

NYS Association for Rural Health

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**2021 Rural Health Advocacy**

2021 NYSARH Albany Talking Points

Restore Funding for Rural Health programs: Rural Health Network & Rural Access Hospital Development

* Reject proposed 34% funding cut
* Fully pay 2019-20 contracts
* Release the 2020-21 appropriation
* Restore the SFY ‘21 24% reduction
* Fund the State Office of Rural Health
* Empanel the Rural Health Council

Expand Rural Broadband & Telehealth

* Mandate telecom coverage for rural communities
* Require reimbursement for audio-only and audio-video visits when clinically appropriate

Fund Workforce Recruitment & Retention

* Area Health Education Centers
* Doctors Across New York
* Diversity in Medicine
* Rural Residency Programs
* Standardize licensure/certification
* Provide fair payment to Peers
* Expand rural access to maternity care

Reject the proposed MRT II §1115 Pharmacy benefit carve-out

* Keep prices affordable for patients
* Enable HIV+ patients access to necessary treatments
* Allow health centers to offer outreach and education programs
* Save safety net hospitals and health centers from financial crisis

Explore new paradigms for rural EMS

* Create a Task Force
* Increase training flexibility
* Establish payor guidelines for Community Paramedicine
* Increase Medicaid reimbursement
* Address non-participating provider issues with commercial insurance

Support Public Health Infrastructure

* Commit to the Prevention Agenda
* Increase access to immunizations
* Ban flavored tobacco products
* Promote walkability initiatives
* Invest in home care & caregiver support programs
* Expand supportive housing

**NYSARH Members are…**

Rural Health Networks

Area Health Education Centers

Medical Providers

Federally Qualified Health Centers

Behavioral Health Agencies

County Public Health Departments

Hospitals & Urgent Care Centers

Schools of Higher Education

Health Foundations

Long Term Care Providers

Disease Prevention Organizations

Veteran Organizations

Community Action Agencies

Emergency Services

**NYSARH Members …**

Administer unique programs, tailored to rural communities

Deliver prevention and education services

Develop the health professionals of the future

Engage in regional health system transformation

Implement population health initiatives

Navigate healthcare and health insurance

Offer continuing education and internships

Partner with other organizations to leverage resources and maximize impact

Prepare for value-based payment

Provide or coordinate transportation

Reduce unnecessary hospital and emergency department visits

Solve community challenges at the community level

**NYSARH …**

Advocates for the health and well-being of Rural New Yorkers

Facilitates networking and collaboration across Upstate New York

Participates in the Rural Health Policy Institute in Washington, DC

Presents several Rural Health Awards on National Rural Health Day

Publishes a Quarterly Newsletter

Provides a variety of educational webinars, workshops & conferences

Works in conjunction with the NYS Office of Rural Health

Represents New York with the National Rural Health Association

[**www.NYSARH.org**](http://www.NYSARH.org)