

2024 Advocacy Priorities

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Indiana Rural Health Association's 2024 Advocacy Priorities



The mission of the IRHA is to enhance the health and well-being of rural populations in Indiana through leadership, education, advocacy, collaboration, and resource development.

IRHA advocates for:

I. Ensuring access to basic healthcare services for rural Hoosiers.

- **Educate policymakers on barriers IRHA members overcome to provide:**
 - Obstetric Care (including delivery services)
 - Mental and Behavioral Health Services (inpatient and outpatient)
 - Emergency Medical Services
- **Safeguard Rural Health providers from further threats to financial viability:**
 - Prioritize rural providers in the restructuring and right-sizing of Medicaid reimbursement.
 - Encourage the re-design of the Hospital Assessment Fee (HAF) program to decrease burden on rural providers.
 - Further understand and share information about the impact of Medicare Advantage plans on rural patients and providers.

II. Sustaining and expanding the rural health workforce.

- **Advocate for investments in the rural health workforce pipeline:**
 - Increase the number of Medicare Graduate Medical Education (GME) program residency slots in rural areas.
 - Expand loan repayment options through the National Health Service Corps for rural providers.
 - Promote local solutions and connections with higher education providers, state agencies, and IRHA members.

III. Investing in healthier and sustainable rural communities.

- **Increase the impact of Public Health investments for rural communities:**
 - Foster and improve relationships between public health agencies and rural health providers.
 - Encourage increased investment in rural communities and rural health providers through common sense additions in the Farm Bill.
- **Work to improve the quality of life and well-being of rural communities:**
 - Advocate for incentives to move healthcare upstream to address social determinants of health.
 - Encourage the inclusion of rural health providers in local conversations to improve access to housing, food, and transportation.
 - Increase reimbursement opportunities for case management and navigation services across the healthcare system.



IRHA Advocacy Pillars

- Ensuring Access to Basic Healthcare Services for Rural Hoosiers
- Sustaining and Expanding the Rural Health Workforce
- Investing in Healthier and Sustainable Rural Communities

Ensuring Access to Basic Healthcare Services

Educate policymakers on barriers IRHA members overcome to provide:

- Obstetric Care (including delivery services)
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Safeguard Rural Health providers from further threats to financial viability:

- Prioritize rural providers in the restructuring and right-sizing of Medicaid reimbursement.
- Encourage the re-design of the Hospital Assessment Fee (HAF) program to decrease burden on rural providers.
- Further understand and share information about the impact of Medicare Advantage plans on rural patients and providers.

Sustaining and Expanding the Rural Health Workforce

Advocate for investments in the rural health workforce pipeline:

- Increase the number of Medicare Graduate Medical Education (GME) program residency slots in rural areas.
- Expand loan repayment options through the National Health Service Corps for rural providers.
- Promote local solutions and connections with higher education providers, state agencies, and IRHA members.



Investing in Healthier and Sustainable Rural Communities

Increase the impact of Public Health investments for rural communities:

- Foster and improve relationships between public health agencies and rural health providers.
- Encourage increased investment in rural communities and rural health providers through common sense additions in the Farm Bill.

Work to improve the quality of life and well-being of rural communities:

- Advocate for incentives to move healthcare upstream to address social determinants of health.
- Encourage the inclusion of rural health providers in local conversations to improve access to housing, food, and transportation.
- Increase reimbursement opportunities for case management and navigation services across the healthcare system.

Join the Advocacy Effort

1. Share the 2024 Policy Priorities Document with your elected officials
2. Join the Policy & Legislative Committee (IRHA Members only)
3. Contact us if you're interested in hosting elected officials
4. Let us know how we can best support you and your organization.

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Connect with IRHA on social!

