

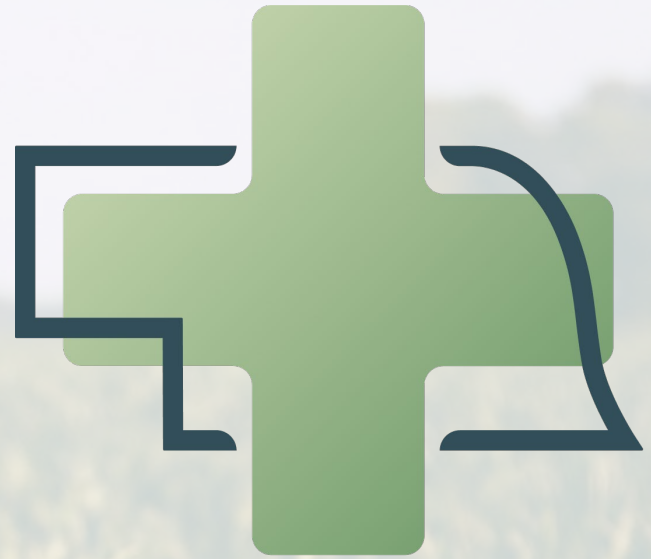
RURAL ROUNDUP: POLICY AND HEALTHCARE IN RURAL NEBRASKA

Jed R Hansen, PhD, APRN, FNP-C



AGENDA

- ❑ What is Rural?
- ❑ Rural Healthcare Infrastructure in Nebraska
- ❑ State and Federal Policy Initiatives





WHAT IS RURAL?

A



B



WHICH ONE IS RURAL NEBRASKA?

A



B



C



WHICH ONE IS RURAL NEBRASKA?

A



C



B

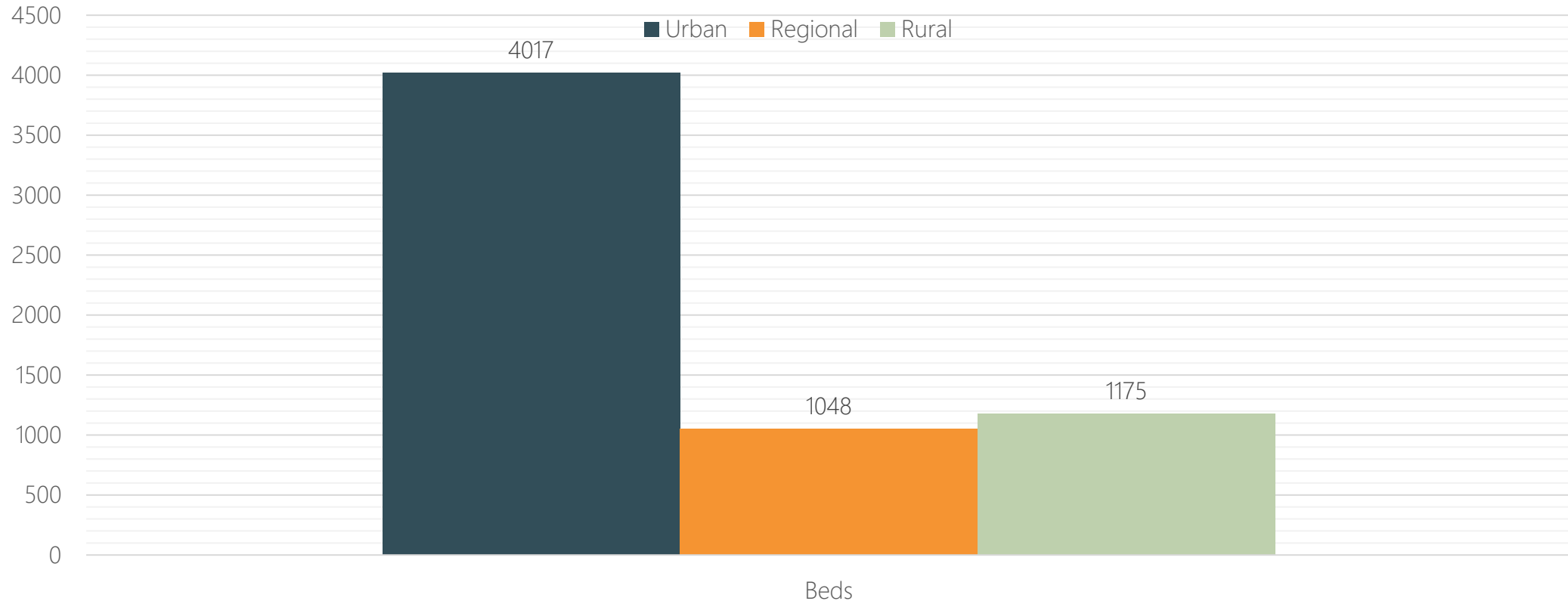


WHICH ONE IS RURAL NEBRASKA?

