

The Honorable [Full Name of State Agency Director]
Director, [Agency Name]
[Agency Address]
[City, State ZIP Code]

**Re: Inclusion of Behavioral Health and Human Services Agencies in State Application
for the Rural Health Transformation Program**

Dear Director [Last Name],

On behalf of [Organization Name], I am writing to encourage the [State Agency] to include a broad range of behavioral health and human services providers in the state's application for the Rural Health Transformation Program established under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA).

This program presents a unique opportunity to strengthen care delivery, expand access to essential services, and build sustainable infrastructure in rural communities. Because funding is time-limited to a maximum of five years, it is critical that the state's proposal ensures long-term impact and sustainability beyond the program period.

Behavioral health and human services agencies are well-positioned to help states meet key program objectives, including:

1. Expanding Access to Care

These agencies provide a wide range of services—from mental health and substance use treatment to crisis response and care coordination—that ensure rural residents have timely, local access to evidence-based care. Many operate extended hours, offer same-day intake, and deploy mobile units to reach underserved populations.

Eligible provider types may include:

- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)
- Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)
- Community Mental Health Centers
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities
- Mobile Crisis Response Teams
- Peer Recovery Support Organizations
- Integrated Behavioral Health Providers (e.g., co-located with primary care)

- Telebehavioral Health Providers
- School-Based Mental Health Programs
- Faith-Based or Culturally Specific Mental Health Services
- Tribal Behavioral Health Organizations
- Nonprofit Behavioral Health Agencies
- Residential Treatment Centers
- Outpatient Psychiatric Clinics
- Behavioral Health Case Management Providers

2. Strengthening the Workforce

Community-based providers have demonstrated success in recruiting, training, and retaining clinicians in rural and underserved areas. For example, CCBHCs have added thousands of new staff positions nationwide, including in rural communities. OTPs and other behavioral health agencies employ specialized staff and often train local clinicians to build regional capacity.

3. Supporting Rural Hospital Partnerships

These agencies frequently collaborate with rural hospitals to provide crisis stabilization, initiate medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and ensure smooth transitions to outpatient care. Such partnerships reduce emergency department strain, improve patient outcomes, and support long-term financial solvency for rural hospitals.

4. Advancing Health IT and Data Sharing

Many behavioral health providers utilize electronic health records (EHRs), health information exchanges, and secure telehealth platforms to improve care coordination, enhance cybersecurity, and track outcomes. These capabilities align with the program's goals for technology advancement and improved efficiency.

5. Promoting Evidence-Based Interventions

Agencies across the continuum of care implement measurable, evidence-based practices to address chronic conditions, prevent crises, and improve population health. From MAT for opioid use disorder to integrated care models and peer support services, these interventions are proven to reduce costs and improve outcomes.

We urge the [State Agency] to recognize the vital role these providers play in rural health transformation and to incorporate their work into the state's application. Doing so will ensure that rural communities benefit from organizations with a proven track record of delivering high-quality, accessible care.

Our organization stands ready to support the state in designing and implementing a plan that reflects the full scope of resources available to meet the needs of rural residents. We welcome the opportunity to share data, best practices, and local insights to strengthen the application and maximize its impact.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing innovative solutions to improve rural health. We look forward to collaborating to ensure our state's application reflects the full range of providers working to serve rural communities.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Organization Name]

[Contact Information]