



Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Re: Submission for OMB Review; Human Services Programs in Rural Contexts Study

To Whom It May Concern:

The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), National Association of Counties (NACo), and National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA) have partnered together to launch a learning community of local human services agencies that serve rural communities to discuss shared challenges, opportunities, and best practices in supporting the economic and social well-being of communities in rural contexts. Through this effort and our broader engagement of human services agencies, we are committed to advancing policies and practices that dismantle structural barriers to accessing foundational supports in rural areas and deliver services in ways that are culturally responsive to the diverse characteristics of rural communities.

We are pleased to see OPRE's planned study of human services programs in rural contexts and welcome any opportunity to support this important research and broker connections with rural human services agencies. Furthermore, we would be interested in staying connected with OPRE's research as it gets underway to share lessons learned with our learning community and disseminate findings to our broader membership. Please reach out to Matt Lyons (mlyons@aphsa.org), Rachel Mackey (rmackey@naco.org), and Tom Joseph (tj@paragonlobbying.com) to discuss possible opportunities for collaboration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Lyons

Director, Policy & Research
American Public Human Services Association

Rachel Mackey

Associate Legislative Director – Human Services and Education
National Association of Counties

Tom Joseph

Washington Representative
National Association of County Human Services Administrators