Adapting Evidence-based Interventions in Rural Settings: An Analysis of 70 Community Examples

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How Rural Communities Adapted Evidence-based and Promising Practices to Rural and Frontier Settings

Because relatively few evidence-based models have been developed or thoroughly tested in rural contexts, the grantees faced cultural and practical realities translating otherwise reputable practices into frontier and rural community settings. The rural community context, the shortage of sufficient workforce capacity, and practitioner support are some factors that can influence the translation of evidenced-based into any community setting but often play out differently in rural communities.

CONCLUSION

Lever for building a more robust rural evidence base include investments to incentivize evidence-based programming in rural settings; rural-specific research and theory-building; translation of existing evidence using a “rural lens”; technical assistance to support rural innovation; and prioritization of evaluation at the local level.

By stipulating that funded communities implement a promising or evidence-based practice, FORHP provided an opportunity to explore what is involved in the translation of recognized approaches specifically in rural and frontier settings. Funded agencies and consortia chose a broad range of evidence-based and promising practices and modified them to fit the contexts and the needs of rural and frontier communities. In combination, these federal and local investments have begun to create the conditions for cultivating a new generation of rural-specific evidence-based practices.