

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

Rural Health Symposium Announces Break-Out Sessions

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. Connect with healthcare professionals, public health experts, students, and rural health advocates.

- **Featured sessions include:**

- **Rural Health Transformation Initiative** with Kayla Coonrad (Healthy Alliance) & Aidan O'Connor (Greenport Rescue Squad)
- **Artificial Intelligence/Information Technology** with Steve Harvey (Integrity Partners) & Ashley Lewis (Rural Health Institute of NY)
- **Two Prevention Agenda sessions:**
 - **Healthy Aging** with Kimberly Witlowski (The Gathering Place) & Ann Morgan (North Country Healthy Heart Network)
 - **Chronic Disease** with Douglas Done (NYSDOH), Joanna Loomis (Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization), & Allison Roselle (Jefferson County Public Health)
- **Behavioral Health sessions:**
 - **Youth-focused presentation** by Savannah Bowie (Mental Health Association of NYS)
 - **Brain Health** with Jessica DesRosiers (Alzheimer's Association)
 - Presentations by Amanda Krisher (National Council on Aging), Adam Howell (Appius Communications), and returning presenters Shari Weiss & Renae Rokiki

Don't miss New York's leading rural health event, secure your spot today! **Early Registration ends September 3, 2026.**

[Register Now!](#)

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.

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](#)

THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL HEALTH



Hosted By:



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The "Fourth Trimester": Postpartum Care in Rural New York and the Health of Birthing People.

When: August 6, 2026 at 2pm EST

Speaker:

Ava Thur, NYSARH Intern, Upstate Institute Summer Field School at Colgate University



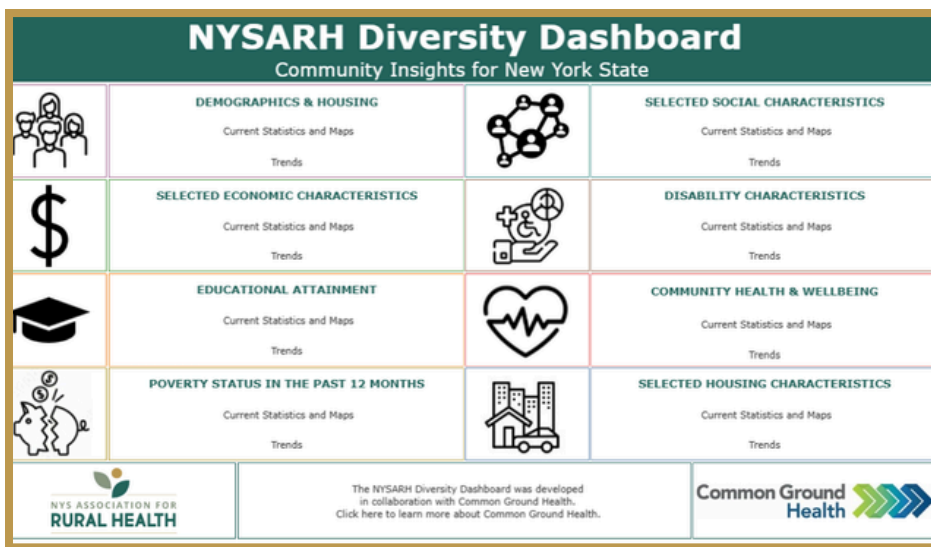
[Register Now!](#)

This webinar will explore the barriers rural birthing people face in accessing postpartum care. Over half of maternal deaths occur postpartum, and about 80% are preventable.

The U.S. healthcare system often limits postpartum care to a single six-week visit, with even less access in rural areas. Lack of ongoing support and resources leads to lasting health challenges for rural birthing people.

Updated Diversity Dashboard Released

NYSARH and the Combined Entity of Common Ground Health-FLPPS-RRHIO have launched an updated [NYSARH Diversity Dashboard](#), an interactive online resource that brings together demographic, social, economic, and health data to support community health planning across New York State. Designed for researchers, health departments, community organizations, health care providers, educators, planners, and grant writers, the dashboard combines trusted public data sources into one easy-to-use platform.



