



Policy Brief

The Rural Health Network Development Program offers grants for rural healthcare providers to improve access to care, enhance coordination of services, increase efficiency of service delivery, and introduce needed community services.

Rural Health Networks combine the functions of the entities participating in the network to address the following legislative aims: (i) achieve efficiencies; (ii) expand access, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential health care services; and (iii) strengthen the rural health care system as a whole.

The Rural Health Access Development Program offers grants for rural hospitals to improve access to care, enhance coordination of services, increase efficiency of service delivery, and introduce needed community services. Specifically, the objectives of the program include:

- Planning or implementing the conversion or diversification of underutilized acute care beds;
- Planning or implementing projects that diversify hospital services;
- Planning and/or implementing activities for improving cost efficiencies;
- Developing long-term finance or resource plans for hospitals;
- Integrating services with other hospitals and community-based providers; and
- Further strengthening rural health networks statewide.

Additionally, all Rural Healthcare Access Development Program contracts valued at greater than \$25,000 are subject to the New York State Department of Health's 30 percent goal for minority and women owned business enterprise (MWBE) participation, which tangibly benefits smaller scale local and regional businesses across the state.

Funds are often used for outreach, prevention, health education and peer support.

About Us:

The New York State Association for Rural Health (NYSARH) is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization working to preserve and improve the health of the citizens in rural New York State. NYSARH membership includes representatives of all facets of the rural health care industry, as well as individuals and students. On many different levels, NYSARH serves individuals, consumers, non-profit organizations, government agencies and officials, health care facilities, emergency medical service providers, long-term care organizations, businesses, universities, foundations, associations, and other stakeholders in rural health.

www.nysarh.org