



Center for Rural Health • Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health • The University of Arizona

Arizona Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (AzFlex)

Since 1999, **Arizona’s Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (AzFlex)** has served as the premier technical assistance, training and information resource for populations served by Arizona’s 15 federally designated Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), 31 Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) – of which 24 are affiliated with AzCAHs – and Community Health Centers (Federally Qualified and Tribal), trauma, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and first responders. AzFlex is housed in the Arizona Center for Rural Health.

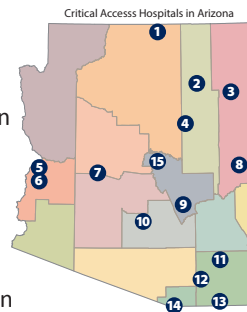
CAHs have fewer than 25 inpatient beds, are 35 miles or more from another facility, staff a 24-hours/7-days per week Emergency Department, and average less than 96 hours for an inpatient stay. Medicare reimburses CAHs on a reasonable cost basis for inpatient and outpatient services. Support by [Medicare](#), [Medicaid](#), AHCCCS (e.g., [AZ CAH Pool](#)) and federal (e.g., DSH) funding, help sustain crucial safety net services in rural communities.

AZFLEX PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

- **Enhance Healthcare Quality** – AzCAHs report data into a national benchmarking system on patient safety, engagement, care transitions, and outpatient measures. AzFlex distributes quarterly trend reports to AzCAHs reflecting improvement and areas needing improvement.
- **Improve Financial and Operational Performance** – through monthly CAH Executive Leadership meetings, performance improvement education, consultations, technical assistance, financial and operational assessments, and recommendations tailored to individual CAHs.
- **Encourage Community Engagement and Health System Development** – use results from Community Health Needs Assessments, the Arizona Health Improvement Plan, and the 2016 Statewide EMS Needs Assessment to prioritize issues for communities served by CAHs and RHCs.
- **Designate Critical Access Hospitals (CAH)** – support, provide technical assistance to eligible rural hospitals considering federal CAH designation.

ARIZONA’S CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Banner Page Hospital | 7 Wickenburg Community Hospital | 12 Benson Hospital |
| 2 Hopi Health Care Center | 8 White Mountain Regional Medical Center | 13 Copper Queen Community Hospital |
| 3 Sage Memorial Hospital | 9 Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center | 14 Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital |
| 4 Little Colorado Medical Center | 10 Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital | 15 Banner Payson Medical Center |
| 5 Parker Indian Health Center | 11 Northern Cochise Community Hospital | |



AZFLEX CONTACTS

- **Jill Bullock**
Associate Director
bullock1@email.arizona.edu
520.626.3722
- **Joyce Hospodar**
Senior Advisor, Rural Programs
hospodar@email.arizona.edu
520.626.2432
- **Bryna Koch**
Special Projects Coordinator
brynak@email.arizona.edu
520.626.6253
- **Melissa Quezada**
Program Coordinator
melissaquezada@email.arizona.edu
520.626.0721
- **Daniel Derksen, MD**
Director, Principal Investigator
dderksen@email.arizona.edu
520.626.3085

