

WINTER NEWSLETTER

NYSARH Announces 2025 Cohort of Research and Policy (RaP) Fellows

The New York State Association for Rural Health (NYSARH) is excited to introduce the 2025 cohort of Research and Policy (RaP) Fellows. This nine-month fellowship develops emerging leaders in rural health policy, equipping them with research, analysis, and advocacy skills to shape policies benefiting rural communities. Fellows will collaborate with mentors from NYSARH's Board and Policy Committee to create issue and policy briefs aligned with NYSARH's legislative agenda.



Samantha Ballas
Doctor Medical Student at SUNY Upstate, Rural Medicine Program



Joshua Grove
Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology at Syracuse University, specializing in Drugs & Society and Population Health



Abby Duvall
Master of Public Health, Global Health Policy



Sabrina Soto
Master of Healthcare Administration student at Suffolk University, concentration in Quality and Patient Safety



Grace Gugerty
Medical Student at SUNY Upstate, Rural Medicine Program

Public Health Partnership Conference

The Public Health Partnership Conference will be held in-person in 2025. The event will be held in Ithaca, NY April 30 – May 2, 2025. NYSARH and our partners (New York State Association of County Health Officials and New York State Public Health Association) are working hard to plan an event that will bring you an exciting, informative and educational experience as we join our public health colleagues in-person.

Attendee Registration Now Open!

Early Bird Pricing Ends February 14th, 2025

[Register Here](#)

Book Your Hotel Today!

Reservation Deadline: March 31, 2025

For Attendees:

- Booking Code: [NYANYAA](#)

[2025 NYS Public Health Partnership Conference Attendees Reservation Link](#)

For Vendors:

- Booking Code: [NYVNYVA](#)

[2025 NYS Public Health Partnership Conference Vendors Reservation Link](#)



[Learn More](#)

Learning Institute

Nourishing New York: Addressing Climate Change and Food Security for a Healthier State

April 30, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Join Us at the 2025 Public Health Partnership Conference's Learning Institute

On Wednesday, April 30th, explore the future of climate change and food security in Nourishing New York: Addressing Climate Change and Food Security for a Healthier State. Set in 2035, this interactive session uses projected data, discussions, and tabletop exercises to develop sustainable, cross-sector solutions for improving health in New York.

THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL HEALTH

Rural Health Policy Forum

NYSARH thanks **Jonathan Miller**, Partner at The Bonadio Group, for updating members on the NY Health Equity Reform Waiver and Career Pathways Training Program. He emphasized preparing for value-based payment, the critical need for 340b funding, and the benefits of telehealth for rural communities.

Elisabeth Benjamin, VP for Health Initiatives at Community Service Society, stressed the importance of primary care in reducing hospitalizations and noted a decline in public insurance enrollment post-PHE. She highlighted key NYS policy wins, including lower prescription costs, reduced hospital lawsuits, and expanded financial assistance.

Gail Myers of State Wide Senior Action spoke on behalf of Maria Alvarez, who testified before Congress. Myers shared data on the growing needs of seniors, including the Elderly Economic Security Index. [Explore the interactive tool here.](#)

Exclusive event for members only.

NYSARH 2025 Policy Forum

NYS ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL HEALTH

 **JAN 15, 2025 1:00-3:00 PM**

Guest Speakers:



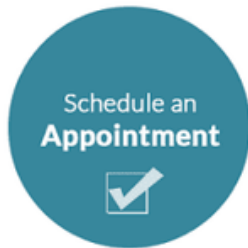
Maria Alvarez
Executive Director
Statewide Senior Action Council



Elisabeth Benjamin
Vice President Health Initiatives
Community Service Society



Jonathan Miller
Partner
The Bonadio Group



NYSARH members are encouraged to meet with their own Assembly members and NYS Senators in District during the month of February. Please contact Sara Wall Bollinger if you are able to participate at sara@nysarh.org. Resources are available on our website: <https://nysarh.org/policy/new-york-state/>

NYSARH Receives \$500,000 Grant from Mother Cabrini Health Foundation to Support Older Adult Rural Mental and Behavioral Health Workforce Program

Grant to Enhance Awareness, Reduce Stigma, and Strengthen Workforce for Rural Communities

NYSARH proudly announces its receipt of a \$500,000 grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation to launch the Older Adult Rural Mental and Behavioral Health Workforce Support Program (OARS). This transformative initiative addresses the critical need for mental and behavioral health services in rural communities while increasing workforce support and reducing stigma surrounding mental health.



The OARS program focuses on four key areas:

1. Stigma Reduction: Screening All the Lonely People in six rural communities, with virtual simulcasts and discussions led by producer Joe Applebaum.
2. Workforce Pathway Development: Expanding online and in-person Mental Health First Aid training through partnerships with AHECs and NY FarmNet.
3. In-Person Shadowing: Providing hands-on experiences through MASH Camps and family consultant mentorships to inspire rural mental health careers.
4. Community & Employer Engagement: Collaborating with HR managers and rural employers to offer training and resources for supporting older adults and workers.

This initiative comes at a pivotal time, as rural communities face increasing mental health challenges and severe workforce shortages. The OARS program represents a meaningful step forward in improving the lives of older adults in these communities while providing opportunities for young people to explore mental health professions.

THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL HEALTH

NYSARH Secures \$100K Grant to Boost Rural Mental Health Access



The New York State Association for Rural Health (NYSARH) has received a \$100,000 grant from the New York Health Foundation (NY Health) to strengthen mental health services in rural communities. Through this initiative, NYSARH will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment across 44 rural counties, collaborating with up to 12 rural health networks and community-based organizations to develop action plans and advocacy strategies. The goal is to address provider shortages, transportation barriers, and funding limitations that hinder mental health access in rural areas.

"This grant is a catalyst for real change in rural mental health," said Alison Coates, President of NYSARH's Board of Directors.

"With NY Health's support, we will bridge gaps in care, build stronger community partnerships, and advocate for policy changes to ensure rural New Yorkers have access to the mental health services they need." Through this initiative, NYSARH aims to empower rural health networks with the tools and resources necessary to create lasting improvements in mental health access across New York.

Join NYSARH

High Hepatitis C Rates in Rural Counties of New York State



Hepatitis C is a serious public health problem. New infections of hepatitis C remain high especially among young adults. Injection drug use is the primary risk associated with all new infections. Hepatitis C is curable. However, an estimated 40% of people living with hepatitis C do not know their status.

Recent trends show that rural counties in New York are disproportionately impacted by hepatitis C. In 2023, rates of newly reported hepatitis C were 44% higher in rural counties than in urban counties outside of New York City.

Regional and county-level hepatitis C data are available in the newly released [2023 Hepatitis C Regional Data Briefs](#). A comprehensive summary of hepatitis C and B trends can be found in the [2023 NYS Hepatitis B and C Annual Report](#). Read about [New York State's plan to eliminate hepatitis C by 2030](#) and how you can help the State reach its goals. Join us on May 14, 2025 for the [3rd annual New York State Hepatitis C Elimination Progress Report virtual meeting](#).

- **Job Postings:** Platform for rural health job listings and opportunities.
- **Diversity Data Dashboard:** Tools to analyze health trends by location.
- **Networking:** Connections with rural health professionals and organizations.
- **Updates:** Newsletters, grant alerts, and rural health updates.
- **Event Discounts:** Reduced fees for NYSARH and partner events.
- **Webinar Access:** Free or discounted rural health webinars.
- **Advocacy:** Representation on state and federal rural health policies.
- **Fellowships & Internships:** Opportunities for students and early professionals.
- **Resource Connections:** Access to rural health networks and tools.

Work With Us: Executive Director

The New York State Association for Rural Health seeks a dynamic, passionate, and visionary Executive Director to serve as the senior leader working in partnership with its Board of Directors to advance the mission of the organization. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in leadership, operational management, fund development, advocacy, and collaboration with others. They will possess a deep knowledge of, and passion for, rural health and health equity.

The Executive Director will actively maintain and establish relationships with local, regional, state, and federal partners, policy makers, funders, and its membership to positively impact the health and wellness of rural New York State. The position will strengthen the rural health landscape by organizing and amplifying the voice of its member organizations, will develop opportunities for organizational growth that aligns with NYSARH's mission, and will successfully carry out NYSARH's Strategic Plan and Business Plan. Experience leading a state-wide association preferred.

[Learn More](#)

THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL HEALTH

Brownfields Redevelopment in Rural Communities Feb 20, 2025, 1pm EST

Presenters:

Katie Malgioglio, LMSW, Nylab Noori, MPH, Randi Mendes, PhD

This presentation will include an introduction to brownfields redevelopment and how these sites impact rural communities, including background information and relevant data. We will conclude with an overview of TAB services and resources.

<https://tab.program.uconn.edu/>

[Register Now!](#)



Hosted By:



CHES Credits Offered By:



Save the Date: 2025 Rural Health Symposium

The NYSARH Annual Symposium taking place Sept. 17-18th, 2025 in Geneva, New York is a premier gathering for healthcare, public health, and key stakeholders interested in rural health innovations, attracting attention from all sectors.

The Rural Health Symposium provides a prime opportunity for you to market to and network with key leaders from a multitude of areas in New York State's health arena: hospitals, clinics, agencies serving older adults, advocacy groups, academic institutions, rural health networks, training organizations, state and county officials, emergency medical service providers, and many others.

Upcoming events

- Save the Date!: Age-Friendly Rural Communities Summit: **April 29, 2024**. NYSARH, in partnership with the NYS Office for Aging, AARP-NY, and the NYS Alzheimer's Association Chapters, will host a one-day summit focused on supporting older adults in rural New York.
 - **Key goals:**
 - Share promising practices for age-friendly rural efforts.
 - Discuss the New York State Master Plan on Aging and its impact on rural communities.
- NYSARH/NERHA March Webinar: **Importance of Mental Health in Rural Communities**
 - **When:** March 20, 2025
 - **Time:** 1pm EST
 - **[Register Here](#)**



Funding Opportunity

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is now accepting new applications for the Rural Community Hospital Demonstration. The demonstration tests cost-based reimbursement for Medicare inpatient services for small rural hospitals with fewer than 51 beds that are not eligible to be Critical Access Hospitals.

As part of a broader rural strategy initiative, CMS hosted a Rural Health Hackathon in August 2024 to collaboratively produce creative, actionable ideas to address health care challenges facing rural communities. This Request for Applications (RFA) is one effort to help address these challenges.

The RFA is open and the application is available on [Rural Community Hospital Demonstration webpage](#). Hospitals interested must apply by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on March 1, 2025. Hospitals currently participating in the demonstration do not need to complete a new application.