

USDA Launches Interactive Map of Opioid Epidemic Resources

Interactive Map Connects Rural Individuals and Communities to Model Practices Across the Country

Press Release

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WASHINGTON, June 14, 2018 – Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today unveiled a new interactive feature on the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) rural opioid misuse webpage. Now webpage visitors can use an interactive map to learn about, access or replicate actions rural leaders are taking in small towns across the country to address the opioid epidemic through prevention, treatment and recovery opportunities. The interactive map can be viewed at www.usda.gov/topics/opioids/resources-map.

“Leaving no community untouched, the opioid epidemic has taken a monumental toll on many of the small towns and rural places that are the heartbeat of our country,” Hazlett said. “USDA is a strong partner to rural leaders in addressing this issue through programs for prevention, treatment and recovery, as well as programs that build rural resilience and prosperity for the future.”

USDA collected model practices displayed on the interactive map from regional opioid misuse roundtables and through the “[What’s working in your town?](#)” form on the USDA opioid misuse webpage. USDA invites you to share effective actions taken in response to the opioid epidemic in rural communities by filling out the “What’s working in your town?” form.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "What's working in your town?" with a close button (x) in the top right corner. The form includes a header image of a woman speaking at a podium. Below the title, the text reads: "Tell us what actions your rural community is taking in prevention, treatment and recovery." There is a large text input area. At the bottom of the form, there is a "Send" button and a "Privacy" link. On the left side of the form, there is a "Share Feedback" button. The background of the form is a light gray with some text visible through the transparency.

At the direction of President Trump, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been keenly focused on addressing the opioid crisis in rural communities. So far, the Department has [convened regional roundtables](#) to hear firsthand accounts of the impact of the crisis and effective strategies for response in rural communities; [launched an interactive webpage](#) on opioid misuse in rural America featuring resources for rural communities and individuals facing the crisis; and [prioritized investments in three key](#)

[grant programs to address the crisis in rural places](#). For more information about these efforts, visit the USDA rural opioid misuse webpage at www.usda.gov/topics/opioids.

In April 2017, President Donald J. Trump established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities. In January 2018, Secretary Perdue presented the Task Force's findings to President Trump, which included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America.

In the area of quality of life, the Task Force included a recommendation to modernize health care access. The report highlighted the importance of telemedicine in enhancing access to primary care and specialty providers. The Task Force also found that improved access to mental and behavioral health care, particularly prevention, treatment, and recovery resources, is vital to addressing the opioid crisis and other substance misuse in rural communities.

To view the report in its entirety, please view the [Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) (PDF, 5.4 MB). In addition, to view the categories of the recommendations, please view the [Rural Prosperity infographic](#) (PDF, 190 KB).

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

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