

Advancing Rural Health Equity through Partnerships, Data, and Finance

October 18, 2023

- 1:30 p.m.** **Check-in**
- 2:00 p.m.** **Welcome**
- **Rekha Balu**, Vice President, Office of Race and Equity Research, Urban Institute
 - **Elaine Crutchfield**, Director of Program Support Services, Communities Unlimited
- 2:10 p.m.** **The State of Rural Health in America**
Rural America faces unique health challenges and opportunities for action. This presentation will provide an evidence-based overview and set the stage for solution-oriented panels.
- **Tom Morris**, Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services
- 2:25 p.m.** **Panel 1: Financing Rural Health Equity: Ways to Address the Needs**
This panel will discuss the difficulties and solutions in financing health equity within rural regions experiencing persistent poverty. The panelists will emphasize the importance of capacity building and thought leadership when addressing rural-specific challenges in financing health equity projects, suggesting improvements to the federal funding systems and changing the narrative of rural health and well-being to attract more health-supporting investments.
- **Emily Burleson**, Project Manager of Advocacy and Research, Partners for Rural Transformation
 - **Alex Lawson**, Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Hope Enterprise
 - **Bonita Robertson-Hardy**, Co-Executive Director, Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group
 - **Katrina Badger**, Program Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (*moderator*)
- 3:10 p.m.** **Panel 2: Promising Models to Address Rural Health Challenges**
This panel brings together a diverse group of organizations and programs, including community health workers, school-based health clinics, and local nonprofit organizations, to discuss their service models and the challenges in promoting rural health issues in their communities.
- **Patty Molina**, Senior Director of Community Health Services, Mariposa Community Health Center
 - **Mary Otwell**, Board President, School-Based Health Alliance of Arkansas
 - **Allison Seigars**, Executive Director, Rural Health Projects Inc.
 - **Anne Junod**, Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute (*moderator*)
- 3:55 p.m.** **Break**

4:10 p.m.

Panel 3: Partnerships for Identifying Needs and Tracking Progress on Promoting Rural Health Equity

Data are key to understanding community needs and pointing to ways to improve rural well-being and health equity. Panelists will discuss leveraging data and partnerships across stakeholders to identify community health needs and track progress toward goals of improving access to rural health services and health outcomes for rural residents.

- **Elaine Crutchfield**, Director of Program Support Services, Communities Unlimited
- **Sydney Howard**, Data Research Analyst, Center of Excellence in Rural Health, University of Kentucky
- **Carla Willis**, Principal Research Associate, Urban Institute
- **Anna Morgan**, Research Analyst, Urban Institute (*moderator*)

4:55 p.m.

Closing Remarks

- **Corianne Payton Scally**, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute

5:00 p.m.

Event concludes



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