

MHA Center of Rural Excellence



The MHA Center of Rural Excellence formalizes and optimizes the voice of rural Michigan hospitals. It positions rural hospital leaders at the center of state policy decisions affecting rural healthcare. The MHA Center of Rural Excellence has dedicated staff to advocate on behalf of rural hospitals and provide leadership to its members on the deployment of Rural Health Transformation Program funding.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT RURAL HEALTH LANDSCAPE IN MICHIGAN?

4th

Michigan has the fourth most residents who live in a rural county with either a complete or partial **primary care** workforce shortage.

6th

Michigan is sixth in the country for the number of residents who live in a rural county with a full or partial **mental health** workforce shortage.

40%

40% of rural Michigan counties **lack a practicing OB/GYN** in its borders.

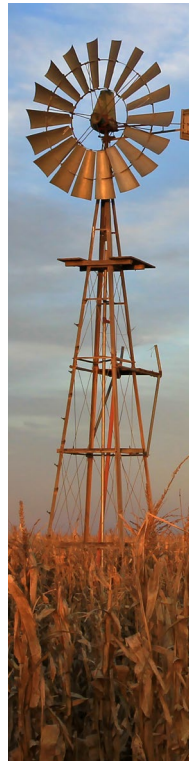
WHY A DEDICATED CENTER?

Because rural hospitals:

Face an increasingly challenging financial environment that requires support specific to their circumstances.

Deserve dedicated advocacy that reflects their reality.

Operate with limited infrastructure to navigate competitive grant processes, which will be a critical component to access Rural Health Transformation Program funds.



WHAT SERVICES ARE OFFERED THROUGH THE MHA CENTER OF RURAL EXCELLENCE?

- ▶ Strategic input on Rural Health Transformation Program funds, ensuring resources are aligned with local needs, program requirements and long-term sustainability.
- ▶ Serve as a fiduciary for Rural Health Transformation Program hospital funding.
- ▶ Convene rural hospital members and their potential Rural Health Transformation Program partners.
- ▶ Advocate at the state and federal levels on behalf of rural Michigan hospitals.
- ▶ Collect, analyze and disseminate relevant rural hospital data.
- ▶ Conduct research on rural health policies.
- ▶ Offer Rural Health Transformation Program grant administration and application support.

Members with questions about the MHA Center of Rural Excellence should contact its executive director, **Lauren LaPine-Ray, DrPH, MPH** at llapine@mha.org.

