



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2016

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF STATE OFFICES OF
RURAL HEALTH CALLS FOR STATE OFFICES OF
RURAL HEALTH AND RURAL HEALTH STAKEHOLDERS
TO OBSERVE NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY ON
NOVEMBER 17, 2016**

October 11, 2016 - National Rural Health Day is Thursday, November 17, 2016. The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) is asking all State Offices of Rural Health, organizations that serve rural health populations, legislators, and rural health communities to join them in celebrating National Rural Health Day.

National Rural Health Day was created to increase awareness of rural health-related issues and challenges and to recognize those who are working to improve the health and wellbeing of the millions of people living in America's rural communities.

Each State Office of Rural Health celebrates National Rural Health Day in its own way, ranging from events and programs like health screenings, open houses, legislative and policy initiatives. The overriding theme of National Rural Health Day, "Celebrating the Power of Rural," strives to give a voice to physicians, nurses, EMTs, and other health workers dedicated to caring for our country's often overlooked, underserved rural areas. National Rural Health Day also recognizes the efforts of innovators working to improve access to care and shines the spotlight on programs and people making a difference.

On National Rural Health Day, NOSORH will host a series of webinars open to all rural health stakeholders. Each thirty-minute web session will cover relevant topics specific to rural issues, including one that addresses how rural Americans will be impacted by policy changes to the Affordable Care Act as a result of a new administration. Other sessions will cover the expanding role of non-physicians in rural communities, as well as how patient data collection impacts population health management.

The Challenges of Serving America's Rural Population

Approximately 62 million people – nearly one in five Americans – live in rural and frontier communities throughout the United States. "These small towns, farming communities and frontier areas are wonderful places where neighbors know each other and work together," said NOSORH Executive Director Teryl Eisinger. "The hospitals and providers serving our rural communities not only provide quality patient care, but they also help keep good jobs in rural America. Today more than ever, rural communities must tackle a host of growing issues which require them to build partnerships, be innovative and focus on initiatives to help patients stay healthy and out of the hospital. State Offices of Rural Health play a key role in addressing the threats facing rural healthcare. All 50 states maintain a State Office of Rural Health, each of which shares a similar mission: to foster relationships, disseminate information and provide technical assistance that improves access to and the quality of, healthcare for its rural citizens. In the past year alone, State Offices of Rural Health collectively provided technical assistance to more than 28,000 rural communities."