IROQUOIS
Healthcare Alliance

2025 Legislative Priorities

In addition to the priorities below, IHA is requesting the immediate release of the funds appropriated in the SFY 2024-2025 budget to support the operational and functional needs of Upstate New York hospitals and health systems.

About Iroquois Healthcare Alliance

IHA is a nonprofit regional trade organization representing more than 50 hospitals and health systems across 32 Upstate NY counties. Our membership spans 28,000 square miles, serving a diverse network of healthcare facilities—from rural Critical Access and Sole Community Hospitals to major academic medical centers and teaching institutions—making us the only independent and unified voice in Upstate and rural New York.

Prioritizing Sustainable Funding	• Keep intact enacted increases & implement additional relief. • Oppose Medicaid cuts. • 340B Anti Discrimination | S.8992 & A.7789 (not same as) | Prohibits pharmaceutical manufacturers from denying, conditioning, or limiting dispense of drugs to covered entities. • Distressed hospital funding for Upstate hospitals - Vital Access Providers (VAP) & Vital Access Provider Assurance Program (VAPAP). • Continuation of Directed Payment Template (DPT) program for Upstate hospitals. • Recruitment & retention funding for Upstate hospitals and health systems.

Addressing the Healthcare Worker Shortage	• Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact | S.6873/A.7946 | Enables interstate nursing practice based on a common set of licensing requirements, 42 participating states.
	• Temporary Practice Authorization | S.9761/A.10096-A | Permits out-of-state nurses to practice temporarily while awaiting licensure.
	• Workplace Violence Prevention and Reduction
	  ○ S.9619/A.10452 | Expands class of healthcare workers protected under Penal Law 120.05.
	  ○ S.8916/A.9327 | Allows victims of hospital workplace violence to give police statements in the hospital.
	• Enabling healthcare professionals to fully utilize their training and credentials, with authority over scope of practice transferred to the Department of Health.

Investments in Innovation	• As major employers and economic anchors in small communities, hospitals must be included in economic development planning. • Fund the 'Take A Look Program' - Provides $1 million in funding for IHA to assist with recruiting medical and dental professionals to Upstate New York. • Continued funding for Office of Healthcare Workforce Innovation within the New York State Department of Health. • Capital funding to address aging infrastructure of hospitals in Upstate NY and spur innovation.

Iroquois Healthcare Alliance | 15 Executive Park Drive, Clifton Park. NY 12065 | 518-383-5060 | www.iroquois.org

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IROQUOIS
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Investing in Tomorrow:
The Needs of Upstate NY's Hospitals and Health Systems

IHA champions Upstate hospitals and the communities they serve. Through comprehensive, survey data, we provide state leaders with compelling and real-time evidence of our hospitals' needs, challenges, and vital community impact.

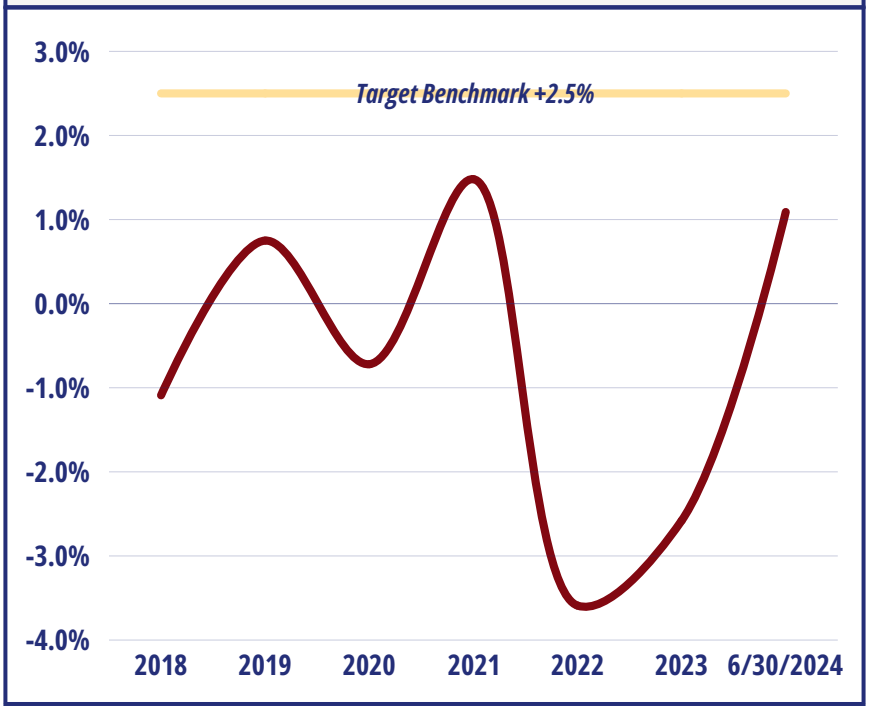
Financial Volatility	Hospitals in Upstate New York continue to struggle financially. One-third of surveyed hospitals report negative operating margins despite state and federal support. Of the respondents with negative operating margins, 70% were below -5%, while 30% fell between -1% and -5%. Over half of IHA members have 50 or fewer days cash on hand, with nearly 25% having just 25 days or less.
Persistent Workforce Shortages	As of January 1, 2024, the 42 facilities who participated in our annual vacancy survey reported 13,515 vacant positions, reflecting a **13.7% vacancy rate** and **16.1% turnover rate** across all staff. Nursing remains the most critical challenge, with **RN vacancy rates at 17.9%**, particularly in long-term care (**27.4%**) and emergency departments (**18.6%)**. Contract labor continues to fill gaps, with **6.4%** of RN positions held by temporary staff, and facilities face lengthy recruitment cycles, averaging 93 days to fill permanent RN positions. While the healthcare sector shows some signs of stabilization, these persistent staffing shortages, especially in critical care areas, indicate ongoing workforce challenges that require sustained strategic attention.

