

**Executive Budget Threatens Rural Health**

The Executive Budget, if enacted, threatens the health and wellness of rural New Yorkers and their communities. Healthcare is a significant driver of economic development all over, but especially in rural areas where hospitals and healthcare agencies are frequently the largest employers. Please view this brief video: <https://vimeo.com/313195728>

We already have rural health disparities. Did you know that the average life expectancy of people in rural areas is two years shorter than people in urban areas? A major reason for this difference is access to qualified healthcare professionals. Much of Upstate New York has been designated by the federal government as a Health Workforce Shortage Area for primary care, dental care and behavioral healthcare. <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area>

The proposed funding cuts will only exacerbate poor health outcomes for rural New Yorkers. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/rural-health-disparities>

**The NYS Association for Rural Health strongly supports Healthcare Workforce, Rural Health Network and Rural Health Access Development programs.**

Action

Needed

**Restore funding to Health Workforce Programs**

 **2019-20 2020-21**

Area Health Education Centers $1,670,000 $0

Diversity in Medicine $1,244,000 $0

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**Restore funding to Rural Health Programs**

 **2019-20 2020-21**

Rural Health Network Development $5,530,000 $3,764,000

Rural Health Access Development $8,250,000 $5,646,000