



2023 Federal Advocacy Priorities

As one of the largest and highest quality healthcare organizations in New York — and the premier academic healthcare system in Suffolk County — Stony Brook Medicine offers medical and wellness care to 2.8 million residents on Long Island and beyond. Scientists and physicians at medical schools and teaching hospitals like Stony Brook pioneer discoveries and innovations, bringing them from the laboratory bench to the patient bedside. The advances that come from this research, much of which is supported in part by federal agencies, lead to new cures, preventive interventions, diagnostics, and treatments for disease that improve the lives of millions of patients.

For Stony Brook Medicine to continue providing our world-class healthcare, groundbreaking research, and educating the future healthcare professionals and researchers, the federal government must support robust funding for public hospitals in addition to legislation and policies that bolster healthcare training programs, protect against harmful payment cuts to healthcare providers, and expedite full and fair distribution of reimbursement funds owed to public safety net hospitals.

Provide fiscal stability and security.

- Prevent catastrophic **Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital cuts** that will take effect in federal fiscal year 2024, totaling \$8 billion nationally and \$1.3 billion to New York state.
- Amend how hospital-specific **Disproportionate Share Hospital caps** are calculated to hold harmless hospitals disadvantaged by a policy that took effect Oct. 1, 2021.
- Urge the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** to expedite full and fair distribution of Public Assistance Program reimbursement funds by eliminating onerous documentation requirements and improving FEMA communication and transparency with hospitals and health systems.
- Protect against any other harmful payment cuts to healthcare providers, including site-neutral payment reductions, as Congress looks to offset the cost of other priorities.

Bolster the healthcare workforce and build resiliency.

- Expand **Graduate Medical Education** funding via the **Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act** and bolster clinician and other healthcare training programs to address serious healthcare workforce shortages.
- Address nursing shortages by **reauthorizing nursing workforce development programs** to support recruitment, retention and advanced education for nurses and other allied health professionals and **investing in nursing schools, nurse faculty salaries and hospital training time**.
- Expedite and increase **visa authorization** for qualified healthcare workers by passing the **Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act**.
- Provide resources for hospitals and health systems to **update and improve aging infrastructure**.

Increase access to urgently needed behavioral health services.

- Implement policies to **better integrate and coordinate behavioral health services with physical health services**, like developing alternative payment models and bundled payments that incorporate behavioral and physical health services and financially supporting implementation of team-based care models.
- Expand behavioral healthcare workforce and funding initiatives to help hospitals promote healthcare worker mental health.
- Repeal the **Medicaid Institutions for Mental Disease exclusion**, which prohibits using federal Medicaid funds to cover inpatient mental health services for patients aged 21 to 64 in certain freestanding psychiatric facilities.
- Eliminate **Medicare's 190-day lifetime limit** for inpatient behavioral psychiatric admissions.

Support care transformation.

- Extend regulatory and payment flexibilities that have helped maintain access to care during the **federal public health emergency** (such as the Critical Access Hospital 96-hour rule and skilled nursing facility 3-day rule) and support state efforts to ensure a smooth Medicaid redetermination process to secure consistent access to care for patients.
- Support **New York state's Medicaid 1115 waiver request** to address health equity, behavioral health and expand coverage and access to care.
- Ensure that **any effort to reform post-acute care payments reflect new insights from the pandemic**, recognize the complexity and distinct challenges in payment reform for long-term care hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, and preserve patient access to the entire continuum of care.