135%
increase in RN vacancy rates since 2018

93 Days
on average to fill an RN position

Over 13,000 Vacant Positions
in Upstate NY Hospitals

Total Operating Margin
Upstate NY Hospitals



Data Sources: 2018-2022 NYS ICR Data, 2022 IHA Mid-Year Financial Survey, 2024 IHA Mid-Year Financial Survey, 2023 IHA Annual Financial Survey, 2024 IHA Mid-Year Financial Survey, and January 2024 IHA Semi-Annual Vacancy and Turnover Survey

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Critical Access Hospitals (13)
A rural hospital with 25 or fewer beds located at least 35 miles from other hospitals, providing 24/7 emergency care and short stays under Medicare guidelines.

Medicare Dependent Hospitals (2)
A rural hospital with 100 or fewer beds where Medicare patients account for at least 60% of inpatient days.

Sole Community Hospitals (13)
A hospital that's either 35+ miles from similar facilities or serves as the primary healthcare provider in a rural area due to geography or weather conditions.

Health Systems (11)
An organization of multiple healthcare facilities and providers operating under single management to deliver comprehensive medical services.

Acute Care Hospitals (15)
A hospital providing short-term medical treatment for severe injury, illness, surgery, or other urgent conditions.

Rural Emergency Hospital (1)
A Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) is a Medicare provider type that offers 24/7 emergency care and outpatient services, but no inpatient beds, designed to help sustain healthcare access in rural communities.

NORTH COUNTRY

Clinton
- 26 The University of Vermont Health Network Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital (UVMHN)

Essex
- 27 The University of Vermont Health Network Elizabethtown Community Hospital (UVMHN)

Franklin
- 28 Adirondack Health
- 29 The University of Vermont Health Network Alice Hyde Medical Center (UVMHN)

Jefferson
- 30 Carthage Area Hospital
- 31 River Hospital
- 32 Samaritan Medical Center (SH)
- S Samaritan Health (SH)

Lewis
- 33 Lewis County General Hospital (LCHS)
- L Lewis County Health System (LCHS)

St. Lawrence
- 34 Canton-Potsdam Hospital (SLHS)
- 35 Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center
- 36 Clifton-Fine Hospital (SH)
- 37 Gouverneur Hospital (SLHS)
- 38 Massena Hospital (SLHS)
- S St. Lawrence Health System (SLHS)

