



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VHA Office of Rural Health (ORH)

Dr. Thomas Klobucar, PhD
ORH Executive Director

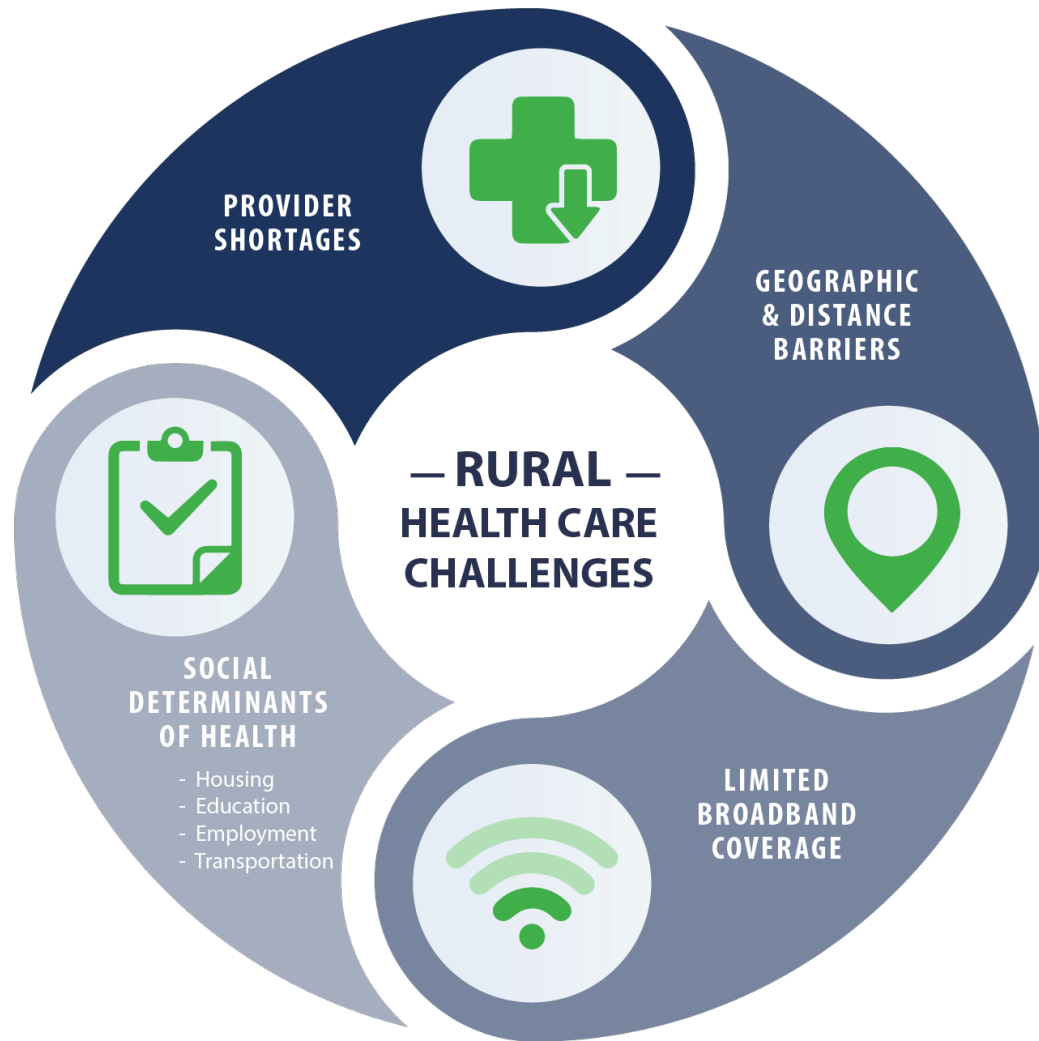


Rural Health Care Challenges



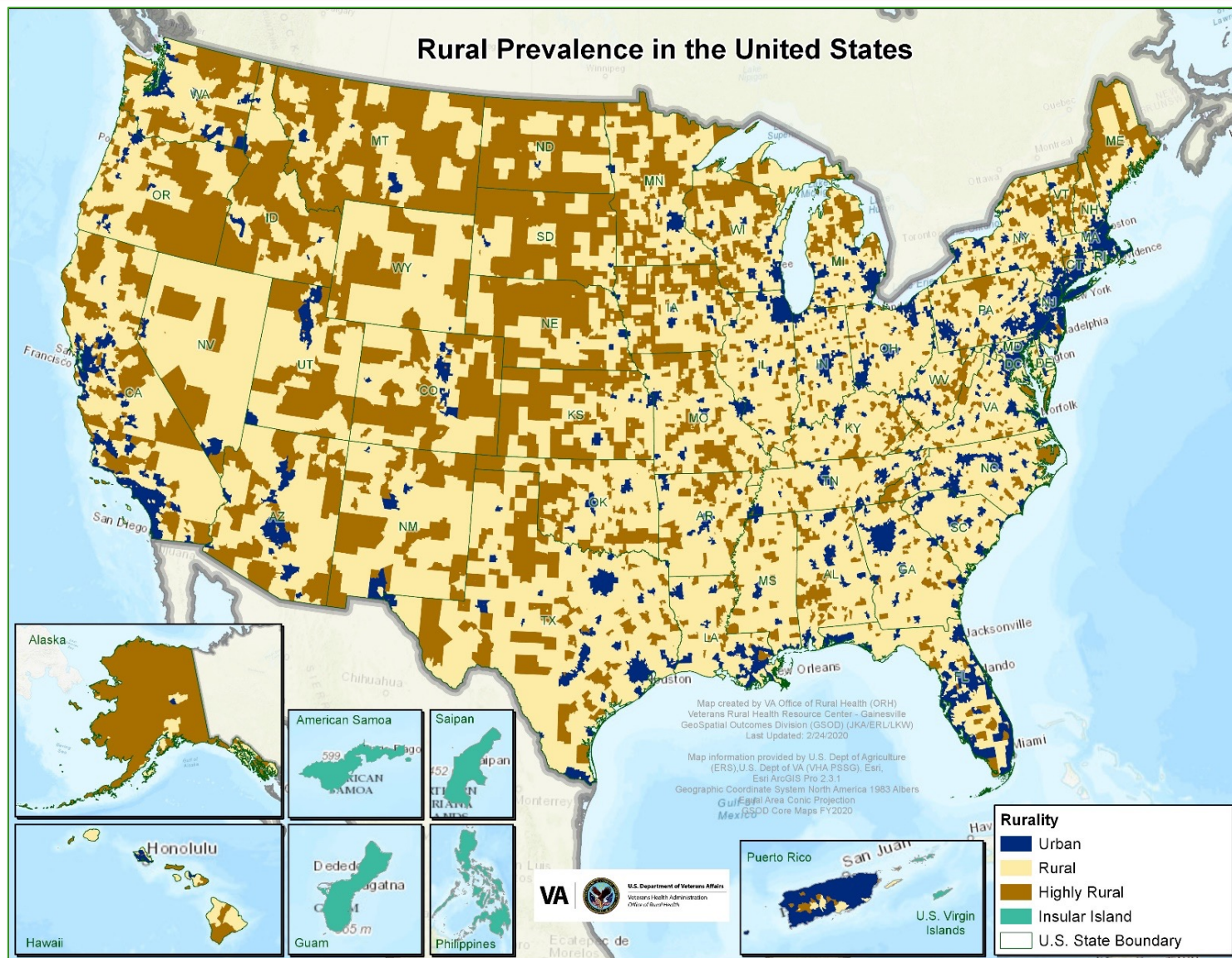


Rural Health Care Challenges





Rural Prevalence in the United States





Snapshot of Rural Veterans



RURAL VETERANS

4.7 Million
24% of All Veterans

ENROLLED RURAL VETERANS

✓ 2.7 Million
(32% of Rural Veterans)

RURAL VETERANS DEMOGRAPHICS



7% Women



49% earn less than
\$35,000/year



55% are 65 years
