

# Rural Hospital Innovations Tour: Request for Applications

ASTHO, with support from HRSA, invites state and territorial health officials (S/THOs) to apply for a rural hospital tour learning experience. ASTHO will select up to seven S/THOs, senior deputies, or executive level staff to attend three site visits that highlight promising practices and approaches to rural hospital sustainability:

1. **May 6, 2020 – Maryland Department of Health, Baltimore, MD.** This site visit will focus on Maryland’s [Total Cost of Care](#) model and include visits with the Maryland Health Care Commission, Health Services Cost Review Commission, and the Maryland Hospital Association.
2. **May 7, 2020 – Pennsylvania Department of Health, Harrisburg, PA.** This site visit will feature discussion on Pennsylvania’s [Rural Health Model](#).
3. **May 12, 2020 – Lincoln Community Hospital, Hugo, CO.** The meeting will be held with [Benjamin Anderson](#), Colorado Hospital Association and former CEO of Kearny County Hospital in Kansas.

**Commitments:** S/THOs will be required to commit to attending all three site visits. (ASTHO will pay for full travel.) In addition, participating S/THOs must attend a debrief call that ASTHO will hold after the tour to gather in-depth feedback and data on the site visits.

**Requirements:** Must be currently serving as an S/THO, senior deputy, or executive-level staff person overseeing a hospital portfolio.

**Request for application released:** February 6, 2020

**Applications due:** February 28, 2020

**Selection announcement:** March 9, 2020

**Project period:** May-July 2020

## Rural hospital sustainability is critical.

Since 2010, 121 rural hospitals have [closed](#). An additional [21 percent](#) of rural hospitals—a total of 430 facilities—are at [high risk](#) of closure. Further complicating matters, 64 percent of those hospitals are considered essential to their communities, a designation made based on a hospital’s trauma center status, its service to vulnerable populations, its distance from other hospitals, and the economic impact it has on a region. Research indicates that access to healthcare and economic vitality are severely reduced following a rural hospital closure. Outcomes may include:

- Increased time and cost of [transportation](#) to healthcare services (particularly among seniors, who experience an average of 14 additional minutes in an ambulance).
- Initial [increases](#) in the number of births in hospitals without obstetric care units (3%) and an increase in preterm births (0.67%), though those rates decrease over time, possibly as communities adjust.
- [Reduced per capita income](#) (-4%) and increased unemployment (1.6%) due to the loss of jobs for hospital staff and outward migration of community members.

**ASTHO point of contact:** Please email the completed application to Janet Oputa, ASTHO’s senior analyst, clinical to community connections, at [joputa@astho.org](mailto:joputa@astho.org).

## Application Form

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### State or Territorial Health Official Contact Information

Name:
Title:
Phone:
E-mail:
Assistant e-mail:
Please describe your interest in this project:
Has your state experienced rural hospital closures, or do you anticipate any? Please explain:
How do your responsibilities as S/THO interact with rural hospitals? <input type="checkbox"/> Overseeing hospital licensing or inspections <input type="checkbox"/> Managing a certificate or determination of need process <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain):