



NRHA Policy Institute 2024

Welcome to NRHA's 35th Annual Rural Health Policy Institute

Join the National Rural Health Association on Feb. 13-15 in Washington, D.C., where you'll hear about rural health priorities from your elected officials, understand how to successfully engage in NRHA's advocacy, develop rapport with your Congressional delegation, participate in NRHA's Rural Health Disparities Summit, learn new ways NRHA is advancing the association's priorities, and much more!





Policy Institute Background



The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) is a national nonprofit membership organization that brings together thousands of rural advocates across the United States.

*NRHA membership consists of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health. The association's mission is to provide leadership on rural health issues through **advocacy, communications, education and research.***

Rural Health Policy Institute: *Feb 13-15, 2024 Washington, D.C.*

Bring the story of your community to Capitol Hill!

NRHA's 35th Rural Health Policy Institute is your chance to guide the future of rural health policy with NRHA leadership. Advocate for issues you care about with new and returning members of Congress and the Administration.

Now, more than ever before, is our time to convince Congress that rural health isn't just a headline. Rural health is a movement. It's time for Capitol Hill to hear your voice.

You'll have the chance to:

- Develop rapport with your federal elected officials and staff
- Understand the importance and successes of NRHA's advocacy
- Learn the new ways NRHA is advancing the association's priorities
- Participate in NRHA's Rural Health Disparities Summit
- Connect with your Congressional delegation to educate them on rural health policy priorities

We need your voice at our most important rural health advocacy event yet. Let's put our ideas in motion and speak directly with our elected officials to advocate for legislation and policies that protect rural patients, providers, and their communities.

Please find the link to our draft agenda [here](#).

For more information check out our PI webpage [here](#).



Post on Social Media



Use PI hashtags

- #ruralhealth
- #NRHA24DC
- #RurallyInLove
- #WeLoveRural

Scan our PI QR Code



Follow NRHA and NRHA advocacy on all our social media and tag us!

NRHA Advocacy



NRHA General



Social media template posts

- We are so excited to attend NRHA's 35th Annual Rural Health Policy Institute to help advocate and advance priorities to improve rural health care access! Learn more [here](#). #ruralhealth #NRHA24DC
- Rural health is something to cheer for. This year, we choose to advocate for the ones we love by attending NRHA's 35th annual Rural Health Policy Institute, where we not only show our love for rural health on the Hill, but in our hearts! Learn more [here](#) #RurallyInLove #WeLoveRural #NRHA24DC
- Effective advocacy is key to real and lasting #ruralhealth policy change. That's why we're heading to Capitol Hill to tell our reps what our rural community needs at NRHA's Rural Health Policy Institute Feb. 13-15. [[PI24 site](#)] #NRHA24DC
- This is why we <3 rural health! Here at NRHA's 35th Annual Rural Health Policy Institute, we are advocating and sharing all the ways we love rural health. Learn more [here](#). #WeLoveRural #NRHA24DC



Advocate for Rural Health



Key Rural Health Points

Rural Health

- Approximately **60 million, or 1 in 5, Americans** reside in rural areas.
- Rural health care suffers from long-standing challenges, including: healthcare workforce shortages; lower health insurance coverage; vulnerable healthcare facilities; distance and inadequate transportation; limited broadband access; and higher prevalence of chronic disease.
- *Legislative asks to reference: [NRHA 2024 Legislative Agenda](#)*

Advocacy Materials

- [NRHA 2024 Legislative Agenda](#)
- [NRHA 2024 Appropriation Priorities](#)
- [NRHA Rural Hospital Legislative Priorities](#)
- [2024 Rural Medicare Extender Priorities](#)
- [NRHA Farm Bill Legislative Priorities](#)
- [NRHA Rural Health 101](#)
- [Rural Health Advocacy 101](#)

Infrastructure

- Rural hospitals <<like mine/in my state>> play a critical role in providing local health care and continue to be on the front lines in our rural communities.
- Since 2010, **nearly 170 rural hospitals have closed, or ended inpatient services**, leaving many residents having to travel **double** the distance to obtain basic health care needs. When a rural hospital closes, not only does the community lose access to vital health care, but a major employer and community lynchpin exits, affecting the larger community.
- It is critical Congress uses every tool to equip rural providers with the stability they need to keep their doors open. Currently, **more than 50% of rural hospitals** operating on on negative margins.
- *Legislative asks: [Rural Hospital Legislative Priorities-Infrastructure](#); [Rural Hospital Legislative Priorities](#),*

Workforce

- Workforce shortages are plaguing rural providers<<in my state/like mine>>. There are currently **5,467 Health Professional Shortage Areas** (HPSAs) in the US, with over 60% of them being located in rural areas.
- 65% of rural areas do not have a psychiatrist for behavioral health issues and also **lack many other specialists**.
- Only 10% of US physicians practice in rural areas, despite rural representing nearly 20% of the US population.
- Current healthcare workforce shortages greatly impact my <<facility, community, etc.>> ability to provide care.
- *Legislative asks to reference: [Rural Hospital Legislative Priorities-Workforce](#)*

Equity:

- In comparison to our urban, rural areas are more likely to be affected by social determinants of health and inequities that prevents proper healthcare access and health outcomes.
- Rural communities have more **uninsured residents**, as well as higher rates of unemployment, leading to less access to care.
- **Lack of high-speed internet access** can be a hindrance to accessing information, representing another challenge rural Americans face.
- *Legislative asks to reference: [Rural Hospital Legislative Priorities-Equity](#)*



Rural Advocacy Materials



NRHA makes available topic-specific advocacy materials that can be used to provide to support initiatives about rural health!

Rural
Emergency
Hospital

340B
Program

Rural
Health
Clinic

Rural
Hospitals

Rural
Maternal
Health

Rural
Telehealth

Rural
Behavioral
Health

Rural
Community
Health Centers

Rural
Oral
Health

Rural
EMS

Rural
Veteran's
Health

Rural
Public
Health