

Monday, Feb. 9th

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 2026 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.

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. 10th

Planting Policy: Where Rural Health Takes Root

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 2026 President to learn about the association's priorities in the coming year.

Carrie Henning Smith, NRHA President

8:45 – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome

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

Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

HHS Leadership

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Governor's Panel

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Associate Administrator Tom Morris (Invited)

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 – 11:15 a.m.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz (Invited)

11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Health Resources and Services Administration

Administrator Tom Engels (Invited)

11:45 – 12:00 p.m.

Congressional Speakers

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Networking Lunch (*optional*)

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Rural Health Transformation Program Panel

2:00 – 2:30pm

**Rural Hospitals in Transition: Findings and
Policy Implications for 2025**

Chartis Center for Rural Health

2:30 – 3:45pm

Congressional Speakers

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00 – 4:50 p.m.

Breakout sessions

- *Counting the Cost: HR-1's Medicaid Cuts and the Rural Health Equation*
- *Shifting Ground: Federal Policy and the Future of the Rural Health Workforce*
- *Rural Health Under the MA Umbrella: Data Insights and Policy Innovations*

5:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Advocacy 101 & 201

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 2025 Rural Health Fellows cohort.

Wednesday, Feb. 12th

***Branching out: Spread our message to
Capitol Hill***

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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, NRHA

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

State and Congressional District Rural Health Profiles

Stroudwater Associates

10:00 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

Thursday, Feb. 13th

Cultivating Results: Policy into Practice

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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.

Welcome

Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA

8:45 – 9:45 a.m.

Congressional Speakers

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 – 10:55 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

- Homegrown Solutions: Integrating Aging in Place into Rural Health Reform
- From Payment to Preservation: The Future of CAHs in Federal Policy
- State Voices, Shared Vision: Rural Health Transformation in Practice

11:00 a.m. – noon p.m.

Breakout Sessions

- Smiles, Systems, and Sustainability: Rural Oral Health in the Policy Landscape
- Leveling the Field or Losing Ground? Site Neutrality's Impact on Rural Hospital Viability