



For Immediate Release

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NHA and NeRHA announce Rural Veteran Referral Program

Lincoln — The Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) and the Nebraska Rural Health Association (NeRHA) have announced a new pilot program aimed at helping with health care for Nebraska veterans.

Of the 130,000 Veterans in the State of Nebraska, 50% are over the age of 65 (Vietnam era). Aging rural Veterans require additional medical attention which is much more difficult to treat in rural settings.

The Rural Veterans Health Access Program works to expand the reach of the VA MISSION Act by increasing the number of hospitals and clinics Nebraska veterans will have access to use for their healthcare needs. The program will help link Nebraska's hospital across the state directly to VA care coordination teams in Omaha. NHA and NeRHA have been working closely with all five federal offices to ensure this opportunity is available for our veterans.

“Thank you to Senator Deb Fischer and the entire Nebraska delegation for their efforts to increase care through the VA program” remarked Jed Hansen, Executive Director, NeRHA.

The Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) and the Nebraska Rural Health Association (NeRHA) have received onboarding commitments from over 20 Nebraska critical access hospitals. NHA and NeRHA are also in early discussions with other statewide health systems. “The Nebraska Hospital Association and its critical access hospital members stand ready to help bridge the gap in providing access to health care for our Nebraska veterans,” remarked Jeremy Nordquist, President of the NHA.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to increase access to care for our State’s rural veterans. The Rural Veterans Health Access Program is a shining example of what partnership among our associations and with our state and federal elected officials can accomplish.” said Jed Hansen, Executive Director, NeRHA. “The future of Nebraska depends on strong rural health care and we are going to do everything we can to make that a reality.”

About the NHA

The Nebraska Hospital Association has been the guiding force of its members since 1927. The NHA serves as the influential voice of its members in the health care legislative and public arenas, promoting the delivery of quality health care and influencing public opinion of hospitals and health networks. Members depend on the Association for information, advice, education and changes in health care regulations, legislation, trends and other issues.

About the NeRHA

The Nebraska Rural Health Association (NeRHA) is the result of a shared vision among health care providers across Nebraska, who recognize the value of uniting in support of rural health care throughout our state. This grassroots, non-profit organization is powered and driven by its members: a wide variety of medical professionals and organizations invested in the health and wellness of rural Nebraskans.