



For Immediate Release
May 24, 2023

Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program Committee Adopts Program Rules

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) hosted a scheduled meeting for the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program (RVIP) Committee on May 4, 2023, at its headquarters in Austin.

House Bill 1259 of the 87th Texas Legislature, transferred administration of the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program to the TAHC and established the RVIP Committee. Texas Education Code §56.103(d) mandated that the RVIP Committee adopt rules to select participants, provide for the request to distribute money, establish criteria necessary for qualification as a rural sponsor, govern agreements of financial support between the rural sponsor and an eligible participant, and other rules and procedures as necessary. The following rules were adopted by the RVIP Committee and go into effect May 24, 2023.

Chapter 42, Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program

Related to the establishment and administration of the RVIP, the adopted rule §42.1 sets out the authority to establish procedures to administer the RVIP and states the purpose is to encourage veterinary students and recent graduates to practice veterinary medicine in rural counties in Texas. Adopted rule §42.3 specifies the administrative duties of the TAHC and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and rule §42.5 provides definitions related to the other proposed sections in this chapter. Adopted rule §42.7 specifies the TAHC's role in publishing RVIP information and applications on its website.

In regard to the functionality of the RVIP, adopted rule §42.9 lists eligibility requirements, and rule §42.11 directs the TAHC to screen each application for eligibility and completeness. Adopted rule §42.13 specifies the RVIP application evaluation criteria and the process the RVIP Committee uses to score, rank, and select participants. Adopted rule §42.15 provides the instances where an application can be denied, allows for the voluntary withdrawal of an application, and provides an opportunity for applicants to reapply in future application rounds. Adopted rule §42.17 provides the eligibility requirements to be a rural community sponsor under the RVIP. Adopted rule §42.19 sets out the requirements for an eligible loan under the RVIP, and rule §42.21 specifies the amount of financial support that may be awarded and explains that the amount of financial support is contingent on available funding. Adopted rule §42.23 identifies the required terms for the financial agreement a participant must sign to receive RVIP financial support.

The rule in its entirety is available in the Texas Administrative Code under [Title 4, Part 2, Chapter 42](#). The Texas Administrative Code can be accessed through the [TAHC website](#).

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The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to



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this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.