CENTRAL NEW YORK

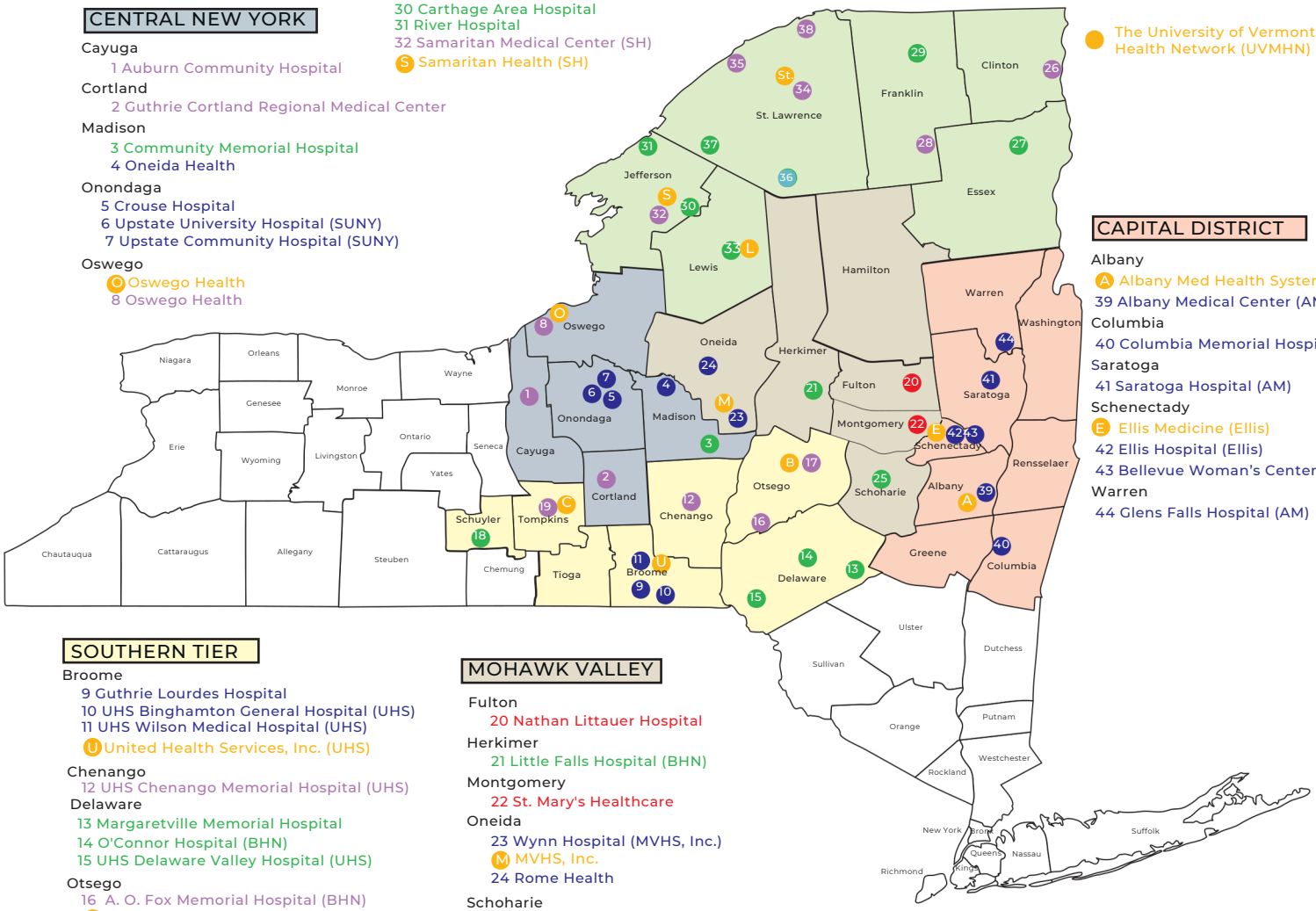
Cayuga
- 1 Auburn Community Hospital

Cortland
- 2 Guthrie Cortland Regional Medical Center

Madison
- 3 Community Memorial Hospital
- 4 Oneida Health

Onondaga
- 5 Crouse Hospital
- 6 Upstate University Hospital (SUNY)
- 7 Upstate Community Hospital (SUNY)

Oswego
- O Oswego Health
- 8 Oswego Health



The University of Vermont Health Network (UVMHN)

CAPITAL DISTRICT

Albany
- A Albany Med Health System (AM)
- 39 Albany Medical Center (AM)

Columbia
- 40 Columbia Memorial Hospital (AM)

Saratoga
- 41 Saratoga Hospital (AM)

Schenectady
- E Ellis Medicine (Ellis)
- 42 Ellis Hospital (Ellis)
- 43 Bellevue Woman's Center (Ellis)

Warren
- 44 Glens Falls Hospital (AM)

SOUTHERN TIER

Broome
- 9 Guthrie Lourdes Hospital
- 10 UHS Binghamton General Hospital (UHS)
- 11 UHS Wilson Medical Hospital (UHS)
- U United Health Services, Inc. (UHS)

Chenango
- 12 UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital (UHS)

Delaware
- 13 Margaretville Memorial Hospital
- 14 O'Connor Hospital (BHN)
- 15 UHS Delaware Valley Hospital (UHS)

Otsego
- 16 A. O. Fox Memorial Hospital (BHN)
- B Bassett Healthcare Network (BHN)
- 17 Bassett Medical Center (BHN)

Schuyler
- 18 Schuyler Hospital (CH)

Tompkins
- 19 Cayuga Medical Center (CHS)
- C Cayuga Health System (CHS)

MOHAWK VALLEY

Fulton
- 20 Nathan Littauer Hospital

Herkimer
- 21 Little Falls Hospital (BHN)

Montgomery
- 22 St. Mary's Healthcare

Oneida
- 23 Wynn Hospital (MVHS, Inc.)
- M MVHS, Inc.
- 24 Rome Health

Schoharie
- 25 Cobleskill Regional Hospital (BHN)

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