



ASHNHA 2018 Policy Priorities

Alaska's hospitals and nursing homes save lives, help heal the sick or injured and keep families together by delivering care close to home. Across the state, ASHNHA members care for their communities, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Our hospitals serve as the safety net for all residents, treating and caring for all regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

Maintain hospital and nursing home financial stability by safeguarding fair reimbursement

After three years of reductions, Medicaid rates no longer cover the cost of care and problems exist with eligibility determinations.

- Provide rebasing & inflationary increases for hospitals and nursing homes.
- Protect critical access hospitals and rural skilled nursing facilities from reimbursement changes that threaten their viability.
- Fix payment (MMIS) and eligibility system problems.

Advocate for legislative solutions to address workplace violence

- Violence towards health care workers creates an unsafe environment for staff, patients, and families and cannot be accepted.

Preserve access to health care and coverage

- Maintain Medicaid coverage and general relief for low-income Alaskans.
- Support federal and state policies to strengthen the individual health insurance market.
- Ensure timely eligibility determinations are made to avoid costly subacute hospital stays.

Support innovative care models that work to transform payment and delivery systems

- Continue implementation of ASHNHA's hospital-based project to reduce the use of unnecessary emergency department services.
- Focus on structural changes to the health care delivery system rather than rate cuts.
- Support new payment and delivery models for vulnerable critical access hospitals.
- Advocate for use of utilization and cost data to guide decision making in the Medicaid program.

Combat opioid and heroin abuse

- Integrate the prescription drug monitoring program data into the Emergency Department Information Exchange (Edie).
- Support collaboration among provider groups to focus on pain management and prescribing practices.

Support regulatory relief for hospitals and nursing homes

- Reduce the administrative burden and enable providers to invest resources to improve care and reduce costs.