



2020 NYS Policy Priorities

*Look at all budget and policy proposals with a 'rural lens'.
Will this change increase or decrease health disparities in rural communities?*

NYSARH strongly supports the reactivation of the NYS Rural Health Council and urges the legislature to name council members who have significant connections to rural New York.

- 1. Preserve existing funding & infrastructure that support rural healthcare, disease prevention, health education and health workforce programs.**
 - **Rural Health Network Development Program**
 - **Rural Health Access Development Program**
 - **Area Health Education Centers**
 - State Office of Rural Health
 - County Health Departments
 - Alcohol/Drug/Tobacco/Vaping Prevention Programs
 - Maternal & Child Health
 - The Prevention Agenda
 - Chronic Disease Prevention & Self-Management Programs
 - Lead Education & Abatement
 - Poison Control

- 2. Implement strategies to increase the rural healthcare workforce. Shortages are experienced in all levels and disciplines.**
 - Expand loan forgiveness programs such as Doctors Across New York
 - Support Diversity in Medicine initiatives
 - Support Rural Residency programs
 - Include health workforce curricula at rural SUNY Colleges and Community Collages
 - Provide adequate funding for community-based Long-Term Care programs
 - Support cross training to promote workforce flexibility in Home Care [A1208/S1805]

3. Build capacity to provide more comprehensive, timely, affordable and effective behavioral health care.

- Standardize licensure/certification and payment regulations for Mental Health and Substance Use [Article 31 & 32] counseling professionals to facilitate retention and recruitment [A4383]
- Require fair payment for services provided by Certified Peer & Family Support positions
- Support 3% investment over 5 years to support the human services sector [3 for 5: to ensure communities thrive]
- Support OASAS funding to County jails for substance use treatment and transition services
- Support expansion of OMH-funded Supported Housing

4. Address challenges for Rural EMS & support Paramedicine

- Provide direct insurance reimbursement for EMS services [S3528/A6211]
- Provide greater licensure flexibility for Paramedics and Advanced EMT level personnel to provide and be compensated for Community Paramedicine for community-based care [S1805/A1208]
 - Provide billing codes for EMS services that do not result in transport to a hospital
- Increase Medicaid ambulance fees to match Medicare rates
 - Address Medicare/Medicaid 'cross-over billings'
- Fund mileage reimbursement for EMS practitioners to attend training and provide more EMS training via webinar and remote locations to facilitate rural participation
- Increase the mileage rate for ambulance services
- Support integration of EMS patient data into the SHIN-NY health record

5. Address challenges for non-emergency Rural Transportation

- Rethink current dependence on Medical Answering Service for Medicaid transportation – other, locally-specific opportunities are preferable in some rural communities
- Allow Medicaid to provide vouchers for public transportation for rides to medical appointments
- Develop regulations to protect volunteer-based transportation programs from excessive liability

6. Health in All Policies

Tobacco/Nicotine Products

- Support restrictions on flavored tobacco & vaping products, including menthol [A8808/S6809 & A47-A/S428-B]

Rural Broadband

- Support meaningful implementation of increased broadband based on accurate assessments of current coverage

Prevention Agenda

- Support the Prevention Agenda
https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/prevention_agenda
- Preserve the gains made in Population Health improvement by programs that are sun-setting like Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment and the Population Health Improvement Program
- Work with Stakeholders to develop DSRIP 2.0

Marijuana

- 50% of funds raised to be allocated to prevention & treatment
- Mandate 25% Public Health Practitioners on Marijuana Advisory Council
- Support a regional approach with adjoining states

Seatbelts in the rear seat

- Support requiring adults to use seatbelts in rear seats

Immunization

- Support ImmuNYze New York campaign <https://www.immunize.org/>

Coverage 4 All

- Continue gradual expansion of the Essential Plan to make health coverage available to more New Yorkers [A5974/S3900]

NY Health Act

- Support analysis of the benefits of a single payer health plan [A5248/S3577]