# CMS Request for Information: Maternal and Infant Health Care in Rural Communities

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In a letter, PolicyLab responded to a Request for Information from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on how to improve infant and maternal health in rural areas. While CMS had already highlighted many challenges faced by rural pregnant women, new mothers and infants in a previous Issue Brief, PolicyLab highlighted the detrimental role of three additional barriers: social isolation, domestic violence and risks posed by environmental contaminants.

PolicyLab then cited extensive research to recommend the following interventions:

- Expanding mental health and behavioral health services in rural areas
- Supporting efforts to extend Medicaid coverage through one year after birth
- Increasing coordination across systems that serve mothers and children in rural areas
- Adopting an intergenerational approach, and leveraging pediatric settings to address gaps in maternal health care services
- Supporting evidence-based home visiting
- Encouraging social-media based and telephonic interventions

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## Related Content

- Senate Finance Committee Request for Information: Solutions to Improve Maternal Health
  Tools and Memos
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- A Community Capitals Framework for Identifying Rural Adaptation in Maternal-child Home Visiting
  Article
  Jul 2019
- A Mixed Methods Evaluation of Early Childhood Abuse Prevention Within Evidence-based Home Visiting Programs.
  Article
  Jun 2018

- Mothers' Mental Health Care Utilization After Screening for Postpartum Depression at Well Child Visits
  Article
  Nov 2018
- State Policy Solutions: Helping Children by Addressing Maternal Depression
  Policy Briefs
  Jan 2018