

January 25, 2023

Re: Support for Rural Health Programs

Dear State Leaders:

On behalf of the undersigned, we are writing to respectfully request that NYS dedicate \$16.2 million to the New York State Rural Health Programs for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 to move toward our shared goal of achieving **health equity for rural New Yorkers**.

Rural communities are challenged by disparities in healthcare access AND health outcomes as a function of rurality.

- Disparities in healthcare access include:
 - geographic isolation
 - limited number of healthcare specialists and sub-specialists
 - difficulties with transportation
 - poor broadband service
 - poverty
 - Disparities in healthcare outcomes include:
 - higher incidence of disease and disability
 - increased mortality rates
 - lower life expectancies
 - higher rates of pain and suffering
- ❖ <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/rural-health-disparities>

The Rural Healthcare Access Development Program and the Rural Health Network Development Program were created in 1997 to assist rural health care providers in extending and maintaining services in rural communities. These programs support rural healthcare providers to collaboratively diversify and expand services, bolster emergency preparedness, deliver disease prevention programs, and engage with other organizations to encourage rural communities to foster mental and physical wellness.

In 2016 Rural Health Programs were allocated \$16.2 million. Since then, the Executive Budget has repeatedly reduced funding to these programs to \$9.4 million. **The NYS Association for Rural Health respectfully requests the addition of \$6.8 million in funding for Rural Health programs in the 2023-24 Budget.**

We appreciate your time and attention on this important matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sara Wall Bollinger, NYSARH Director for Strategic Development at sara@nysarh.org.

Sincerely,

Associations

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

AARP-NY

Care Compass Network

Community Health Care Association of New York State

National Association for Social Work – New York State

New York State Public Health Association

New York State Rural Housing Coalition

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York

Rural Schools Association of New York State

Organizations

Adirondack Health Institute

Advocates for Autism

American Civic Association

Ardent Solutions

Bassett Healthcare Network

Broome County Office for Aging

Catholic Charities of Cortland County

Catholic Charities Tompkins Tioga

Catskills Addiction Coalition

Cayuga Community Health Network

Cayuga Cortland Workforce Development Board

Chenango Health Network

Chenango County Area Agency on Aging

Chenango County Public Health

Children's Home of Jefferson County

Common Ground Health

Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County

Community Foundation for South Central New York

Connex Care

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cortland County Community Action Program
Cortland County Health Department
CASA-Trinity
Credo Community Center
Delaware County Public Health
Dr. Bilqees Healthcare Solutions
E5 Support Services
Fairview Recovery Services
Family Health Network of Central New York
Family Planning of South Central New York
Finger Lakes Community Health
Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
Genesee Valley Health Partnership
Grace House [Canton]
Guthrie Cortland Medical Center
Hamilton County Public Health
Healthy Community Alliance
Herkimer County HealthNet
Hudson Headwaters Health Network
Human Services Coalition
Human Service Development
Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital
Jefferson County Public Health Service
Kinney Drugs
Lewis County Office for the Aging
Lewis County Public Health
Madison County Rural Health Council
Medical Care Development [MCD Global Health]
Newark-Wayne Community Hospital
North Country Family Health Center
North Country Healthy Heart Network

North Country Initiative
North Country Matters
North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council
Northern Area Health Education Center
Planned Parenthood of the North Country New York
Pivotal Public Health Partnership
Riger Marketing Communications
River Hospital
Rural Health Network of South Central New York
St. Lawrence County Community Services
St. Lawrence County Health Initiative
St. Lawrence County Public Health
St. Lawrence Health System
Schuyler Hospital
Seaway Valley Prevention Council
Seven Valleys Health Coalition
Sothorn Tier AIDS Program/Southern Tier Care Coordination
Southern Tier Health Care System
Southern Tier Independence Center
Sun River Health
Tioga Opportunities
The Chautauqua Center
The Healthcare Consortium
The Institute for Human Services
United Way for Cortland County
Universal Primary Care/Southern Tier Community Health Center
Volunteer Transportation Mobility Management
Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments
Wayne Behavioral Health Network
Wayne County Public Health
Wayne County Rural Health

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