or older



ALL VETERANS

19.4 Million

ALL ENROLLED VETERANS

✓ 8.4 Million
(43% of All Veterans)

ALL VETERAN DEMOGRAPHICS



9% Women



45% earn less than
\$35,000/year



49% are 65 years
or older



URBAN VETERANS

14.8 Million
76% of All Veterans

ENROLLED URBAN VETERANS

✓ 5.6 Million
(38% of Urban Veterans)

URBAN VETERANS DEMOGRAPHICS



10% Women



42% earn less than
\$35,000/year

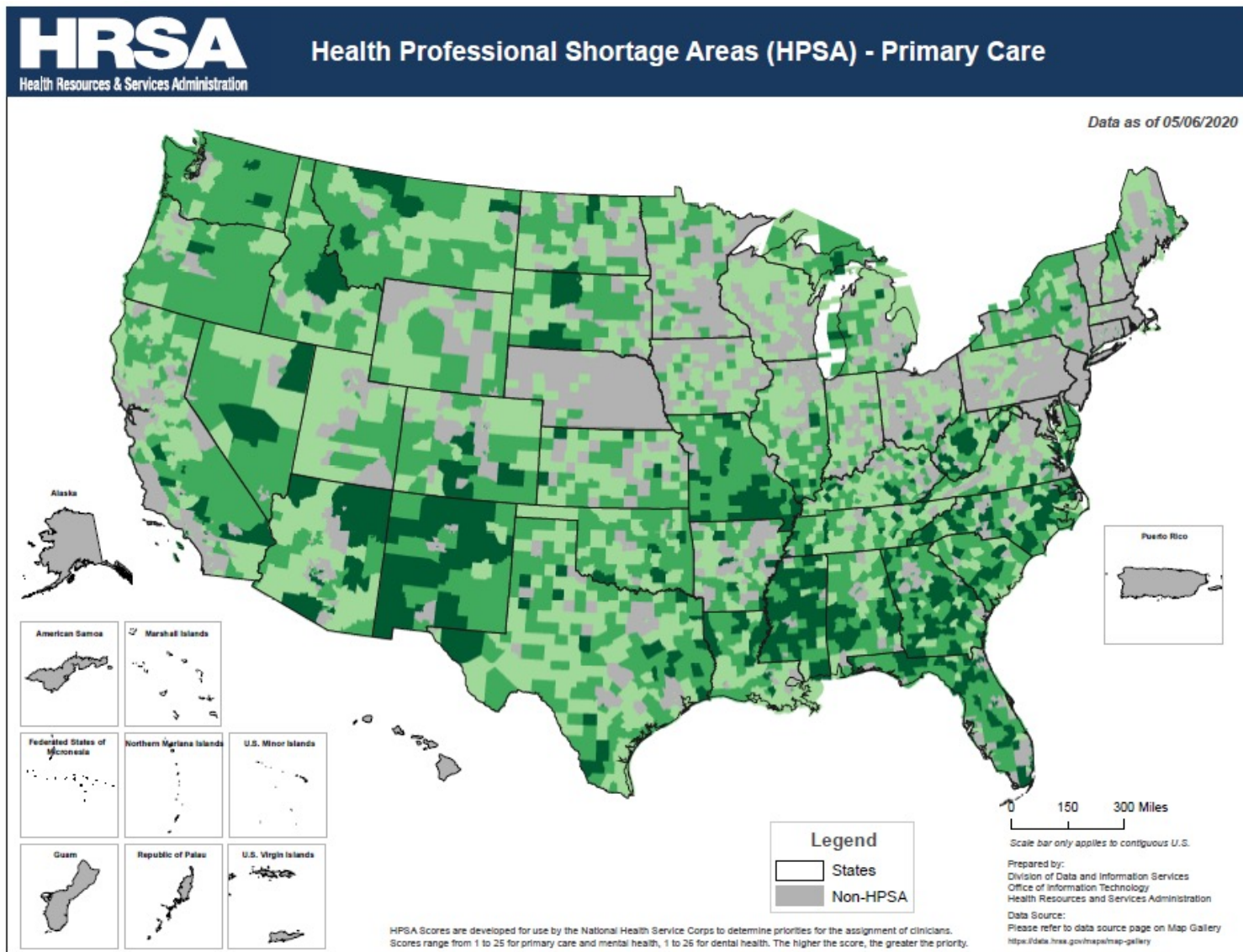


46% are 65 years
or older

Data are FY 2019-20 VA Internal Data Sources, US Census Bureau and VHA Survey of Enrollees

