

## New EMS Report Available

"An Alternative Approach to Defining Rural for the Purpose of Providing Emergency Medical Services" is the title of the new Emergency Medical Service report that was recently sent out by TASC. This document was created through the efforts of Gary Wingrove, Manager, Mayo Clinic's Gold Cross Ambulance Service and Thomas Judge, Executive Director, Lifelight of Maine. The report, which was developed for the Rural Emergency Medical Service Agenda for the Future, contains Rural-Urban Commuting areas (RUCA) maps that illustrate urban and rural areas within each state. The RUCA maps that accompany this report were produced

by the Rural Policy Research Institute under contract with the American Ambulance Association. Maps for all states, as well as an electronic copy of this report are available on the TASC website at <http://tasc.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/ems.shtml> under the title *An Alternative Approach to Defining Rural for the Purpose of Providing Emergency Medical Services*.

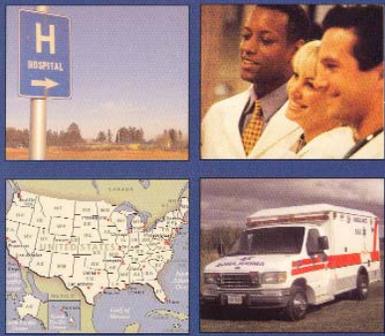
*"Change is to give up what we are to become what we could be."*

~Unknown

## Rural Health Resource Directory

Looking for the premier guide to rural health consultants and technical experts? Look no further. The Rural Health Resource Directory, which was recently created by the Rural Health Resource Center, is just that. The Directory includes consultants, organizations, and speakers located throughout the United States who provide services to rural hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare organizations.

The Rural Health Resource Directory is available online and free of charge to anyone looking for a rural consultant or other technical expert. The



Announcing ...

**Rural Health Resource Directory**  
*A premier guide to rural health consultants and technical experts.*

Directory enables you to search by state, type of rural organization, and consultant specialty.

The Rural Health Resource Directory includes consultants specializing in many different areas of rural health, with more consultants joining each week. Also, State Offices of Rural Health and State Hospital Association may be listed in the Directory at no charge.

For more information, and to access the Rural Health Resource Directory, please visit the Rural Health Resource Center website at: <http://www.ruralcenter.org/> and click on Rural Health Resource Directory.

## Flex Orientation Program

The next Flex Orientation Program will be held October 26-27, 2004 at the Rural Health Resource Center offices in Duluth, MN. The purposes of the Program are to provide basic information about the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program to new state Flex

coordinators and state office staff, and to provide participants an opportunity to network with colleagues from other states.

The Flex Orientation Program will include a Flex Program overview, an introduction to critical access hospital

finance, quality and performance improvement, EMS, rural health networks, Flex Program evaluation, program planning, workforce, and grant writing.

For more information about the October Program, contact Emily.

### SAVE the DATES:

**NRHA CAH Conference**  
October 6-8, 2004 Kansas City, MO  
Check out [www.NRHArural.org](http://www.NRHArural.org)

**Flex Orientation Program**  
October 26-27, 2004  
Contact TASC for more information.

### NEW TOOLS:

**New EMS Report Available:**  
*An Alternative Approach to Defining Rural for the Purpose of Providing Emergency Medical Services*

Available at:  
<http://tasc.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/ems.shtml>

### **Now Available from the Flex Monitoring Team:**

**National CAH Reporting Survey**  
<http://www.flexmonitoring.org>  
Click on *CAH National Survey*

### **Rural Health Resource Directory**

Available at:  
<http://www.ruralcenter.org/consult/>