

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 17 federally designated Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), 55 Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) – of which 32 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. (see [August 2024 Safety Net Map](#))

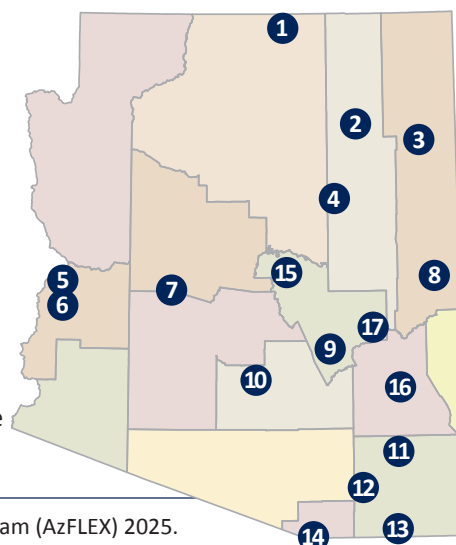
CAHs have fewer than 25 inpatient beds, are 35 miles or more from another facility, staff a 24-hours/7-days per week Emergency Department, and average less than 96 hours for an inpatient stay. Medicare reimburses CAHs on a reasonable cost basis for inpatient and outpatient services. Support by [Medicare](#), [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

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| 1 Banner Page Hospital | 7 Wickenburg Community Hospital | 13 Copper Queen Community Hospital |
| 2 Hopi Health Care Center | 8 White Mountain Regional Medical Center | 14 Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital |
| 3 Sage Memorial Hospital | 9 Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center | 15 Banner Payson Medical Center |
| 4 Little Colorado Medical Center | 10 Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital | 16 Mt Graham Regional Medical Center |
| 5 Parker Indian Health Center | 11 Northern Cochise Community Hospital | 17 Izeé Baa Gowah San Carlos Apache Healthcare |
| 6 La Paz Regional Hospital | 12 Benson Hospital | |



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