National Rural Health Association

Monday, Feb. 8th

Pre-Session Day

All times are in ET

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

NRHA Rural Health Fellows Meeting

Initial training session for the new 2027 Rural Health Fellows. (Limited to incoming cohort only)

12:30 – 1:15 p.m.

State Association Council Meeting

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

1:30 – 2:30 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*

(Open to all conference participants)

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.

Government Affairs Committee

Meeting of the NRHA Government Affairs Committee.

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

NRHA Rural Health Policy Congress Meeting

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

Tuesday, Feb. 9th

All times are in ET

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 8:15 a.m.

Welcome

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

Carrie Cochran-McClain, Chief Policy Officer, NRHA

8:15 – 8:30 a.m.

Your Voice. Louder!

Hear from NRHA's 2027 President about the association's priorities in the coming year.

Toniann Richard, NRHA President

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Department of Health and Human Services

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. *(Invited)*

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Congressional Speakers

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

CMS Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz *(Invited)*

10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Health Resources and Services Administration

Administrator Tom Engels *(Invited)*

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

CMS Office of Rural Health Transformation

CMS Office of Rural Health Transformation Director Alina Czekai *(Invited)*

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Advocacy Awards Lunch

1:00 – 1:45 p.m.

Keynote Address

RuralHealth.US
50 F. St., N.W., Suite 520
Washington, DC 20001 | 202-639-0550

National Rural Health Association

1:45 – 2:15 p.m.
State of Rural Hospitals
Michael Topchik, Chartis Center for Rural Health

2:15 – 3:00 p.m.
What's Ahead for the 120th Congress: Congressional Staff Perspectives

3:00 – 3:45 p.m.
From Policy to Press: How Rural Health Makes the News

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.
Break

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Breakout Sessions

4:15 – 4:45 p.m.
Press Briefing
(Limited to members of the press only)

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
NRHA Rural Health Fellows Graduation and Reception
Graduation ceremony and reception to celebrate the 2026 Rural Health Fellows cohort.

Wednesday, Feb. 10th

All times are in EST

7:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Registration

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.
State Prep Meetings Breakfast
Time for conference participants meet by state to prepare for Hill visits over breakfast.

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Preparing for Capitol Hill Visits: Steps for Successful Meetings on the Hill
Welcome to day two as we take our fight to Congress. Learn key messages, tips, and tools for advocacy.
Carrie Cochran-McClain, Chief Policy Officer, NRHA

11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Capitol Hill Advocacy
Opportunities to meet with participants' state delegations on rural health priorities.

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Congressional Reception
Location TBA

Thursday, Feb. 11th

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 – 9:00 a.m.
Keynote Address

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.
Congressional Speakers
TBA

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.
Break

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
Breakout Sessions

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.
Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Breakout Sessions