

RURAL HEALTH COMMUNITY FORUM

A Gathering of Ideas, Opportunities, and Needs

The Minnesota Department of Health-Office of Rural Health and Primary Care (ORHPC), through its **Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (Flex Program)** is sponsoring **community/regional forums to gather information and recommendations for the 2008 Minnesota Rural Health Plan**. The Plan will help ORHPC target Minnesota’s rural health care resources. Critical Access Hospitals, rural emergency medical services, other rural health care providers, organizations, consumers, community leaders and interested citizens are invited to participate. These community meetings will help **shape the future of rural health care** in Minnesota.

The **Flex Program** supports rural communities in preserving access to primary and emergency health care services. The Flex Program accomplishes this by focusing on **five key components**, including:

- **Enhancing emergency medical services**
- **Improving quality of care**
- **Supporting Critical Access Hospitals**
- **Developing rural health networks**
- **Promoting community development**

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS FORUM IS VITAL TO OUR PLANNING EFFORTS!

Please register **online** at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/flex/> by clicking on the link for the specific forum you want to attend. Or, you can register by **mail or FAX** by **circling the location** of the forum you will attend, and completing the information below and returning the form by fax to (651) 201-3830 or by mail to Cindy LaMere, Minnesota Department of Health, P.O. Box 64882, St. Paul, MN 55164-0882. **There is no charge to register, and lunch is provided.**

Thursday, Jan 10, 2008
 10:00 – 2:00
 Shooting Star Casino
 777 Casino Road
Mahnomen, MN
Registration deadline:
January 8

Friday, Jan 11, 2008
 10:00- 2:00
 Hibbing Community College
 1515 E 25th Street
Hibbing, MN
Registration deadline:
January 9

Wednesday, Jan 23, 2008
 10:00-2:00
 Gainey Conference Center
 2480 S. County Rd 45
Owatonna, MN
Registration deadline:
January 21

Friday, Jan 25, 2008
 10:00-2:00
 AmericInn of Marshall
 1406 E Lyon St.
Marshall, MN
Registration deadline:
January 23

Name/title: _____
 Organization: _____
 Telephone: _____ FAX: _____
 Email: _____

In case of inclement weather, call (651) 201-3853 the morning of the forum for a recorded message to verify if it will go on as scheduled.

Questions? Contact Judy Bergh, at (651) 201-3843 or judith.bergh@health.state.mn.us.