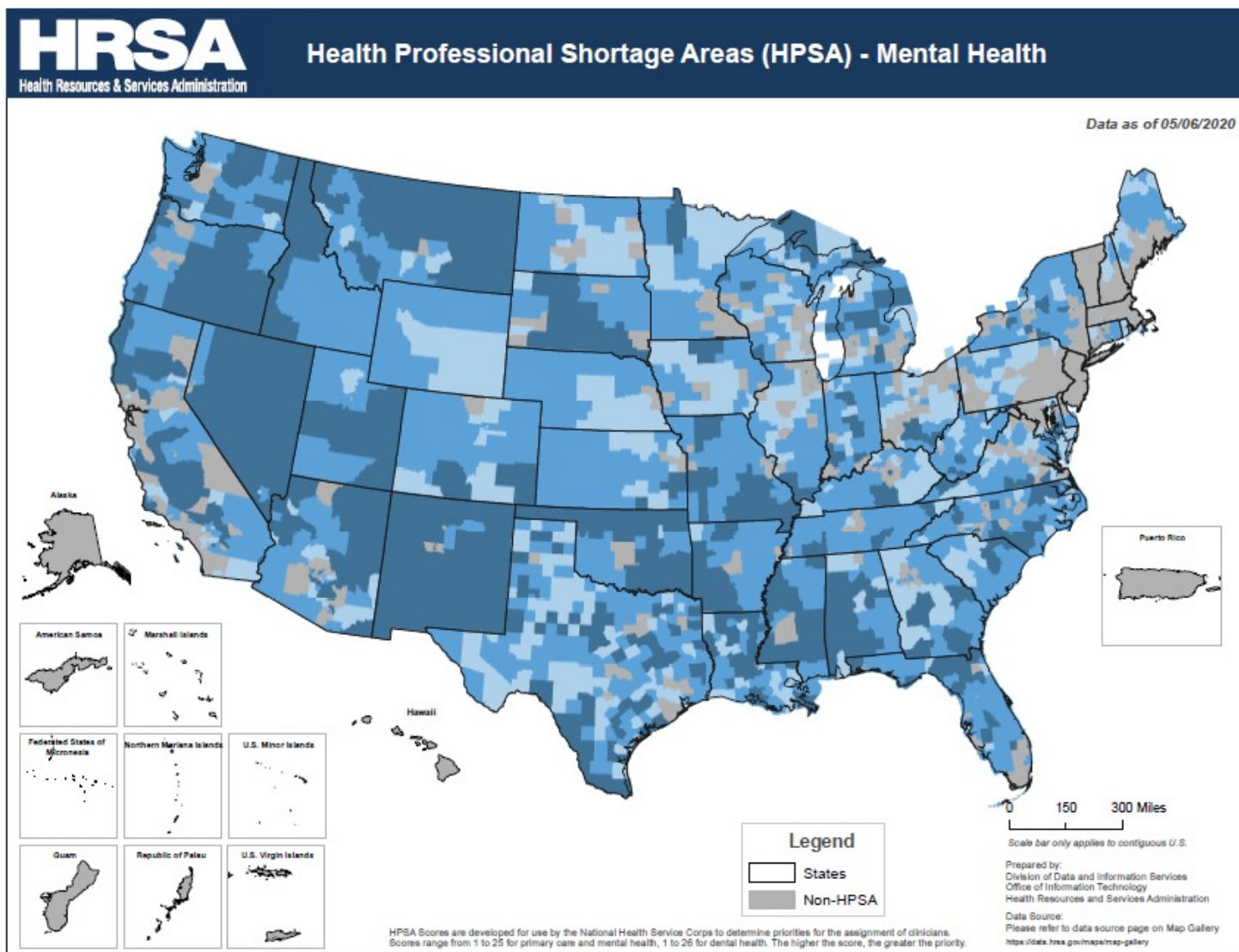


Health Professional Shortage Areas – Primary Care





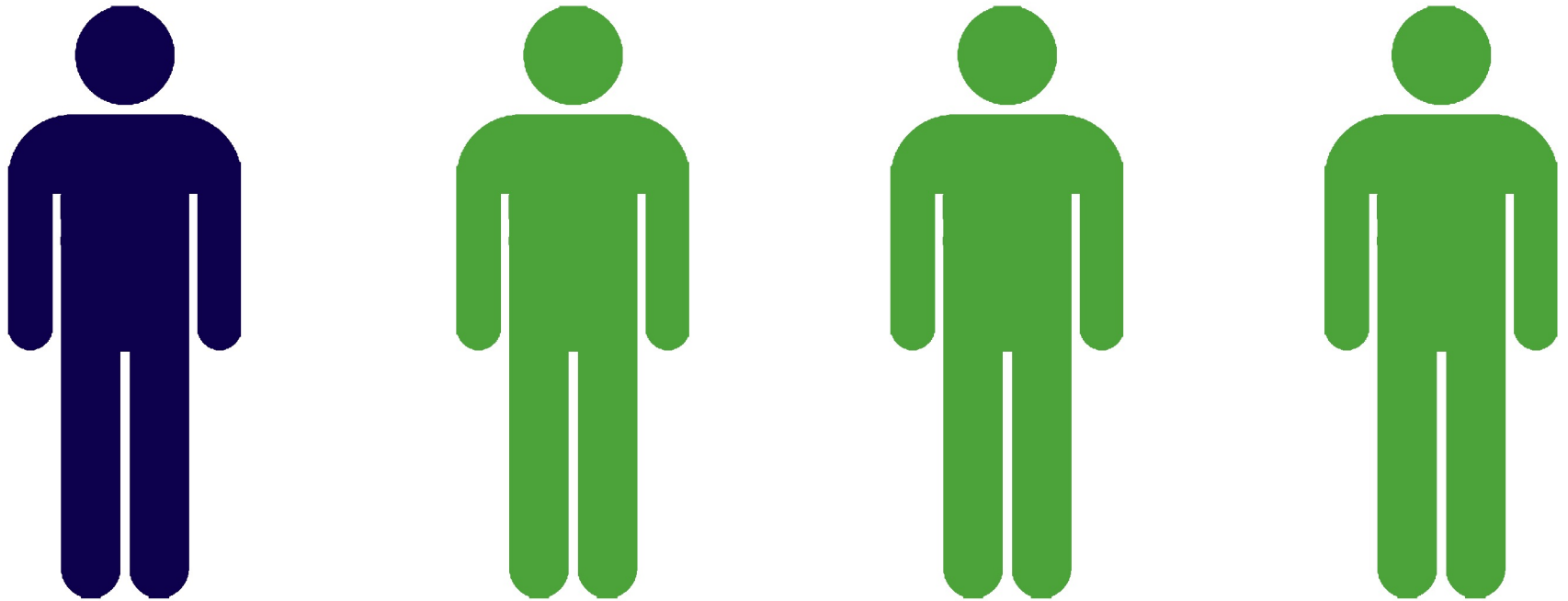
Health Professional Shortage Areas – Mental Health





Rural High-Speed Internet Access

Roughly one-in-four rural residents say access to high-speed internet is a major problem in their area.

