

### ***Increased Visibility of Rural Health issues with California's Legislators***

- In 2010 CSRHA successfully held 3 informational rural health hearings with the California Legislative Rural Caucus. The hearings focused on the following topics:
    - The big picture of rural health in California.
    - Health Information Technology impact in rural California, challenges, needs and new developments
    - Rural Workforce Needs, Challenges and Developments
- To view the presentations and recordings of each of these hearings please visit <http://www.csrha.org/pastevents.html>.

### ***Critical Access Hospital Assessment***

- CSRHA Consultants have completed an assessment of ALL Critical Access Hospitals for eHealth and Meaningful Use.

"Most CAHs struggle financially. According to the most recent audited financials found on OSHPD, only 13 of the 31 CAHs reported a profit. It is little wonder, therefore, that the number one barrier cited by CAH CEO's to achieve meaningful use is funding. Further investigation reveals, however, that most CAHs will receive adequate reimbursement for achieving meaningful use, so the issue is really more about intelligent use of resources, cash flow and access to capital than acquisition cost. The estimated total reimbursement and incentive payments for California's Critical Access Hospitals is \$72,588,866, compared to a total expected cost of \$54,804,869. Nevertheless, ongoing costs, including Health Information Exchange (HIE) costs and increased IT staffing will be a significant burden for many of these facilities." *California's Critical Access Hospitals*

### ***USDA Loan and Loan Guarantee Bill, AB 2731***

- CSRHA influenced the passage of USDA Loan and Loan Guarantee Bill, AB 2731, to allow healthcare district hospitals and clinics to draw down Federal money

Signing of this bill corrects California state law and will make it easier, more cost effective and less burdensome for health care districts to use federal financing available through the USDA's Community Facilities program. This bill helps rural health care districts maintain financial sustainability, thereby ensuring that residents in rural communities retain access to much-needed medical care.

### ***Closing the Incentive and Reimbursement Payment Gap***

- CSRHA took the lead at closing the \$56 million gap to ensure the eligibility for CAHs to receive the Medicare and Medi-Cal incentive payments in addition to cost-based reimbursements



The California State Rural Health Association (CSRHA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization that works to improve the health of rural Californians and the quality and accessibility of the health care they receive. CSRHA brings together health care providers, consumers, educators, researchers, public health and economic development agencies and others to work on a variety of issues related to preserving and enhancing the health of rural

California. The mission of CSRHA is to link rural individuals and organizations together to facilitate information exchange, collaboration, and advocacy to promote healthy rural communities.