

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. **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**

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.

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch (Networking)**

Lunch is on your own

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **Rural Health Transformation Program**

This session will feature an overview of the Rural Health Transformation Program and explore where public and private resources can be most effectively aligned to advance state and community priorities, address gaps that federal funding may not cover, and help sustain rural health efforts over the long term.

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2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Driving State-Level Rural Health Solutions

This session will explore how funders, state leaders, and rural health partners can work together to address persistent health care challenges in rural communities. Speakers will share practical approaches for aligning investments, strengthening local capacity, and advancing sustainable, state-level solutions.

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Break and Informal Networking

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 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.

4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

2027 Preview

4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Day 1 Wrap-Up

5:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourns for the Day

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9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome Back and Context Setting for Day 2

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 programing related to rural health. These informal conversations are an opportunity to identify areas of potential collaboration, discuss strategies to address health disparities, 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
Department of Agriculture
Department of Health and Human Services:
Administration for Children and Families
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Health Resources and Services Administration
National Institutes of Health
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Department of Labor
Environmental Protection Agency
National Rural Transit Assistance Program
Partners for Rural Transformation
Rural Health Information Hub (RHIhub)
Rural Health Research Gateway

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 Future and Empowering Rural Communities

Rural communities continue to face complex and evolving health challenges that call for strong partnerships, shared learning, and locally driven solutions. In this session, speakers will share key insights from Grantmakers In Health's Rural Health Post-Conference, highlighting emerging themes, promising approaches, and opportunities to strengthen rural health and well-being. The discussion will explore how partners across sectors can build on these lessons to support collaboration, align resources, and advance resilient rural communities.

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Key Takeaways and Continuing the Conversation

MEETING ADJOURS