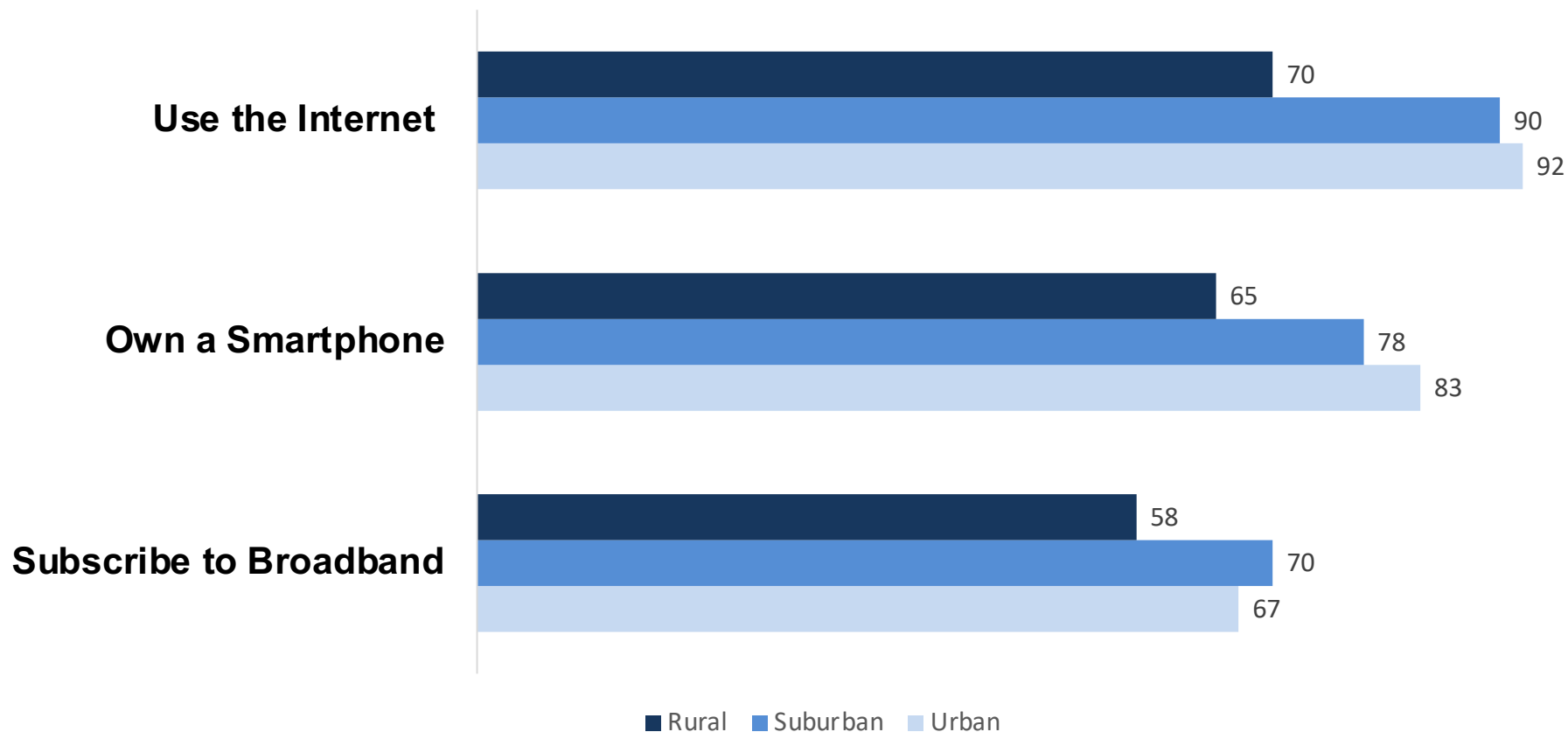


Source: Pew Research Center - <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/09/10/about-a-quarter-of-rural-americans-say-access-to-high-speed-internet-is-a-major-problem/>



Rural Internet Access

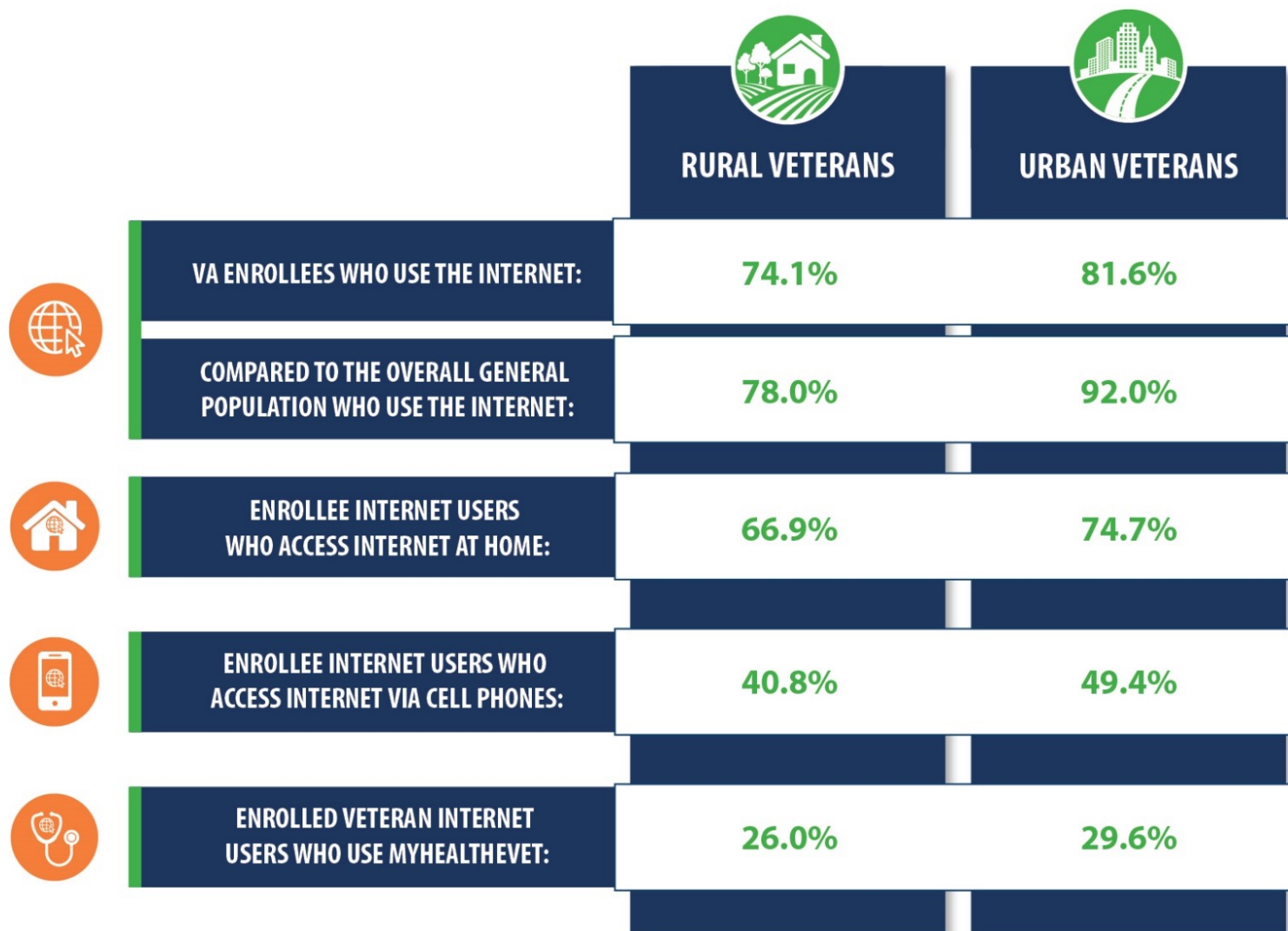
Rural adults are less likely than those in other areas to have high-speed internet at home, own a smartphone



