

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

2026 NYSARH Rural Health Symposium Registration Open!

Registration is now open for the 2026 NYSARH Annual Rural Health Symposium! Join us September 17–18 at the scenic Thousand Island Harbor Hotel in Clayton, NY, for New York's leading rural health event. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with healthcare professionals, public health experts, students, and rural health advocates as we discuss the latest innovations and challenges in rural health. Secure your spot today!

[Register Now!](#)

Secure your Hotel Today!

Please call the hotel at 315-686-1100 to book your hotel room and request room block for the New York State Association for Rural Health. Pricing starts at \$110

If you would like to stay Wednesday night the link below contains nearby hotels that can accommodate a Wednesday night stay.

[Overflow Hotels](#)

Support Rural Health in New York!

Explore sponsorship opportunities for our upcoming symposium, including Conference Sponsor, Keynote Sponsor, Policy Panel Sponsor, Networking Reception Sponsor, Lunch Sponsor, Exhibitor Tables, and Breakout Sessions Sponsors. Click the button to view more sponsorship options.

[View Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

Advertisement Book Pricing

- Full-page program advertisement – \$500:
 - One (1) complimentary Symposium registration
 - Advertisement displayed in the Symposium slide deck
- Half-page program advertisement – \$250
- Quarter-page program advertisement – \$150

For ad specifications, please email janiya@nysarh.org.

We're proud to feature a dynamic Healthcare Workforce Panel moderated by NYSARH Membership Chair, Melissa Wendland.



Carrie Roseamelia,
NYS Department of Health



Tasha Grimmer,
Caring Gene



Richard Merchant,
Area Health Education Centers



Carol Tegas,
Combined Entity of Common Ground Health, Finger Lakes Performing Provider System and Rochester Regional Information Organization



Melissa Wendland,
Combined Entity of Common Ground Health, Finger Lakes Performing Provider System and Rochester Regional Information Organization



P.O Box 134, Fort Edward NY 12828

Are Rural Public Service Organizations Reaching a Breaking Point?

To deliver vital public services, rural communities depend on a network of dedicated organizations such as local health departments, nonprofits, planning agencies, and behavioral health providers. Behind the scenes, many of these organizations are quietly struggling with workforce burnout, turnover, and shrinking capacity.

A new research study led by Adam Howell, MPA candidate at Cornell University's Brooks School of Public Policy, is examining workforce resilience in rural public service organizations (PSOs) across New York State. The study attempts to discover what helps rural PSOs maintain effective, stable workforces and what barriers currently exist.

The research draws on the lived experience of the professionals and leaders doing this work every day. If you work in a rural public service organization (such as a local government agency or a local non-profit) in New York, your perspective is essential.

Take the survey — it takes less than 10 minutes:

👉 https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bK1rQHnmyne640S

The survey is anonymous and IRB-approved. Results will inform recommendations for policy, practice, and funding to better support the rural workforce.

Please share this link with colleagues and networks. Thank you for your time, dedication, and perseverance serving local communities across NYS.

For questions, contact Adam Howell at ah959@cornell.edu

2026 NYSARH PHOTO CONTEST

ENTER THE NYSARH 2026 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST! MEMBERS CAN SUBMIT UP TO THREE PHOTOS SHOWING "WHAT RURAL MEANS TO ME." THE WINNING PHOTO WILL BE FEATURED ON OUR FALL SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM, WEBSITE, AND SOCIAL MEDIA. SHOW US YOUR CREATIVE VISION OF RURAL LIFE.



SUBMIT BY
JULY 24TH

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)

JOIN TODAY!



[Not a Member? Join Today!](#)

2026-2029 Board Member Application is Now Open!



NYSARH Board Member applications are now open. If you're a NYSARH member passionate about rural health, we invite you to apply for a seat on our Board of Directors. Submit your completed and signed application by **July 20, 2026**, and help shape the future of rural health in New York State!