Recent enhancements include improved navigation, standardized filters, expanded community health and well-being data, and updated mapping and trend views. Users can explore information by county, ZIP code, census tract, and rural community classifications to better understand local needs, identify disparities, and support data-driven decision-making.

[View Dashboard](#)

FREE ON-DEMAND LEARNING

Older Adult Rural Support (OARS)
A collaborative program led by NYSARH

[Browse Free On-Demand Courses](#)

Upcoming Event

Upcoming Free
Webinar: More Than
Memory: Mood,
Meaning, and
Connection in
Dementia Care, Aug.
14, 2026, 12-1PM
([Zoom registration](#)).
Hosted by Northern
AHEC.

Whether you're a healthcare professional, community partner, caregiver, student, or simply interested in supporting older adults, the Older Adult Rural Support (OARS) program offers free, self-paced online learning you can access anytime. Explore topics including caregiving, healthy aging, mental health, substance use disorder, motivational interviewing, trauma-informed care, and more. Many modules include free continuing education credits for eligible professions, and certificates of completion are available.

Executive Director's Corner by Jennifer Muthig

As we move into the second half of the year, I continue to be energized by the momentum we're building together. From advancing strategic initiatives and supporting our members, to preparing for our Annual Symposium, the work happening across NYSARH reflects our continued commitment to strengthening rural health throughout New York State.

We're continuing to support our members as New York's Rural Health Transformation Program begins to take shape. Through webinars, stakeholder discussions, and ongoing collaboration with the Department of Health and our partners, NYSARH is committed to helping rural communities understand these opportunities and prepare for meaningful transformation.

Looking ahead, I couldn't be more excited about our 2026 NYSARH Annual Symposium in Clayton. This year's agenda is one of our strongest yet, featuring sessions on rural health transformation, behavioral health, workforce development, artificial intelligence, oral health, aging, and innovative models of care. More importantly, the Symposium is an opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the state, share ideas, and strengthen the partnerships that move rural health forward. Whether you're joining us to learn, network, or showcase your work, I encourage you to take advantage of everything this year's program has to offer.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for the important work you do every day to improve the health and well-being of rural New Yorkers. I look forward to seeing many of you in September.

Outreach Specialist (AmeriCorps Vista Opportunity)



VISTA
Volunteers in Service to America

[Learn More](#)

NYSARH is seeking an Outreach Specialist to strengthen member engagement and support rural health initiatives across New York. Responsibilities include connecting with members, updating membership records, promoting NYSARH resources, assisting with health fairs and conferences, creating newsletter and social media content, supporting membership outreach, collecting rural health stories, and contributing to research and policy projects. The position also includes participation in key NYSARH events, with travel and lodging provided for required in-person activities. Interested applicants can apply at the Rural Health Network of SCNY's website.

Funding Opportunity

Older Adults Home Modification Grant Program

The Older Adults Home Modification Grant Program will provide funding to support comprehensive programs that make safety and functional home modifications, repairs, and renovations to enable low-income seniors to age in place. Rural communities are a program priority.

The program goal is to enable low-income elderly persons to remain in their homes through low-cost, low barrier, high-impact home modifications to reduce older seniors' risk of falling, improve general safety, increase accessibility, and to improve their functional abilities in their home.

Apply by August 31.

[Learn More](#)

Member Highlight

Integrity Partners Receives Major Grant to Advance Rural Suicide Prevention



Integrity Partners for Behavioral Health IPA received nearly \$2 million to implement the Zero Suicide framework in rural New York.

Over five years, the project will expand suicide prevention training and support to all 44 rural counties. NORC at the University of Chicago will lead training and evaluation, helping providers build a stronger system of suicide care.

[View Full Press Release](#)