

Public-Private Collaborations in Rural Health

Annual Meeting of the Rural Health Philanthropy Partnership

Creating a Movement: Inspiring Innovation in Rural America

Marriott Bethesda Downtown at Marriott HQ

Grand Ballroom (Second floor) • 7707 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Closest Metro Stop: Bethesda, 7450 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Gather and Greet
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks Tom Morris Associate Administrator Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Health Resources and Services Administration Diane Hall Director, Office of Rural Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Alan Morgan Chief Executive Officer National Rural Health Association Cara James President and Chief Executive Officer Grantmakers In Health
9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Keynote Dr. Monica M. Bertagnolli President, National Academy of Medicine
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Group Reaction: Reflections on the Keynote Stewart Hudson Leon Lowenstein Foundation Rick Ybarra Hogg Foundation Kali Peterson SCAN Foundation
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Break and Informal Networking
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Technology and Digital Futures This session will examine the evolving role of technology and digital tools in rural health. Funders and researchers will share perspectives on current approaches, emerging opportunities, implementation considerations, and areas where additional evidence or investment may be needed. Moderator: Alan Morgan Alycia Bayne NORC at the University of Chicago Elizabeth Ruen Helmsley Charitable Trust Amanda Reed Michigan Health Endowment Fund

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12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Networking) Lunch is on your own.
1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Rural Health Transformation Program Kate Sapra Office of Rural Health Transformation, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Group Reaction: Reflections on the Rural Health Transformation Program Brandon Talley CDC Foundation Sandra Wilkness National Academy for State Health Policy
2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Formal and Informal Partnerships Paying Dividends This session will explore how funders use partnerships to address two very different rural health challenges. One foundation supported the development of a clinically integrated network of rural hospitals. Another supported an asset-based approach to addressing workforce recruitment and retention efforts. Moderator: Ky Lindberg, Georgia Health Initiative Alex Dunlop LOR Foundation Shao-Chee Sim Episcopal Health Foundation
3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Break and Informal Networking
3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Building Investment Pathways for Rural and Native Communities This session will examine how funders can build more accessible, community-centered, and sustained investment pathways for Native and rural communities. Speakers will highlight approaches that center local priorities, strengthen community-led health infrastructure, and expand resources for improving access, outcomes, and long-term rural health capacity. Moderator: Amy Elizondo, National Rural Health Association A.C. Locklear II National Indian Health Board Tressie White Montana Healthcare Foundation
4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Day 1 Wrap-Up Diane Hall Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
5:00 p.m.	Meeting Adjourns for the Day

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Welcome Back and Context Setting for Day 2 Sarah Heppner Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Health Resources and Services Administration
9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Rural Health Resource Roundtables* This session will provide time for attendees to meet with representatives from several organizations and federal agencies that have programming related to rural health. These informal conversations are an opportunity to identify areas of potential collaboration, discuss strategies to address health challenges, and explore ways to improve health care access in rural communities.

** Three 20-minute sessions; representatives will be the same for each session.*

3RNET
AgriSafe
Build Healthy Places Network
Department of Health and Human Services:

Administration for Children and Families
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 Indian Health Services

National Institutes of Health - National Institutes of Mental Health
 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Department of Labor
Environmental Protection Agency
National Indian Health Board
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health
National Rural Transit Assistance Program
Rural Health Information Hub (RHlhub)
Rural Health Research Gateway
Veterans Health Administration Office of Rural Health

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Break and Informal Networking
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Beyond Projects: Building for the Long Term Lasting change in rural America requires moving beyond individual projects to create the conditions for sustained impact. This session will explore how funding partners can help translate promising ideas into durable systems, policies, and partnerships that strengthen rural communities over time. Cara James Grantmakers In Health Mark Constantine Dogwood Health Trust Maggie Sauer North Carolina Office of Rural Health Alan Morgan National Rural Health Association

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THANK YOU

for helping create a movement for rural health innovation.

MEETING ADJOURNS

Friday, September 25, 2026 • 12:30 p.m.

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