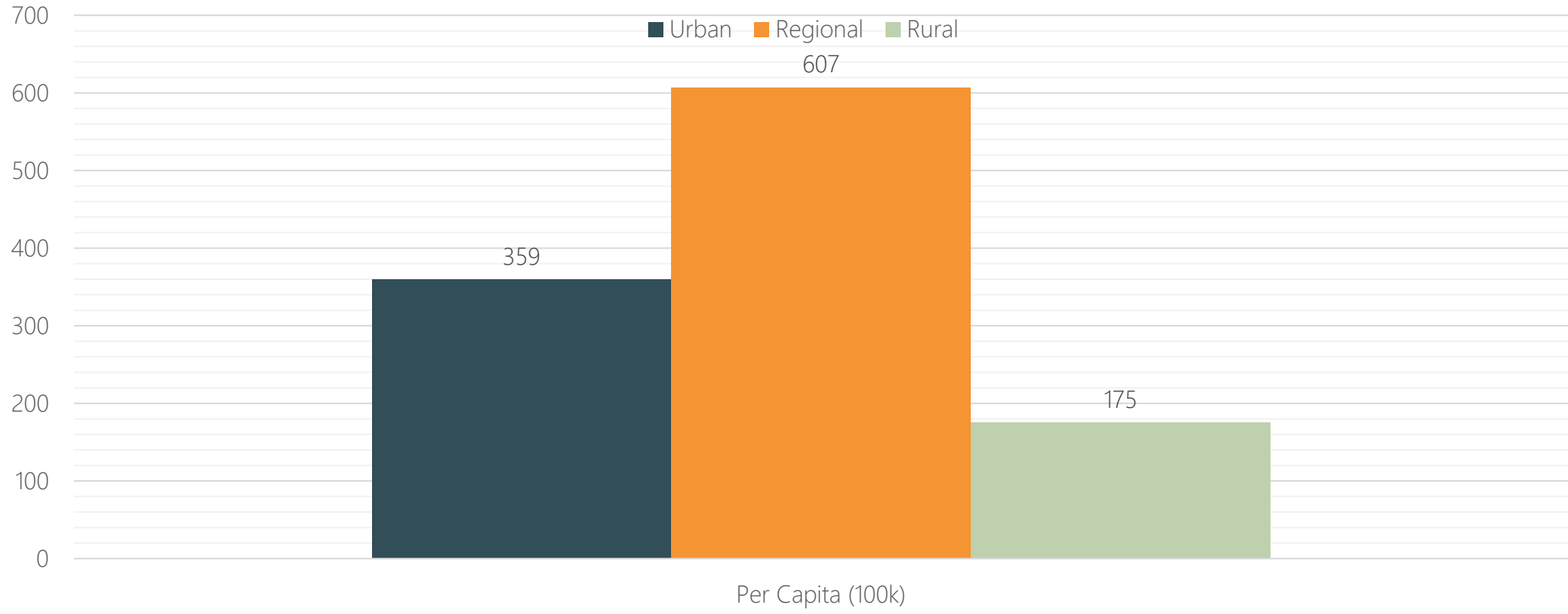


RURAL HEALTH
IN NEBRASKA

HOSPITAL BEDS NUMBERS IN NE



PER CAPITA IN NE



PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE SHORTAGE AREAS

Figure D1. State designated shortage areas for family practice

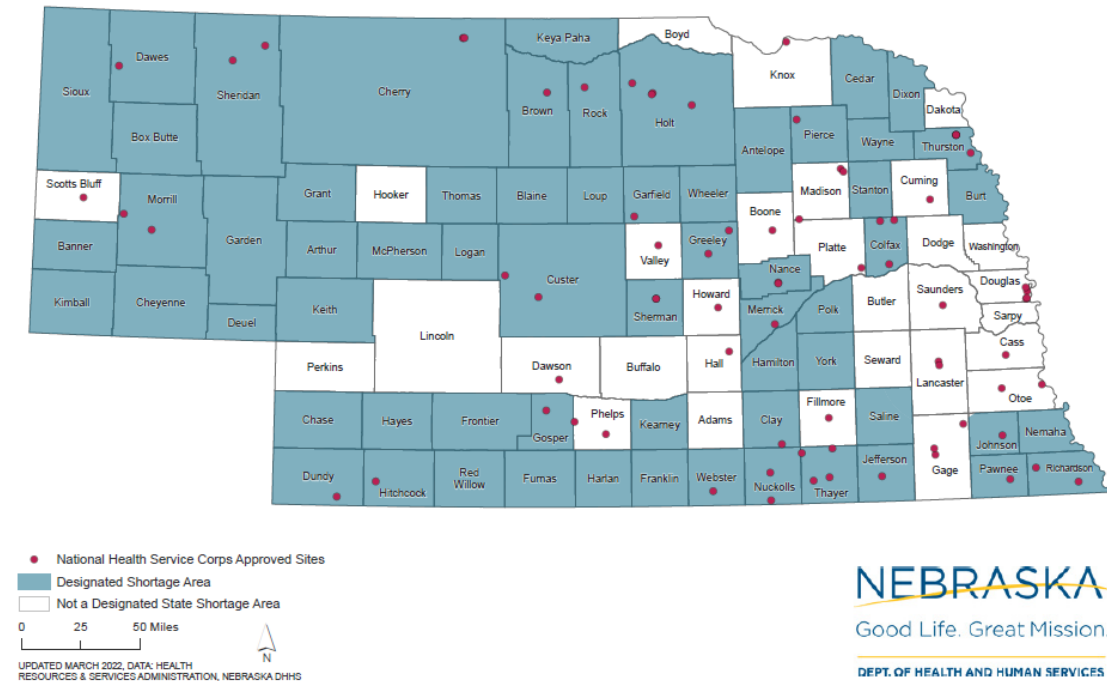
