

Opportunities for Collaboration in Rural Health Care

Background

In July 2013, the White House Rural Council, in partnership with Grantmakers In Health, the National Rural Health Association, and the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP), hosted its first annual rural health philanthropic stakeholder meeting in Washington, D.C. to discuss opportunities for improving the accessibility and quality of health care for the almost 60 million Americans living in rural communities. Cabinet-level officials involved in the Council's work were invited to engage in conversation with the organizations present about key innovative rural health projects supported through philanthropy and potential areas for public-private collaboration. The session at the White House was followed by a day of mutual learning and panel discussions about key issues and research in rural health care.

This past meeting was only the beginning of a continuing set of conversations to help inform, align, and invigorate activities across our organizations. Efforts are already underway to build on the momentum started from the meeting (see Upcoming Initiatives). This ongoing public-private partnership is part of the continued work of the [White House Rural Council](#), created in June 2011 by President Barack Obama's [Executive Order](#), to coordinate programs across and outside government to encourage collaboration designed to promote economic prosperity and quality of life in rural communities.

About Our Public-Private Partners

Our over 120 stakeholders belong to 35 foundations and trusts committed to ongoing public-private collaborations in rural health care. These philanthropies span across country as far west as Alaska to the South Central counties of Pennsylvania and many regions in between. They have made commitments to address the health care needs of rural communities in fields like mental and oral health services, telemedicine, and child and elderly care, to name a few. Of the 35 foundations, 30 are member organizations of Grantmakers In Health and all are working to improve the health of rural America.

Upcoming Initiatives

To continue to support collaborations between the federal government and philanthropies we would like to share several initiatives:

- The next WHRC Philanthropy Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. on May 12-13, 2014
- NRHA Rural Philanthropy Session at its 2014 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas on April 24, 2014
- Rural Health Care Monthly Webinar Series
 - Guest speakers from Federal Agencies, including USDA and SAMHSA, will present on their office's rural programs that could potentially align with foundations' activities.
- Rural Health Policy Research Sharing
 - We share recently published policy briefs and reports from the ORHP-funded Rural Health Research Centers in email updates on a monthly basis.

If you or your partners would like to receive updates on any of these initiatives please e-mail RuralHealthPhil@hrsa.gov to be added to the Rural Health Care Philanthropy list-serv.