Source: Pew Research Center - <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/09/10/about-a-quarter-of-rural-americans-say-access-to-high-speed-internet-is-a-major-problem/>



Rural Veteran Internet Usage



Source: FY 2019 VHA Survey of Enrollees

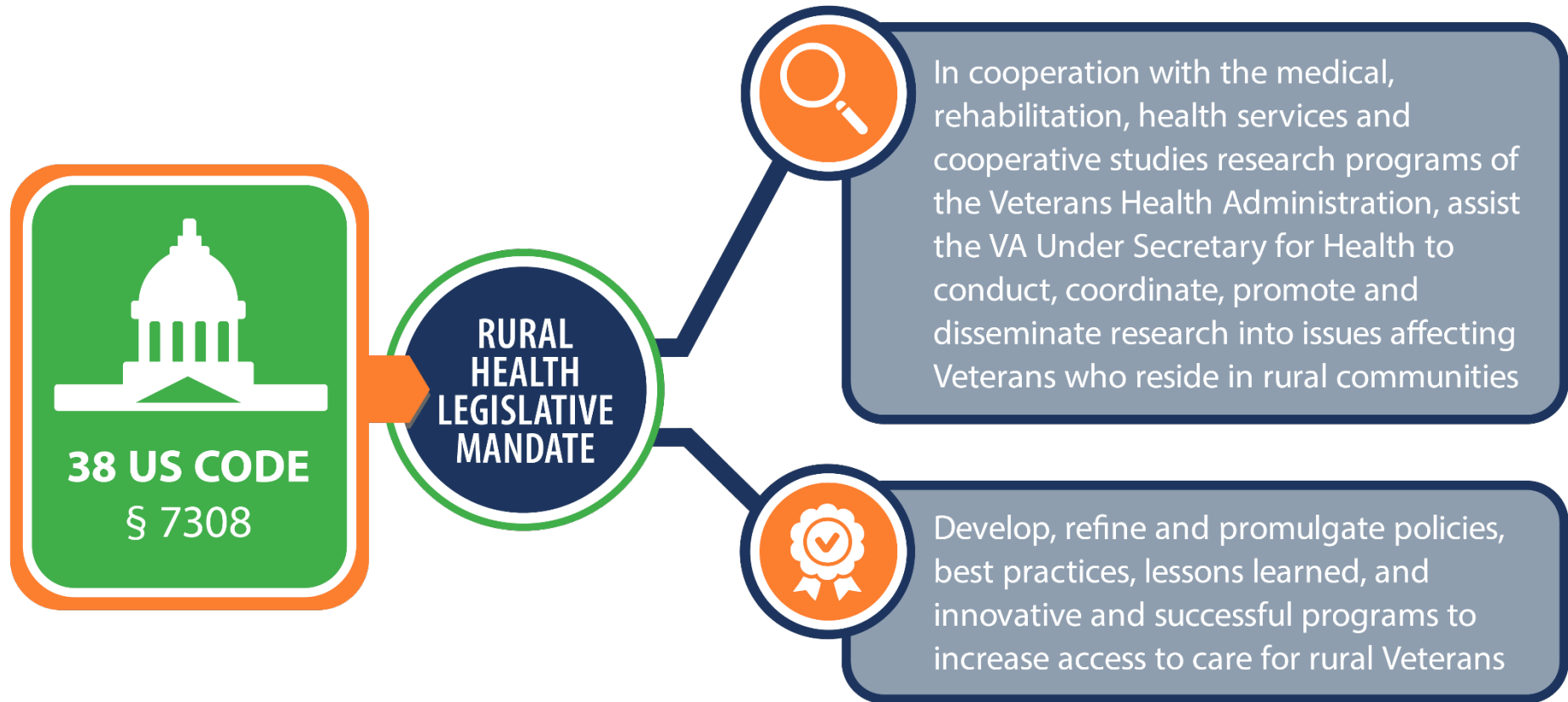


