



## Q: What is National Rural Health Day?

Each year the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) and its partners set aside the third Thursday of November to celebrate National Rural Health Day (NRHD). NRHD is an opportunity to “Celebrate the Power of Rural,” shining a light on women and men who serve the health needs of the estimated 57 million people living in rural America.

Over the years, NRHD has transformed from a day-long event to a sustainable movement. The #PowerofRural inspires collaboration and innovation while advancing the mission of promoting education and communication amongst all rural stakeholders.

## Q: What is the Community Star Recognition Program?

In conjunction with NRHD, NOSORH established the annual Community Star Recognition Program, sharing a collection of stories of those who are making a tremendous and positive impact on their communities in several vital health-related areas. Before NRHD, NOSORH invites all its partners, State Offices of Rural Health, industry organizations, hospitals, clinics, and health systems alike, to nominate an individual or organization as a Community Star. Eligible and selected nominees are proudly featured in the eBook that is created and shared widely beginning on NRHD and throughout the year.

## Q: Who is eligible to be nominated as a 2019 Community Star?

The following are the eligibility requirements for both organizations and individuals.

- Must be located, working and/or volunteering in a designated rural area.
- Demonstrates how they have plugged into the power and resources provided to them through their State Office of Rural Health.
- Nominees must consent to fully participate and complete a detailed questionnaire about their work/service.

## Q: Who can nominate a Community Star?

Any person with a close connection to the nominee and familiar with their rural health work and contributions is eligible to make a nomination. Self-nominations are not eligible.

## Q: How do I nominate a Community Star?

Nominate a Community Star online by visiting [Powerofrural.org/community-stars/](http://Powerofrural.org/community-stars/).



**Q: Is there a fee for nominating or participating in the Community Star Recognition Program?**

No.

**Q: How are Community Stars selected?**

The 2019 Community Star Selection Committee will review and evaluate nominations, making recommendations for which stories to include in this year's eBook and other NRHD activities based on the following merits. The nominee:

- Cultivates a vital, innovative rural health landscape and infrastructure
- Develops leadership capacity to grow rural population health and health equity
- Builds capacity for rural data-driven program planning and decision making
- Contributes to rural health innovation, education, collaboration and communication

Past nominees have included physicians, nurses, allied health providers, hospital administrators, board members, volunteers, community health workers, and first responders. Other nominees have included coalitions and collaborators working together on initiatives that address a specific health crisis or need or drive large-scale health and wellness programs.

**Q: How will those nominated be notified?**

The nominee will be contacted via email, congratulating them on their nomination with instructions on next steps in the process, including completion of an authorization form and detailed questionnaire about their rural health work and contributions related to their nomination.

**Q: Will the Community Star receive an award? Will there be an event or gathering of Community Stars?**

Selected Community Stars are included in the eBook released on National Rural Health Day, November 21, 2019. There are no monetary or memento awards; however, NOSORH actively shares news about Community Stars with media and social media outlets. State Offices of Rural Health, the nominee's employer, and the community where they serve, are all encouraged to promote their selected Community Star by hosting a local celebration or recognition ceremony, sharing the news through social media, or inviting their press contacts to cover their hometown star's story. NOSORH's Community Star Recognition Program team develops and shares promotional tools and templates in advance of the NRHD and prior to the eBook's debut.

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## Q: What is a State Office of Rural Health?

All 50 states have a SORH. These offices vary in size, scope, organization, and in services and resources they provide. The general purpose of each SORH is to help their rural communities build healthcare delivery systems. While funding levels and sources also vary, every state receives a portion of their funding from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy through the SORH Grant program. With this grant, a SORH is expected to:

- Collect and disseminate information
- Coordinate rural healthcare activities in states in order to avoid duplication
- Provide technical assistance to public and non-profit private entities

[State Office of Rural Health Factsheet](#)

**Visit [PowerofRural.org](http://PowerofRural.org) to nominate a Community Star, receive more information, read the 2018 eBook, and more!**

