

NRHA's 36th Rural Health Policy Institute is Feb. 11-13 in Washington, D.C.

Monday, Feb. 10th

Pre-Session Day

All times are in EST

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

NRHA Rural Health Fellows Meeting

Initial training session for the new 2025 Rural Health Fellows. (Limited to incoming cohort only)

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

State Association Council Meeting

Meeting of the State Association Council. (Limited to current members only)

1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Government Affairs Committee

Meeting of the NRHA Government Affairs Committee. (Limited to current members only)

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

NRHA Board of Trustees

Meeting of the NRHA Board of Trustees. (Limited to current Board Members only)

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

NRHA Constituency Group Meetings

Meeting of NRHA Constituency Groups. Open to public.

- *Clinical Constituency Group*
- *Federally Qualified Health Center Constituency Group*
- *Hospital and Health System Constituency Group*
- *Public Health Constituency Group*
- *Research and Education Constituency Group*
- *Rural Health Clinic Constituency Group*
- *Statewide Health Resources Constituency Group*
- *Student Constituency Group*

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

NRHA Rural Health Congress Meeting

Meeting of the NRHA Rural Health Congress. Open to public for observation.

Tuesday, Feb. 11th

Informational Sessions Day

All times are in EST

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Your Voice. Louder!

Hear from NRHA's 2025 President to learn about the association's priorities in the coming year.

Michelle Mills, NRHA President

8:45 – 9:00 a.m.

Congressional Speakers

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome

Kick off the Policy Institute to learn key advocacy messages for rural health.

Carrie Cochran-McClain, Chief Policy Officer, NRHA

9:15 – 9:45 a.m.

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy Tom Morris

9:45 – 10:15 a.m.

Rural Health Outlook under the Trump Administration

Former Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

Future of Rural Health

Keith Mueller, RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Break

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Fireside Chat: Looking Into the 119th Congress

Dan Boston, Health Policy Source, Inc.
Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA

11:30 – 12:00 a.m.

Rural Health Safety Net Struggles to Chart Sustainable Path Forward

Michael Topchik, Chartis Center for Rural Health

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Networking Lunch (optional)

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Coverage Panel: Medicaid and the Marketplace

Lauren Aronson, Keep Americans Covered
Joan Alker, Georgetown Center for Children and Families

2:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Congressional Speakers

Rep. Diana Harshbarger (R-TN)

2:15 – 2:45pm

Gubernatorial Perspectives on Rural Health Opportunities

Former Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer and Former Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove

2:45 – 3:25pm

Congressional Speakers

Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL)
Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV)

3:25 – 3:45pm

Medicare Advantage: Holding Payers Accountable with Provider Data

Travis Gentry, Hyve Health

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00 – 4:50 p.m.

Breakout sessions

Cybersecurity Insights and Resources for Rural Providers

Ashley Jones, Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency

Kristen O'Brien, McDermott+

Moderator: Marguerite Peterseim, NRHA

What's Next for Rural Emergency Hospitals

Aaron Herbel, Mercy Hospital

Mark Holmes, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research

Alexa McKinley Abel, NRHA

Working with State Government

Asia Riviere, National Governors Association

Zach Snyder, Louisiana Rural Health Association

Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, NRHA

Future of Rural Health Discussion

Robert Duehmig, Oregon Office of Rural Health

Lauren Hughes, University of Colorado Anschutz

Shena Popat, NORC

Moderator: Brock Slabach, NRHA

5:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Advocacy 101

NRHA Government Affairs team

5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

State Prep Meetings

Time for conference participants meet by state to prepare for Hill visits.

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

NRHA Rural Health Fellows Graduation and Reception

Graduation ceremony and reception to celebrate the 2024 Rural Health Fellows cohort.

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Wednesday, Feb. 12th

Advocacy in Practice

All times are in EST

7:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Registration

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

NRHA Priorities and Advocacy Tools

Welcome to day two as we take our fight to Members of Congress. Learn messages and tools for advocacy.
Carrie Cochran-McClain, Chief Policy Officer, NRHA

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Enhance Your Advocacy: Updates to the State and Congressional District Rural Health Profiles

Keith Bubblo, Stroudwater Associates

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Capitol Hill Advocacy

Opportunities to meet with participants' state delegations on rural health priorities.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Rural HIT Coalition

Meeting of the Rural HIT Coalition. Open to the public.

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Congressional Reception

Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room G50

Thursday, Feb. 13th

Rural Health Disparities Summit

All times are in EST

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Special Interest Group Breakfasts

- Behavioral Health
- Indigenous Peoples' Health
- Veterans' Health
- Rural Medical Education

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Rural Health Disparities Summit Kickoff

Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA

8:45 – 9:45 a.m.

Congressional Speakers

Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA)
Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN)

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

Older Americans Act and Rural Communities

Abby Cox, ADvancing States
Rani Snyder, John A. Hartford Foundation

Ensuring Medicare Advantage Works for Rural

Jed Hansen, Nebraska Rural Health Association
Kevin Stansbury, Hugo Medical Center
Alexa McKinley Abel, NRHA

Federal and State Telehealth Policy

Alexis Apple, ATA Action
Jodi Schmidt, University of Kansas Health System – Care Collaborative
Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, NRHA

11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Breakout Sessions



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The Oral Health Policy Landscape

Keith Benson, Nevada Department of Health and
Human Services

Gina Sharps, West Virginia Oral Health Coalition

Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, NRHA

Contract Pharmacy Updates for Rural Covered Entities

Andrew Askew, Essentia Health

Amanda Nagrotsky, 340B Health

Alexa McKinley Abel, NRHA

State & Federal Approaches to Promoting Rural Physician Training

Emily Hawes, University of North Carolina School of
Medicine

Dr. Bryan Hodge, MAHEC

Moderator: Julie Wood, American Academy of Family
Physicians