ORH History & Programmatic Highlights



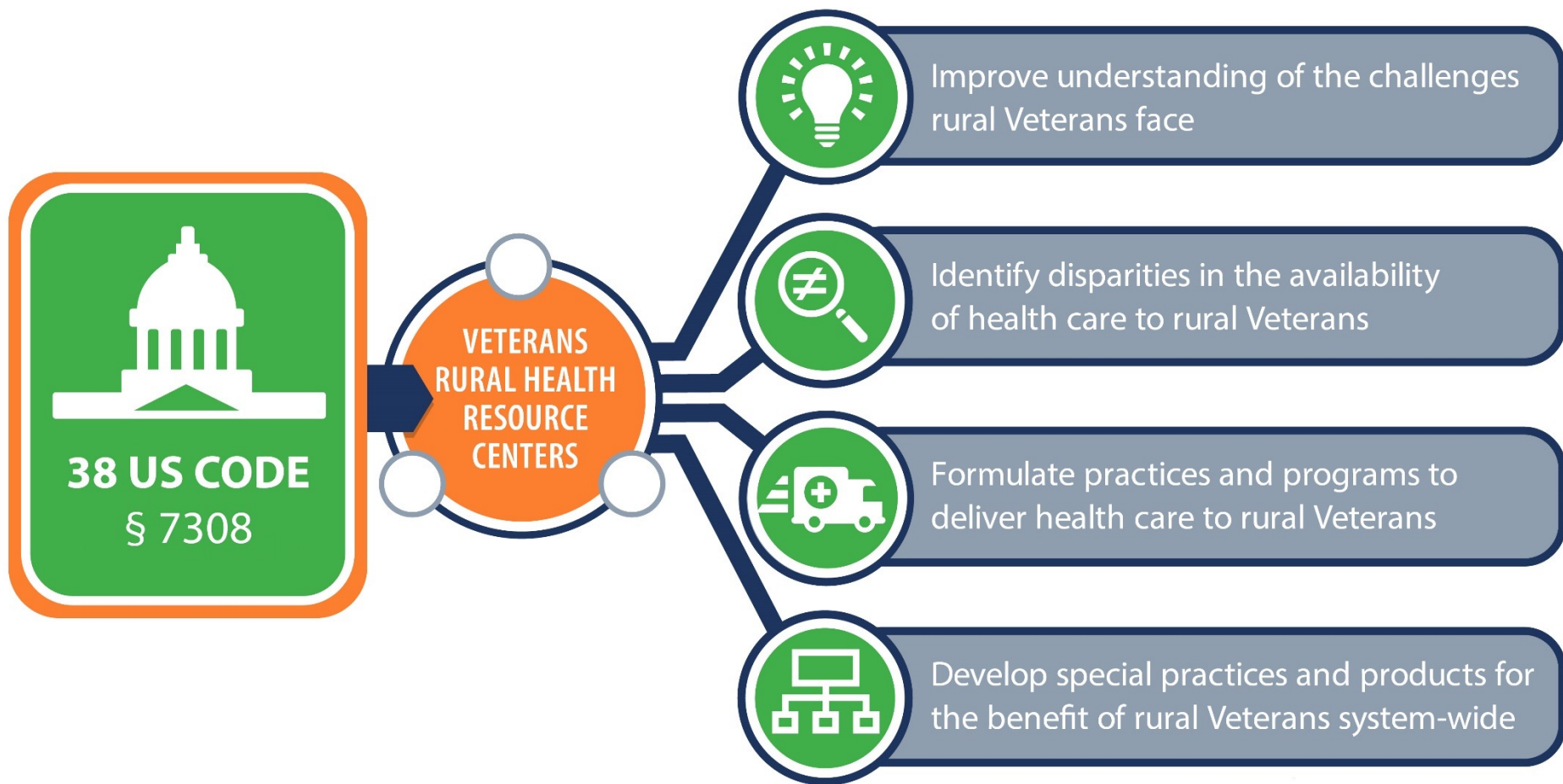


Rural Health Legislative Mandate



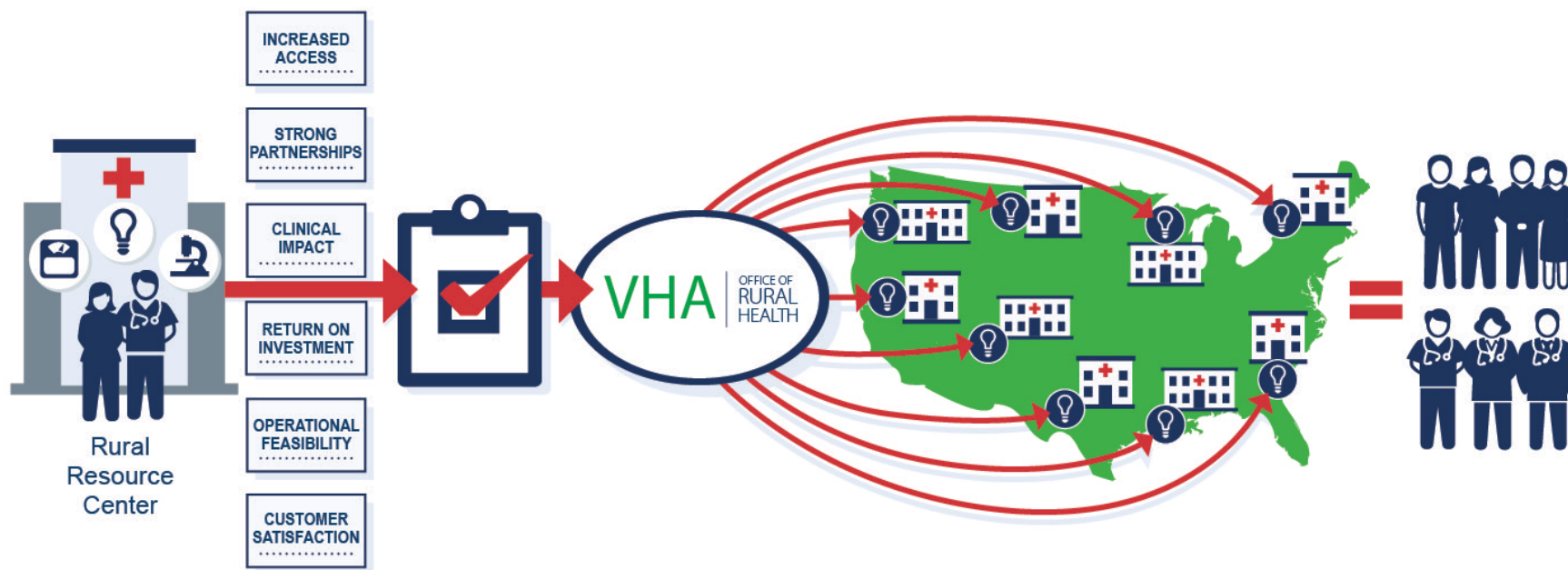


Rural Health Resource Centers Legislative Mandate



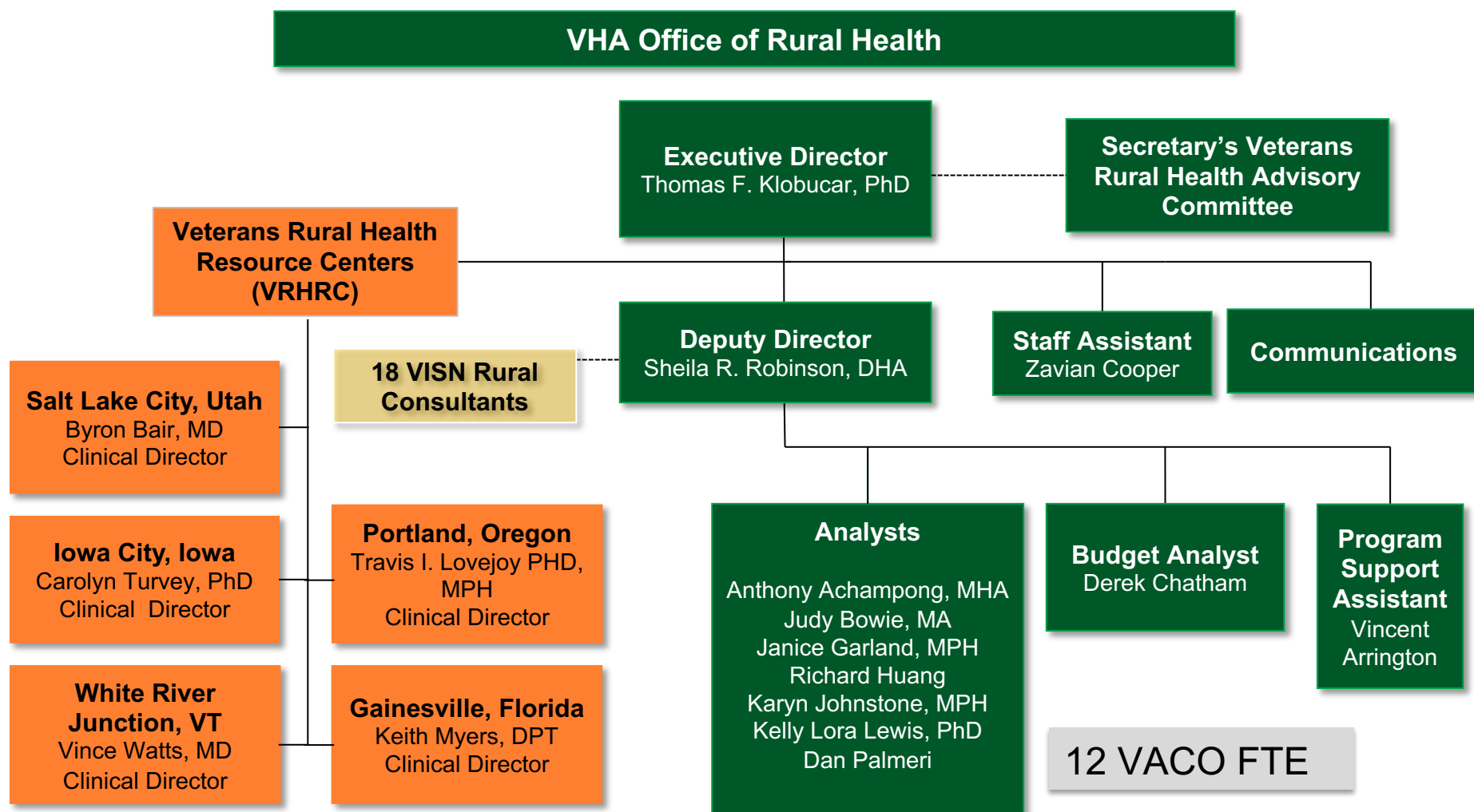


