

RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF UTAH POLICY STATEMENTS

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

GENERAL

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

STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

1. RHAU 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. RHAU encourages admissions to health education programs that will result in increased admission of individuals interested in rural health care who have rural backgrounds.
3. RHAU supports efforts that promote cooperative development of health care services in rural communities.
4. RHAU supports the use of telehealth technologies in rural areas and encourages the elimination of various barriers to its use.
5. RHAU encourages active involvement of the community in the development and implementation of an on-going health provider recruitment and retention plan for every rural health system area.
6. RHAU supports the organization of state government in as much as it improves access and delivery of health and human services in a cost effective manner to the citizens of rural Utah.
7. RHAU supports funding of educational support programs – such as scholarship and education loan repayment – which promotes health care practice in rural Utah.

8. RHAU encourages the Utah Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Environmental Quality, and Health and Human Services to adopt policies and fund programs that support health care services in rural Utah.
9. RHAU supports state and federal legislation that promotes increased availability of health professionals interested in rural practice.
10. RHAU supports payment methodology and practice policies that advance health care practices.
11. RHAU promotes programs that are sensitive to and address the ethnic needs of rural Utah.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

1. RHAU supports the inclusion of disease prevention, public health education and health promotion education in health professions training and continuing education.
2. RHAU supports efforts to increase the number of primary care physicians trained in Utah to encourage their practice in rural Utah.
3. RHAU supports physician education strategies at all levels – undergraduate, medical school and residency – that place physicians in rural communities for significant portions of their training programs.
4. RHAU encourages the creation and enhancement of rural education tracks in physician and other health professional training programs that recognize the special needs of rural populations.
5. RHAU encourages the Utah Board of Regents to support medical school programs that produce physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals who locate practices in underserved rural areas.
6. RHAU encourages the expansion of supportive programs for health professionals who agree to provide primary care services in rural underserved areas.
7. RHAU encourages health professional education programs to reserve slots for qualified rural applicants.

Approved by RHAU board on August 25, 2000