

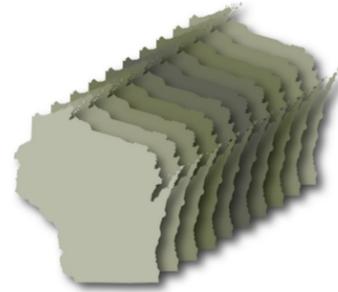


Top Stories

Report Demonstrates Ten Different Types of "Rural"

What parts of Wisconsin are rural? That question has real outcomes for rural Wisconsinites, since the various ways of classifying "rural" influence how the demography and economic makeup of Wisconsin communities are understood by decision-makers.

An updated **report** from our data department defines rural Wisconsin using ten different classification systems. Maps, methodology descriptions, and demographic data help to illustrate the differences between them.



[Read more](#)

Minnesota Program Tackles Rural Social Isolation

Social isolation is increasingly being understood as a public health issue that puts individuals at a higher risk of long-term physical and mental health problems. In rural areas, isolation can also reduce access to basic needs, like healthcare and nutritional food.

A **group** in northeastern Minnesota is trying to tackle social isolation by matching youth with older adults in 18 rural communities.

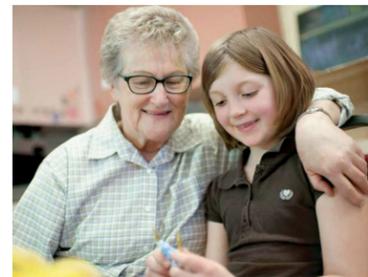


Photo by Scott Strebler, courtesy of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation

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CMS To Boost Wage Index For Rural Hospitals

Starting in October, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will adjust its Medicare payment formula in a way that will **boost payments to rural hospitals**. The adjustment will change reimbursements that use a wage index formula, which is based on how much a hospital pays its staff. Rural hospitals have pointed out that hospitals in areas with high living costs get higher reimbursements than hospitals in areas with a low cost of living-even if they both provide the same services. The change was first announced in an **April news release**. An **open door forum from CMS** on August 20 (1 pm) will give an overview of the change.



Photo by Pepi Stojanovski on Unsplash

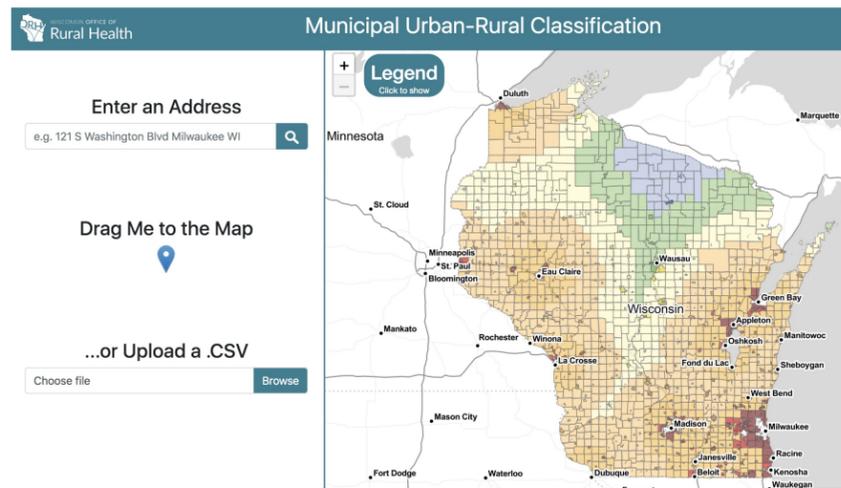
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More News

- A proposal in Congress would help **finance infrastructure in rural America**.
- Many **rural wells** in southwestern Wisconsin are contaminated.
- A commentary examines the intangible costs of **rural school consolidation**.

- A CDC report calls to **increase naloxone availability** at the local level.

How Rural Am I?



A new tool from our office helps you determine how rural your location is according to the Municipal Urban-Rural Classification system.

See if you're rural, here.

For more on rural classification systems, see our latest **report**.

Grants & Funding Opportunities

- Funding for existing graduate medical education programs in Wisconsin to expand a variety of **resident positions**. Deadline: August 14.
- Grants for nonprofits and public health agencies that wish to implement or improve **cross-jurisdictional sharing in public health**. Deadline: August 16.
- Funding to support a variety of local efforts to build and sustain a **high quality of life in rural** communities across America. Deadline: September 13.
- Funding for physician-led, community-based or statewide **programs** to improve health through education and outreach. Deadline: September 27.
- Grants for projects that nurture and support the safety, health, and vitality of **indigenous women, girls, and families**. Deadline: October 11.
- Grants for research projects to help address **health disparities in tobacco use**. Deadline: October 11; Letter of Intent due September 11.
- Funding to **rural healthcare entities** that partner to develop strategies for improving healthcare delivery in a community. Deadline: November 29.

Events

- August 12: A **webinar** about responding to mental health challenges experienced by farmers and their families is intended for rural health care providers.
- August 13-14: A **two-day conference** about increasing education and understanding for anyone supporting youth and young adult mental health and wellbeing. Whitewater.
- August 15: A **webinar** will explore how rural hospitals and other rural stakeholders can work together to assess their rural communities' health needs.
- August 15: A **webinar** will outline opioid prescribing in the pre-hospital setting.
- August 15-16: **Workshops** in Wausau (Aug. 15) and Rhinelander (Aug. 16) will focus on preserving self-care for caregivers.
- August 23: The **Rural Hospital Finance Workshop** will provide updates on CAH regulations and Medicare and Medicaid and information on 340B, co-location guidance, telehealth compliance and billing, and measuring CAH productivity. Sauk City.

