

REPORT OF A SPECIAL CONVENING

Held November 19-20, 2024

THE FUTURE OF RURAL HEALTH

VISION

★ A national framework adapted to diverse rural settings that includes aligned financial incentives and a minimum floor of essential services, plus necessary and vital community services relevant to the community's or regional needs (e.g., regional centers of excellence), that move beyond the walls of the hospital to include social, public health, and economic factors. ★

THEMES



Community Focus

Thriving, healthy rural communities with infrastructure, jobs, and education



Message Matters

Rural health as a national priority; consistent messaging



Build From Assets

Strengthening local resources; supporting workforce and innovation



Address Gaps

Public health, workforce, and payment reform

POLICIES & ACTIONS

Blending Funds

Combined funding from multiple payments

Financing & Payment Reform

Sustainable funding models, safety-net provider support

Strengthen Workforce

Rural rotations, loan repayment, leader development

Improve Data & Technology

Broadband expansion, telehealth, AI-driven efficiency

ROADMAP TO ACTION

STRENGTHENING RURAL HEALTH

BUILDING A FRAMEWORK WITH SPECIFIC ELEMENTS

- Leverage the full continuum of care
- Address Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN)
- Use the framework of the High-Performing Rural Health System to guide specific actions

ACTION

- Designing a local & regional decision-making structure
- Determine local needs and actions—an ongoing process taking advantage of changes in health care organization and delivery

TRANSITIONING TO THE FUTURE OF RURAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Transitioning health services finance
- Actions to re-organize health services
- Assuring high-quality rural health services

SPECIFIC ELEMENTS SUPPORTING THE RURAL HEALTH SYSTEM

- Blended Funds Flow
- Payment Policies
- Workforce Considerations
- Use of Technology & Data

POLICY ACTIONS

- Financing Rural Health Services
- Support workforce initiatives already underway
- Support current infrastructure, physical and organizational
- Undertake discussions and actions through local and regional coalitions of stakeholders in rural health