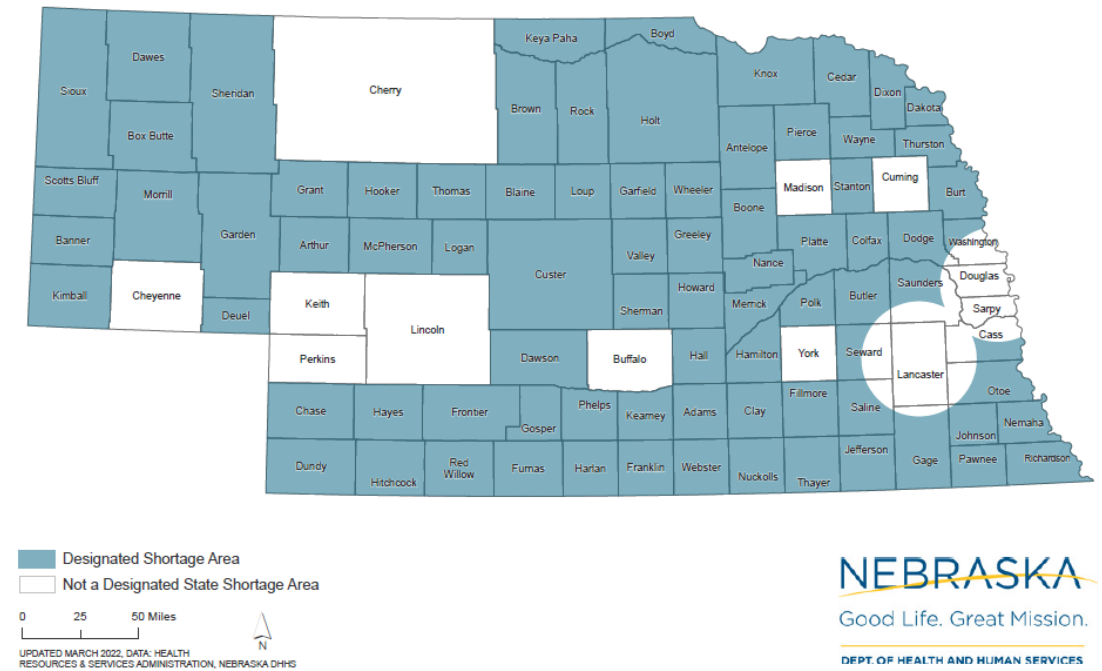


Figure D4. State designated shortage areas for general surgery



APP RURAL PROFESSIONS

Nebraska's Rural Workforce

Figure 9. Number of active nurse practitioners (NP) per 100,000 population by county, Nebraska in 2021

