

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)

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Rural Medical Education Meeting

Meeting of the Rural Medical Education Group. Open to RME conference registrants.

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 – 4:15 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, President, NRHA

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.

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (invited)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Secretarial Nominee

9:45 – 10:15 a.m.

Rural Health Outlook under the Trump Administration

Former Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary
Eric Hargan

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Associate Administrator Tom Morris

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Break

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Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz (*invited*)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services,
Administrator Nominee

11:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Fireside Chat: Looking Into the 119th Congress

Dan Boston, President & CEO, Health Policy Source, Inc.
Carrie Cochran-McClain, Chief Policy Officer, NRHA

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

TBA

Health Resources and Services Administration

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 – 3:45 p.m.

Congressional Speakers

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

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00 – 4:50 p.m.

Breakout sessions

Cybersecurity for Rural Providers

TBA

Rural Emergency Hospitals

Aaron Herbel, Mercy Hospital
Mark Holmes, Cecil G Sheps Center for Health Services Research
Alexa McKinley Abel, NRHA

Working with State Legislatures

Asia Riviere, National Governors Association

Zach Snyder, Louisiana Rural Health Association
Moderator: Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, NRHA

Rural Voices at CMS

Darci Graves, CMS Office of Minority Health
John Hannigan, CMS

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.

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 – 9:15 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

9:15 – 10:00 a.m.

Rural Health Data and Advocacy

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Capitol Hill Advocacy

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

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Rural HIT Coalition

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

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Congressional Reception

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*

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Rural Health Disparities Summit Kickoff

Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA Chief Policy Officer

8:45 – 9:30 a.m.

Congressional Speakers

Rep. Buddy Carter

9:30 – 9:50 a.m.

Director Diane Hall

Office of Rural Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

9:50 – 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

Rural Aging

Kari Benson, Administration for Community Living
Abby Cox, ADvancing States
Rani Snyder, John A. Hartford Foundation

Medicare Advantage

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

State Telehealth Policy

TBA

Resources for Rural Hospitals

TBA

11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

Oral Health

Keith Benson, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Gina Sharps, West Virginia Oral Health Coalition
Zil Joyce Dixon Romero, NRHA
Moderator:

Rural 340B Issues

Andrew Askew, Essentia Health
Amanda Nagrotsky, 340B Health
Alexa McKinley Abel, NRHA

Rural Residency Planning & Development

Emily Hawes, University of North Carolina School of Medicine
Dr. Bryan Hodge, MAHEC
Moderator: Julie Wood, American Academy of Family Physicians

Future of Rural Health

JT Douglas, West Health
Keith Mueller, RUPRI
Brock Slabach, NRHA