



NARHC 2026 POLICY SUMMIT

Advocating for Rural Health Clinics



WHO WE ARE

The National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) advocates for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and the millions of patients they serve in rural and underserved communities.



WHAT IS AN RHC?

Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) are safety-net providers delivering primary care and other essential outpatient health services to rural America.



5,700+ RHCs nationwide







40 million+ Americans served



Providing outpatient care in medically underserved communities

OUR 2026 POLICY PRIORITIES

PRIORITY	THE ISSUE	WHY IT MATTERS	NARHC SUPPORTS
 Medicare Advantage	MA plans often reimburse RHCs below Traditional Medicare rates.	Lower reimbursement threatens RHC sustainability and patient access.	Reimbursement floor policy, Prompt & Fair Pay Act (H.R.4559), Timely Access to Care Act (H.R.3514 & S.1816)
 Telehealth	RHC telehealth visits are reimbursed at a lower flat rate than in-person visits.	Lower payment discourages telehealth investment in rural areas.	CONNECT for Health Act (S.1261 and H.R.4206) & the HEALTH Act (H.R.5496)
 Regulatory Reduction	Outdated provisions under the RHC program statute add unnecessary administrative burdens.	Modernizing regulations improves operational flexibility and patient care.	PA/NP Utilization Act (H.R.5199), Location Modernization Act (H.R.1598), Behavioral Health Improvement Act (H.R.5217)
 FY2027 Appropriations	Proposed HHS budget cuts eliminate key rural health programs.	Cuts threaten workforce recruitment and healthcare access.	Continued funding for SORHs, workforce programs, NHSC, opioid response programs



To discuss these priorities further or ask questions about the RHC program, contact NARHC Director of Government Affairs, Sarah Hohman, at Sarah.Hohman@narhc.org



RHCs are different from another outpatient, safety-net program, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)/Community Health Centers (CHCs). Unlike RHCs, FQHCs/CHCs receive mandatory and discretionary grant funding and are predominantly in urban areas.



CONGRESS CAN STRENGTHEN RURAL HEALTH CLINICS

through targeted legislation and funding support



LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code to learn more about our priorities