

Illinois Rural Health Association Policy Statements

These policies are annually reviewed by the Public Policy and Legislative Committee and are adopted by the Board of Directors to serve as guidelines for the Illinois Rural Health Association (IRHA).

GENERAL

1. IRHA supports full utilization of all health care professionals.
2. IRHA supports sound environmental policies in rural areas.
3. IRHA supports public education that encourages health care cost awareness and proper utilization of health services and patient responsibilities in health promotion.
4. IRHA supports public education and safety programs in rural Illinois, including such programs as farm and mine safety.
5. IRHA supports development of adequate health care transportation services in rural areas for both emergency and non-emergency situations.
6. IRHA encourages development and dissemination of information to communities to help recruit and retain health care professionals.
7. IRHA supports strategies to decrease health risks in rural Illinois.
8. IRHA supports the funding and implementation of research that benefits the health and safety of the residents of rural Illinois.
9. IRHA supports access to affordable and comprehensive health care coverage for all residents of Illinois.

STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

1. IRHA supports existing programs, and recommends development of new programs to promote interest in all categories of health care professions to rural elementary and high school students.
2. IRHA recommends modification of admissions processes to education programs that will result in increased admission of individuals interested in rural primary health care.
3. IRHA supports efforts that promote cooperative development of health care services among rural areas.
4. IRHA supports the use of telecommunication technologies in rural areas and the elimination of barriers to its use.
5. IRHA encourages active involvement of the community in the development and implementation of an on-going health provider recruitment and retention plan for every local health system area.

6. IRHA supports the activities of state government that improve access and delivery of human services in a cost effective manner to the residents of rural Illinois.
7. IRHA supports funding of educational support programs – such as scholarship and education loan repayment - which promote health care practice in rural Illinois.
8. IRHA encourages the Illinois Departments of Public Aid, Public Health and Human Services to adopt policies and fund programs that support health care services in rural Illinois.
9. IRHA supports state and federal legislation that promotes increased availability of health care professionals interested in rural practice.
10. IRHA supports payment methodology and practice policies that advance primary care practices in rural Illinois.
11. IRHA supports preparedness in rural Illinois to address mass casualty events and acts of terrorism.
12. IRHA supports ongoing efforts to address all aspects of meaningful medical liability reform to ensure access to quality patient care.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING AND EDUCATION

1. IRHA supports the inclusion of disease prevention and health promotion education in health professions training and continuing education.
2. IRHA supports efforts to increase the number of primary care physicians and other health care professionals trained in Illinois and to encourage practice in rural Illinois.
3. IRHA supports physician and other health care professional education strategies at all levels that place physicians and other health care professionals in rural communities for significant portions of their education and training programs.
4. IRHA encourages the creation and enhancement of rural education tracks in physician and other health professions training programs that recognize the special needs of rural populations.
5. IRHA encourages the Illinois Board of Higher Education to support medical and other health professions programs that produce physicians and other health care professionals who offer services in underserved rural areas.
6. IRHA encourages the Illinois Community College Board to support programs that produce health care professionals who offer services in underserved rural areas.
7. IRHA encourages the Illinois Departments of Public Health, Public Aid and Human Services to expand supportive programs for health care professionals who agree to provide primary care services in underserved rural areas.



Policy Book

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