[Apply Here](#)



Hepatitis C Capacity Building Webinar Series for Community Health Centers

The New York State Department of Health Office of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology is hosting a hepatitis C webinar series for community health centers, including rural and federally qualified community health centers. The webinar series will be held monthly from September through November 2026.

Webinar topics include:

- Strategies for Implementing the New York State Hepatitis C Testing Law in Community Health Centers (September 24, 4:30-5:30pm)
- Tools for Implementing Opt-Out Hepatitis C Screening in Community Health Centers (October 29, 4:30-5:30pm)
- Steps to Building Provider Capacity for Hepatitis C Treatment within a Community Health Center (November 19, 4:30-5:30pm)

Each webinar will include a best practice from a New York State community health center.

Continuing education credits will be available.

Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

Questions about the webinar series should be sent to: hepatabc@health.ny.gov

Executive Director's Corner by Jennifer Muthig

As summer moves quickly across New York, I'm reminded that this season is about more than planning for fall, it's about building momentum. Over the past several weeks, I've had the opportunity to connect with members, welcome new organizations into the NYSARH community, and see firsthand the incredible work happening in every corner of our state. Whether it's supporting older adults, strengthening emergency medical services, or developing innovative community partnerships, one thing remains clear: rural New York continues to lead with creativity, resilience, and collaboration. That spirit is reflected throughout NYSARH.

We've welcomed new members who bring fresh perspectives, opened applications for future Board leaders, invited members to showcase what rural means through our annual photo contest, and continued planning for what promises to be an outstanding Rural Health Symposium this September. Each of these opportunities represents something larger than an event or program, they represent our collective commitment to ensuring rural voices are heard and rural communities continue to thrive.

As we prepare to gather in Clayton this fall, I encourage you to think about how you can engage with our growing network. Attend a webinar. Mentor an emerging leader. Introduce a colleague to NYSARH. Every contribution strengthens our collective ability to advocate for policies, partnerships, and investments that improve the health and well-being of rural New Yorkers.

Thank you for the passion, expertise, and dedication you bring to this work each day. Together, we are not only responding to today's challenges, we are shaping the future of rural health across New York State. I look forward to seeing many of you in September.

Rural Health Transformation Program Update: Application Deadline Extended: Rural Community Health Integration (RCHI) Program

The application deadline for the Rural Community Health Integration (RCHI) initiative has been extended to Tuesday, July 14, 2026. RCHI supports the establishment of coordinated rural health partnerships, empowering communities to develop comprehensive care coordination. This program aims to enhance patient access to a wide range of providers across the care continuum, effectively addressing both health and social needs.

[Learn More](#)

Funding Opportunities

The Community Engagement and Outreach Team is happy to announce that the Credible Public Health Messengers RFA has been released

Important Dates

- Date of Issue: June 30, 2026
- Informational Webinar: July 10, 2026, [Register here](#)
- Submit Questions by: July 17, 2026
- Answers Posted on or about: July 24, 2026
- **Applications Due: July 31, 2026**

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must have at least three years of community engagement or outreach experience, serve New York State or Tribal Nation (excluding NYC), and demonstrate ongoing community involvement.

Open to non-profits, for-profits, community-based organizations, and individual community leaders. Organizations need a valid EIN and UEI; individuals need a valid Social Security Number. Eligible organizations must have fewer than 30 employees.

[Learn More](#)

Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC): Grant Initiative for the Appalachian, Delta, and Northern Border Regions

Grants for projects in the Appalachian, Lower Mississippi Delta, and Northern Border regions that will provide career, training, and support services to eligible individuals in eligible counties and parishes.

Grants will support workforce development activities that prepare dislocated workers, new entrants to the workforce, and incumbent workers for good jobs in high-demand occupations aligned with a regional or community economic development strategy. High demand industries include manufacturing, IT, healthcare, business, and energy.

Applications Due: July 31, 2026

[Learn More](#)