ORH Rural Promising Practices





ORH Organizational Chart





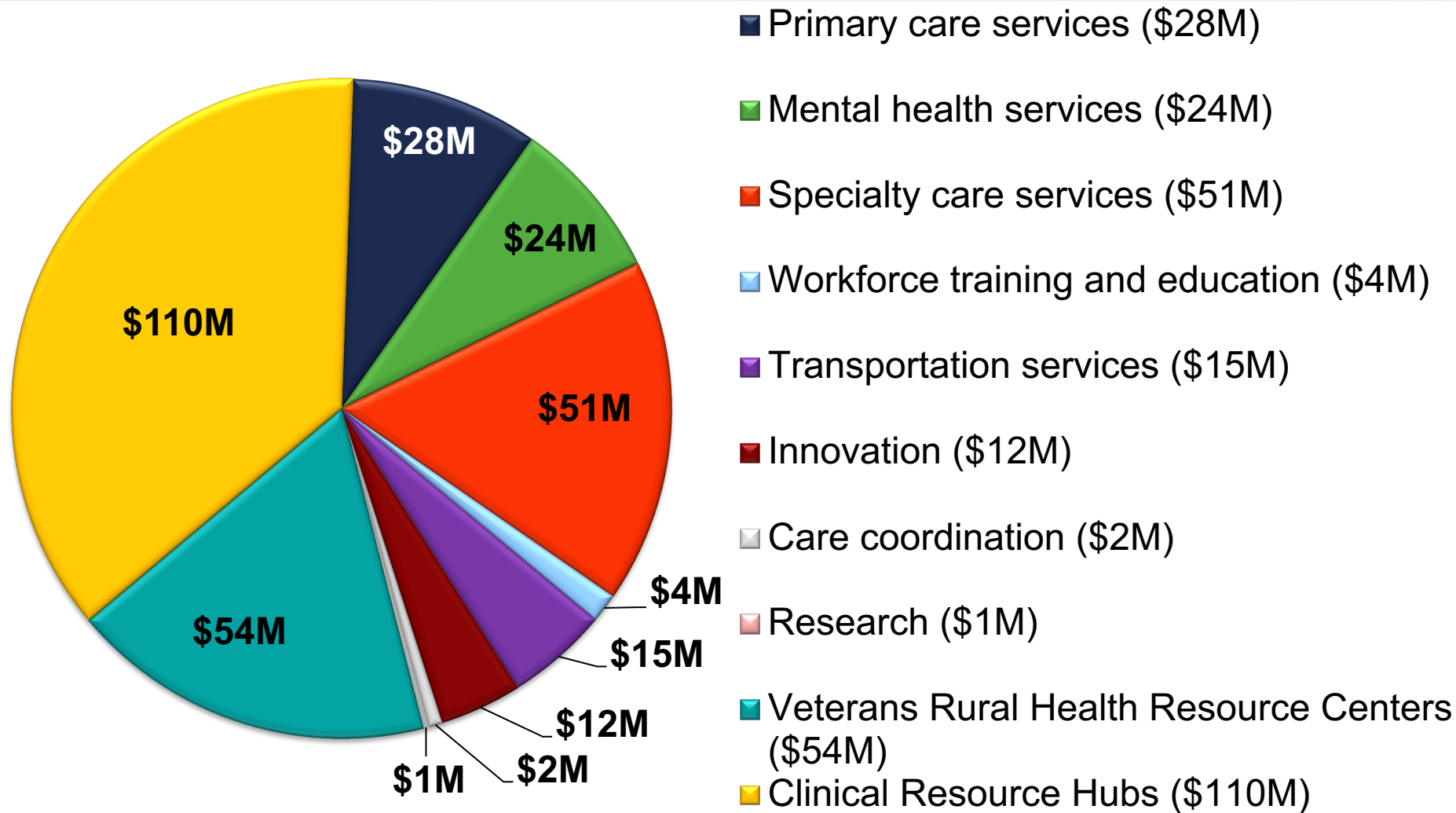
ORH Overview

- \$300M total annual budget
- FY 2021 portfolio includes 40+ Enterprise-Wide Initiatives adopted at 99% of VA medical centers across the country and U.S. territories