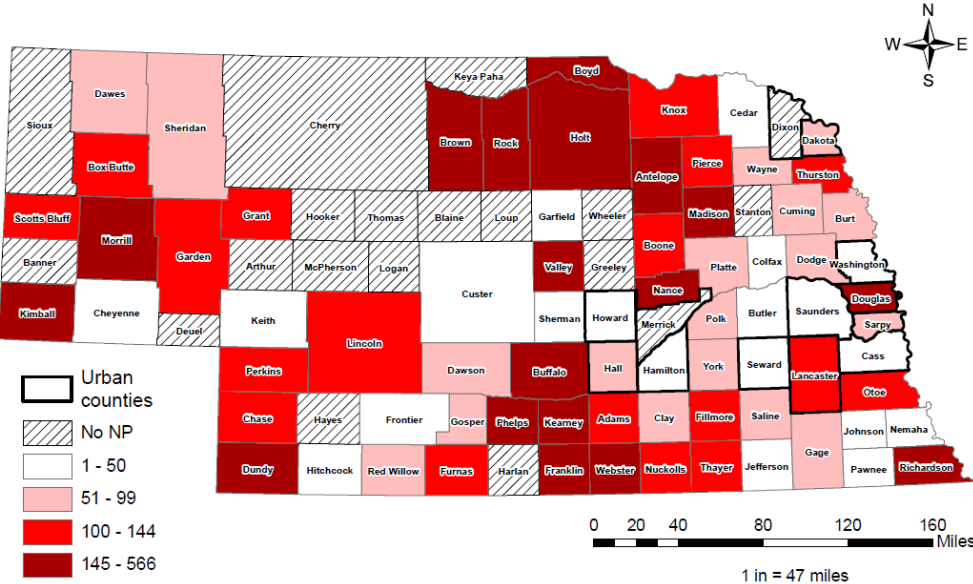
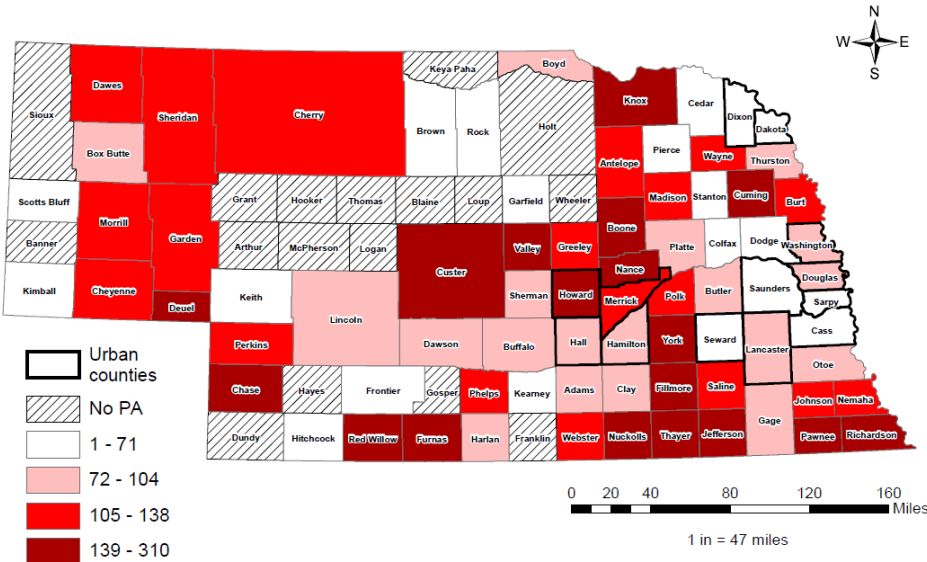


Figure 7. Number of active physician assistants per 100,000 population by county, Nebraska in 2021





I LOVE
**RURAL
HEALTH**

RURAL POLICY

RURAL HEALTHCARE POLICY

Access to Care

Rural Populations are older, sicker, and poorer than their urban counterparts. Yet, many communities are considered medical deserts.

Robust Rural Workforce

Rural areas have far fewer health care providers. The uneven distribution between rural and urban represent an inequality regarding access to care and the impact of health on a community.

