



# National Rural Health Association

## Who We Are

The National Rural Health Association is a national nonprofit and nonpartisan membership organization with more than 21,000 members. NRHA membership consists of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations who share the common bond of an interest in rural health. The delivery of health care in rural America is drastically changing. NRHA strives to improve the health of the 60 million who call rural America home. **Our mission is to provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research.**

## What We Fight For

### Access to Care

Rural populations are older, poorer, and sicker than their urban counterparts per capita. Yet, medical deserts are appearing across rural America leaving many of the most vulnerable populations without timely access to care. Continued cuts have severely hurt rural providers, creating job loss and negative changes in service availability.

### A Robust Rural Workforce

Rural areas have far fewer health care providers and face dramatic challenges in recruiting and retaining a health care workforce. Seventy-seven percent of rural counties in the United States are Health Professional Shortage Areas, while nine percent have no physicians at all. The uneven distribution of health care providers between rural and urban areas represents an inequality regarding access to care and has an impact on the health of the population.

### Funding for the Rural Health Safety Net

The federal investment in rural health programs is a small portion of federal health care spending, but it is critical to rural Americans. These safety net programs increase access to health care providers, improve health outcomes for rural Americans, and increase the quality and efficiency of health care delivery in rural America.

**YOUR VOICE. LOUDER.**

[www.ruralhealth.us/advocate](http://www.ruralhealth.us/advocate)



**NRHA**