



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.

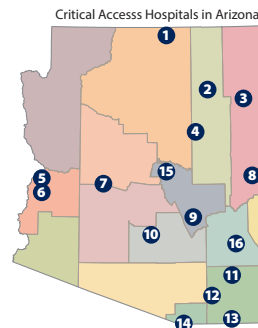
CAHs have fewer than 25 inpatient beds, are 35 miles or more from another facility, staff a 24-hours/7-days per week Emergency Department, and average less than 96 hours for an inpatient stay. Medicare reimburses CAHs on a reasonable cost basis for inpatient and outpatient services. Support by [Medicare](#), [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 | 8 White Mountain Regional Medical Center | 14 Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital |
| 2 Hopi Health Care Center | 9 Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center | 15 Banner Payson Medical Center |
| 3 Sage Memorial Hospital | 10 Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital | 16 Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center |
| 4 Little Colorado Medical Center | 11 Northern Cochise Community Hospital | |
| 5 Parker Indian Health Center | 12 Benson Hospital | |
| 6 La Paz Regional Hospital | 13 Copper Queen Community Hospital | |
| 7 Wickenburg Community Hospital | | |



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