

## WHO WE ARE

The Council for Quality Respiratory Care (CQRC) is a coalition of the nation’s leading home oxygen therapy provider and manufacturing companies. Together, we provide in-home patient services and respiratory equipment to nearly **3 million patients** who rely on home oxygen therapy to maintain their independence and enhance their quality of life, including a majority of Medicare’s home respiratory beneficiaries. Our member companies also employ nearly **30,000 healthcare professionals** nationwide.

## OUR MISSION

Our members are committed to providing high quality in-home patient services and respiratory equipment to individuals who rely on home oxygen and sleep therapy to maintain independence and enhance their quality of life.

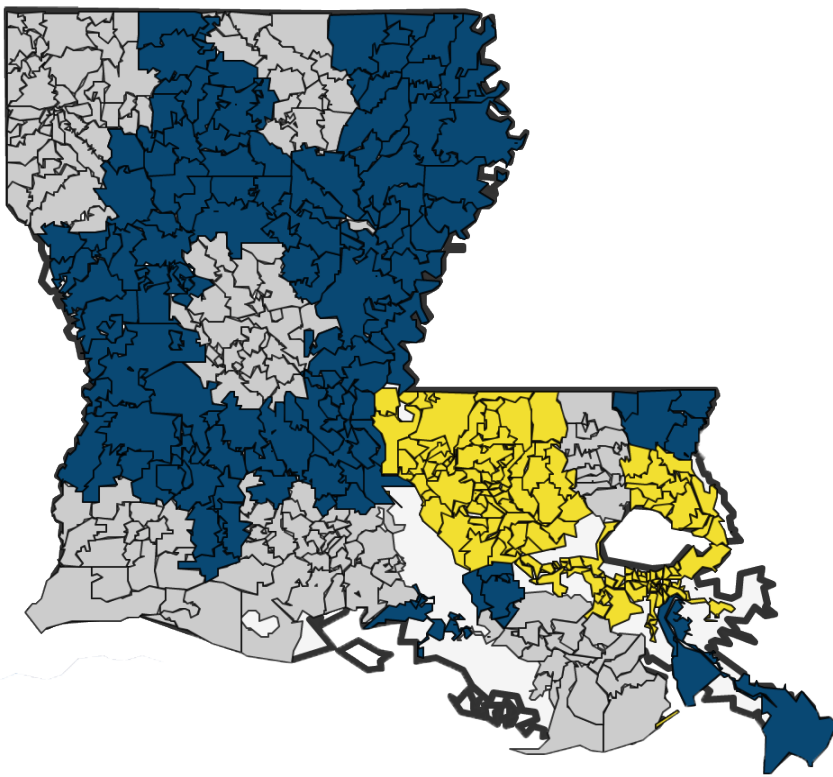
## THE ISSUE

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services uses a competitive bidding program to set the rates for Medicare reimbursement for home respiratory services. This system divides service areas into different payment rates: competitive bidding, rural and non-competitive bidding areas.

Despite adjustments to the program, CMS is still applying competitive bidding rates determined under an older methodology to non-competitively bid areas (CBAs), which we fear will harm patients due to the increased costs of providing home oxygen supplies and services in those markets.

CMS must ensure rates are properly set to protect access to home oxygen services and stabilize the market, especially for beneficiaries living in rural and underserved markets.

- Competitive Bidding Area (CBA)
- Non-Competitive Bidding Area (CBA) Rural
- Non-Competitive Bidding Area (CBA) Non-Rural



### CQRC IN LOUISIANA

**33,222 Patients**

**1,213 Employees**

Treating patients in urban & rural areas, including:

- Alexandria
- Baton Rouge
- Broussard La
- Harahan
- Houma
- Lafayette
- Lake Charles
- Monroe
- Natchitoches
- New Orleans
- Ruston
- Shreveport
- Slidell
- Winnsboro