



RURAL HOSPITAL OFFICERS ACADEMY

EXCLUSIVE INVITATION:

*Developing the Texas Rural Health
Officers Academy*



In partnership with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Texas State University was selected to lead the development of the Rural Health Officers Academy (RHOA) in West Texas. RHOA is a state-funded executive leadership academy focused on strengthening rural hospital leadership capacity, supporting financial stability, preventing closures, and improving access to health care across Texas. The new law was established by House Bill 18 during the 2025 Texas legislative session and will deliver more than 100 hours of specialized training each year for leaders of rural hospitals and health systems.

The State of Texas' investment in executive leadership development presents an innovative opportunity to support health infrastructure. Our approach to developing RHOA learning curriculum utilizes a needs-based framework, requiring deep understanding of current unmet needs, opportunities, and strengths shaping hospital sustainability and patient care across West Texas health systems.

As a regional health executive, your insight is essential for understanding the most pressing operational, financial, workforce, and access-related challenges affecting local health care delivery. Your participation can help elevate the voices of West Texas health care leaders, identify which healthcare executives may benefit most from participating in the Academy, and ensure the program reflects the realities of rural health care delivery within the region.

Before RHOA launches statewide in 2027, you are invited to share feedback on the vital needs, opportunities, and key competencies that should guide RHOA's educational leadership curriculum.

YOU ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE BY:

- Sharing your perspective through a focus group, interview, and/or survey
- Identifying current challenges and opportunities for sustaining rural hospitals
- Recommending critical competencies for resource-constrained rural settings



Why Your Input Matters:

Your feedback can inform how RHOA's curriculum will reflect the needs of West Texas rural hospital leaders and prepare future academy participants to address the practical realities of rural health system leadership statewide.

What Participation Offers:

- Early influence on a statewide executive education program
- Connection to a peer network of Texas health system executives
- Regional representation in RHOA statewide curriculum development
- Priority access for RHOA training opportunities beginning in 2027



INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

Email the Translational Health Research Center at Texas State University:
healthresearch@txstate.edu

PROJECT TIMELINE:



Summer 2026:

Focus groups, interviews, and surveys activities



Fall 2026:

Findings presented to the advisory committee to guide curriculum design



Spring 2027:

RHOA launches with 100+ hours of state-funded, in-person executive education delivered in West Texas