

Rural Health

Rural populations frequently face shortages of, and long distances between, health care providers, healthy food choices in grocery stores, and other services within the community that can affect social determinants of health. The health care community can help alleviate the resulting health disparities by bringing services closer to rural populations.



Some of the things the health care community can do:



Expand telemedicine and similar services

Telemedicine, or the delivery of health care services through electronic information and telecommunication technology, can make primary care, routine specialty care, and outpatient behavioral health care services more accessible to areas lacking these types of providers.



Establish or sponsor mobile screening programs

Health care stakeholders can provide certain preventive screenings at remote locations through mobile screening programs. These initiatives make these screenings more accessible to patients facing transportation challenges.



Incentivize providers who serve rural populations

New doctors and other health care providers often complete their educations and training burdened by hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt. Financial incentives can encourage providers to take jobs in lower-paying rural areas.



Establish or sponsor programs to address food insecurity

Bringing meals to rural children can be very valuable during the summer months and other times when they are not able to obtain meals through their schools.