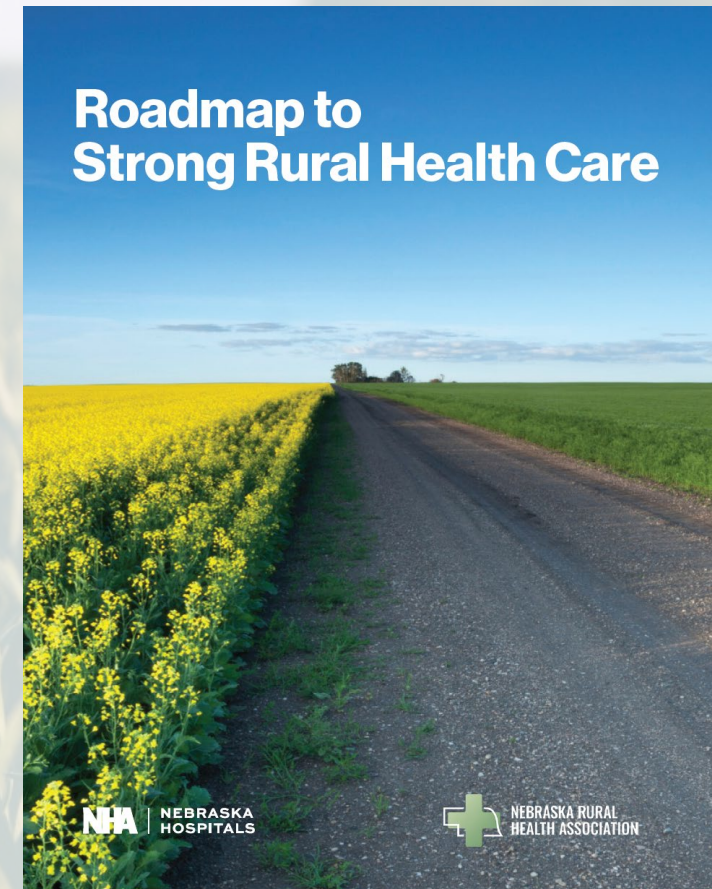
Rural Health Safety Net

Federal Safety Net Programs are a small portion of federal healthcare spending. But the investment is critical to rural Americans to increase access to quality health care delivery.

NEBRASKA EFFORTS

2023

- *Medical Liability Increases (LB 68)*
- Medicaid Reimbursement Rates (LB 128)
- Breast Cancer Screening Coverage (LB 145)
- Medicaid reimbursement for Post-acute placement (LB 227)
- Nebraska Center for Nursing (LB 227)
- Colorectal Cancer Screening (LB 383)
- Postpartum coverage (LB 419)
- *Telehealth Reimbursement (LB 256)*
- *State Education & Career Education (LB 610)*
- Insulin Out-of-pocket max (LB 779)



FEDERAL EFFORTS

2022 - 2023

- *Rural Emergency Hospital*
- PAYGO Sequestration
- Primary Road (CAH)
- Rural Veteran Referral Program

NRHA 2022 Wins



1. PAYGO Sequester Deferred

Waiver of the four percent PayGo sequester until January 2025 providing important relief for rural Medicare providers.

2. Public Health Infrastructure

Creation of an Office of Rural Health within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to improve public health data collection and funding dissemination to rural areas.

3. Telehealth

Extended telehealth flexibilities beyond the public health emergency until December 31, 2024, including RHC and FOHC distant site provider status and audio-only telehealth.

4. Rural Emergency Hospital (REH)

Establishment of the Rural Emergency Hospital payment model and conditions of participation conducive to maintaining access to care in rural areas.

5. Behavioral Health

Passage of provisions allowing Marriage and Family Therapists and mental health counselors coverage under Medicare, in addition to 200 new GME psychiatry residency slots with a 10% rural set aside.

6. Maternal Health in Rural Areas

Passage of the Rural Maternal and Obstetric Modernization of Services (Rural MOMS) to establish rural maternal networks, use of telehealth, and health professional training.

7. Rural Medicare Extenders

Extension of several critical rural Medicare payments such as Low-Volume Hospital and Medicare Dependent Hospital designations, ground ambulance add-on payments, and home health rural add-on payments

8. CAH Primary Road

Critical changes to the definition of primary road used for establishing Critical Access Hospital eligibility.

POLICY HORIZON

What Does the Future Hold?

- 2023 Farm Bill
- “Protect” 340B Act (HR 2534)
- Primary Road (CAH)
- RHC Burden Reduction Act (S. 198/HR 3730)
- *Rural Physician Workforce Production Act (S 230/HR 834)*
- Rural American Health Corps Act (S 940/HR 1711)
- *Conrad State 30 & Physician Access Act (S 665)*

MO SB 1000 SMOKE Act



WHY CHOOSE RURAL MEDICINE?

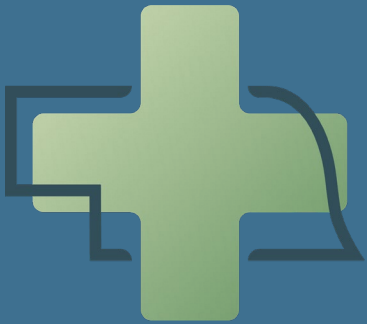
IMPACT ON
THE
COMMUNITY

PROFESSIONAL
BENEFITS

MONETARY
BENEFITS

RURAL
CLINICALS
ROTATIONS

WHY IS RURAL
IMPORTANT



THANK YOU!

jed.hansen@neruralhealth.org

www.iloveruralhealth.com

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