



MARYLAND RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Educating and advocating for the optimal health and wellness of rural communities and their residents.

2022 Advocacy Priorities

LEGISLATIVE, BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

- Advance and support initiatives that responds to rural health care workforce needs, critical shortages and future pipelines, along with preventing workplace violence.
- Promote policies, funding and programs that prioritize social justice, eliminate barriers to health equity, and address social determinants of health (poverty, food in- security, education, transportation, housing etc.) especially for vulnerable populations.
- Support policies and funding that promote the state's population health improvement goals and value-based models of care that align with the Maryland Model.
- Advocate for resources and policies that support access to enhanced behavioral health care, support parity of coverage, improve suicide prevention, reduce overdose deaths, increase consumer advocates and crisis services through new crisis models.
- Advocate to preserve and commit funding to support investments and policies to ensure access to health and education services, through strengthening rural technological infrastructure in the forms of broadband expansion and telehealth.
- Advocate for continued relief funding to be allocated to rural communities.
- Support fully funding the Health Equity Resources Communities Fund, the Community Health Resource Commission, the MAERDAF, and the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund to enhance capacity and sustainability of programs in rural communities.
- Promote adoption of proposals that ensure comprehensive, affordable health insurance coverage and protect safety-net programs including Medicaid.
- Support measures and funding for Maryland's rural communities and health providers who continue to respond to COVID-19 and post pandemic healthcare needs.

VITAL PARTNERS

- **Local Health Departments (LHD) and Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHIC)**
- **Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)**
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)**
- **Maryland State Office of Rural Health (SORH)**
- **Rural Maryland Council (RMC)**
- **Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC)**
- **Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition**
- **Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc.**
- **Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC)**
- **Maryland Hospital Association (MHA)**
- **Hospitals and Outpatient Care, Long Term Care, and Urgent Care Facilities**
- **Maryland Farm Bureau**
- **Maryland Consumer Advocacy Organizations**
- **Maryland Provider Organizations**