



December 10, 2020

Honorable Jon Jacobson
NYS Assembly
Albany, NY

Dear Assembly Member Jacobson:

Thank you for your previous support for Rural Health initiatives. The New York State Association for Rural Health [NYSARH] contracted with the New York State Department of Health to administer the 2019-20 Legislative Appropriation on behalf of the New York State Charles D. Cook Office of Rural Health.

Funds were appropriated and spent in the previous fiscal year to support the development and continued vitality of comprehensive, cost-effective health care systems serving rural areas and improving access to healthcare for rural residents. Expenses included minor renovations, equipment, information technology upgrades, hospital beds, CPR manikins, accessibility improvements, community training, uniforms, educational materials and personal protective equipment.

NYSARH is a fiscal pass-through and is dependent upon New York State honoring its contract to reimburse sub-contracted hospitals and networks. These funds have stalled. We have been waiting for \$267,524.43 since July.

NYSARH is a small not-for-profit working to improve the health and wellness of the residents of rural New York State. We operate on a very limited budget and have experienced great hardships resulting from the global pandemic and the State's delay in releasing funds.

The sub-contracted Rural Access Hospitals and Rural Health Networks expended these funds prior to March 31, 2020 with the understanding that they would be reimbursed this year. Since then, they have all ramped up for Coronavirus response and could really use the contracted reimbursements to support their essential operations.

Please send a letter to New York State Budget Director Robert Mujica and Governor Cuomo asking them to release these funds that were included in the 2019-20 NYS Budget and are urgently needed by organizations addressing the pandemic in their rural communities.

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

If you have any questions, please contact me at sara@nysarh.org.

Sincerely,
Sara Wall Bollinger
NYSARH