ORH Enterprise-Wide Initiatives	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2018	Fiscal Year 2019	Fiscal Year 2020
Veterans Served	1.5M	2.5M	2.85M	4.9M
VHA Sites Served	402	575	488	689



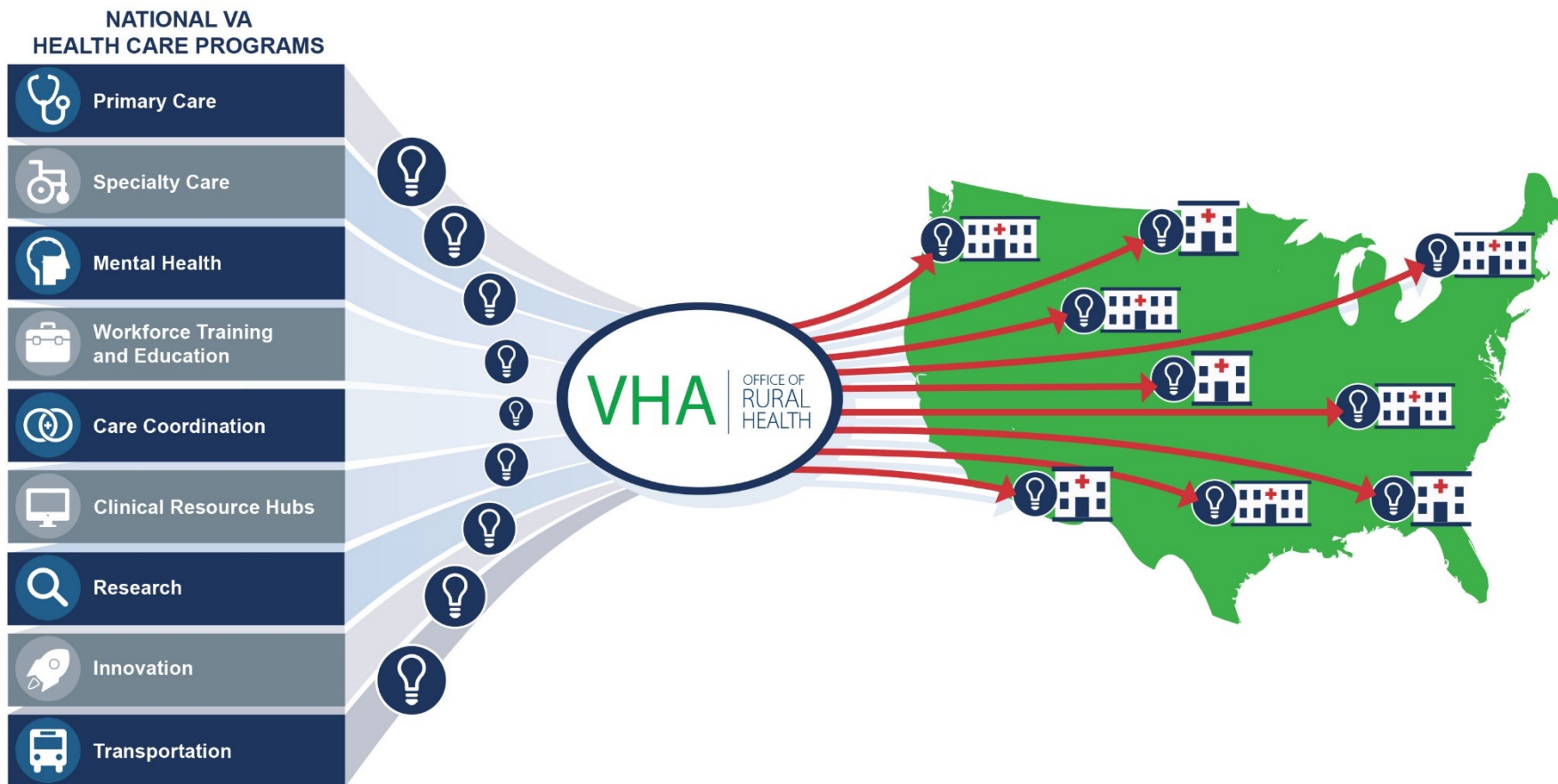
FY21 Proposed Rural Health Initiative Budget



Rural Health Initiative Budget Total: \$300 Million



Enterprise-Wide Initiatives





Enterprise-Wide Initiative Highlights

- **Telehealth Clinical Resource Hubs**
 - Clinical Resource Hubs are Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) level resources that provide primary care, mental health, and specialty services to Veterans in underserved areas that are experiencing staffing gaps
- **Tele Critical Care (formerly Tele ICU)**
 - connects VA facilities that do not have intensivists on staff with VA intensivists nationwide via telehealth to increase access to ICU services and specialty inpatient care for rural Veterans
- **Telerehabilitation Services**
 - expands an integrated network of specialists who are specifically trained in delivering physical and rehabilitative therapy to rural Veterans using telehealth technology
- **National Telestroke ED Program**
 - provides emergent telehealth care by qualified stroke neurologists in a timely manner to Veterans presenting symptoms of stroke at rural-serving VAMCs that do not have stroke neurologists on site



2021 New Program Highlights

- **National Mental Health (MH) and Suicide Prevention (SP) Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO)**
 - Connects rural providers to national MH and SP specialists for regular discussion of clinical cases and targeted skill-building training on suicide prevention and substance use disorder treatment.
- **Mobile Prosthetic and Orthotic Care (MoPOC)**
 - Helps to restore function, mobility and independence for rural Veterans with limb loss and movement disorders by bringing artificial limb and bracing care to their communities
- **Centralized Anticoagulation Services Hub (CASH)**
 - Provides anticoagulation clinical pharmacy services via highly efficient infrastructure that standardizes clinical processes, employs innovative data tools, and delivers virtual care modalities.





Questions





VHA

OFFICE OF
RURAL
HEALTH

rural.health.inquiry@va.gov

(202) 632-8615

Thomas Klobucar

Executive Director

Thomas.Klobucar@va.gov