling via the voice of the patients, caregivers or community partners. Minimum of one selection required.

Options:

- ☐ Submit a short written narrative (250 words max)



- ☐ Submit up to 5 photos
- ☐ Submit a video (5 minutes max)

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## 8. Alignment of Purpose and Mission

### Advancing AHA Principles

Describe how the programs or services are aligned in advancing AHA principles:

- Provide timely access to the full continuum of health care services
- Provide coverage and care that is affordable.
- Minimize disparities in health outcomes.
- Be safe, high quality, reliable and evidence based.
- Be sustainable staffed with a ready workforce and safe workspaces.
- Be economically viable and appropriately resourced.
- Be innovative, transformative, environmentally conscious and data driven.
- Be committed to coordination and collaboration across all stakeholders.
- Be person-centered and oriented around the individual.

Word count: 0 / 250

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Save and Finalize

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