



In addition to the priorities below, IHA is requesting the immediate release of the funds appropriated in previous budgets to support the 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 Critical Access and Sole Community Hospitals, Rural Emergency Hospitals, to major academic medical centers and teaching institutions, making us the only independent and unified voice in Upstate and rural New York.

<p><b>Prioritize Sustainable Funding</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.R.1 impacts include early termination of the MCO tax revenue. To fulfill the commitment of the Healthcare Stability Fund, the state must either extend the MCO tax or utilize the rainy-day fund to stabilize hospital finances.</li> <li>• 340B Anti-Discrimination   S.1913 / A.6222   Prohibits pharmaceutical manufacturers from denying, restricting, or conditioning the sale of drugs to covered entities. 21 states have passed similar legislation.</li> <li>• Continue distressed hospital funding for Upstate hospitals through Vital Access Providers (VAP) and Vital Access Provider Assurance Program (VAPAP), along with continuation of the Directed Payment Template (DPT) program.</li> <li>• Ensure allocation of all hospital funding creates meaningful parity. For context: over \$1 billion has been allocated to a single hospital, while rural hospitals struggle with far less support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Address the Healthcare Worker Shortage</b></p> <p>No-cost, high-impact. Now is the time to act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary Practice Authorization   S.8341-A / A.8472-B   Permits out-of-state nurses, LPNs, and physicians to practice temporarily while awaiting licensure.</li> <li>• Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact   S.3916 / A.4524   Enables interstate nursing practice based on a common set of licensing requirements. 43 participating jurisdictions.</li> <li>• Workplace Violence Prevention and Staff Protection             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ S.2080 / A.6051   Expands class of healthcare workers protected under Penal Law 120.05</li> <li>◦ A.9536   Permits the removal of last names from healthcare worker badges and allows workers to use their employer’s address on criminal complaints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Expand scope of practice for healthcare professionals like PAs and CRNAs to practice at the full extent of their training and credentials.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rural Health Transformation Fund</b></p>	<p>With New York receiving \$212 million in 2026 but facing uncertainty about funding levels for the remaining four years of the five-year program, ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only truly rural hospitals are eligible to receive funding and the Department of Health provides clear, timely communication on implementation.</li> <li>• Rural hospitals and organizations like IHA have a seat at the table in determining how funds are allocated and distributed.</li> </ul>



# Step up for Upstate and Rural Hospitals

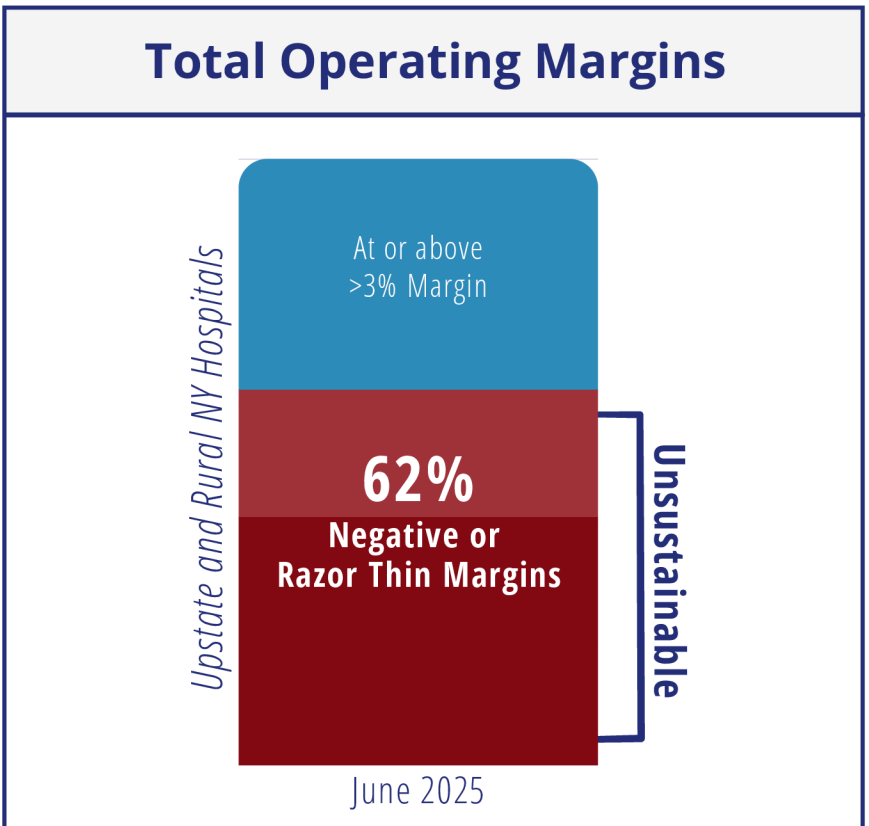
IHA supports Upstate hospitals and the communities they serve by providing state leaders with comprehensive, real-time data on hospital needs, challenges, and community impact.

<h3>Continued Financial Volatility</h3>	<p>Our anchor institutions are at risk. Upstate and rural New York hospitals are caught between federal cuts and state budget gaps, and the financial strain is unsustainable. As of June 2025, 62% of IHA members are operating at or below the 3% target benchmark, with 41% reporting negative operating margins. This is with state and federal supportive funding already factored in. Of those in the red, nearly a third are severely negative (below -5%). The average operating margin across all respondents sits at 0%. Nearly 80% of IHA members have fewer than 100 days cash on hand, with a median of just 50 days.</p>
<h3>Persistent Workforce Shortages</h3>	<p>As of January 1, 2025, the 36 facilities who participated in our annual vacancy survey reported 8,188 vacant positions, reflecting a <b>10.5% vacancy rate</b> and <b>16.3% turnover rate</b> across all staff. Nursing remains the most critical challenge, with <b>RN vacancy rates at 15.4%</b>, particularly in long-term care (<b>19.5%</b>) and emergency departments (<b>12.9%</b>). Contract labor continues to fill gaps, with <b>8.0%</b> of RN positions held by temporary staff, and facilities face lengthy recruitment cycles, averaging 80 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.</p>

**103%** ↑  
increase in RN vacancy rates since 2018

**80 Days**  
on average to fill an RN position

**Over 8,000 Vacant Positions**  
in Upstate NY Hospitals



Data Sources: 2025 IHA Mid-Year Financial Survey and January 2025 IHA Semi-Annual Vacancy and Turnover Survey. Margins below 3% are considered "unsustainable" according to Kaufman Hall standards.



# IROQUOIS Healthcare Alliance

## Critical Access Hospitals (14)

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.

## Sole Community Hospitals (12)

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.

## Acute Care Hospitals (15)

A hospital providing short-term medical treatment for severe injury, illness, surgery, or other urgent conditions.

## Medicare Dependent Hospitals (2)

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

## Health Systems (13)

An organization of multiple healthcare facilities and providers operating under single management to deliver comprehensive medical services.

## 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
- N North Star Health Alliance
- 36 Clifton-Fine Hospital (SH)
- 37 Gouverneur Hospital (SLHS)
- 38 Massena Hospital (SLHS)
- St St. Lawrence Health System (SLHS)

### CENTRAL NEW YORK

#### Cayuga

- 1 Auburn Community Hospital

#### Cortland

- 2 Guthrie Cortland Regional Medical Center

#### Madison

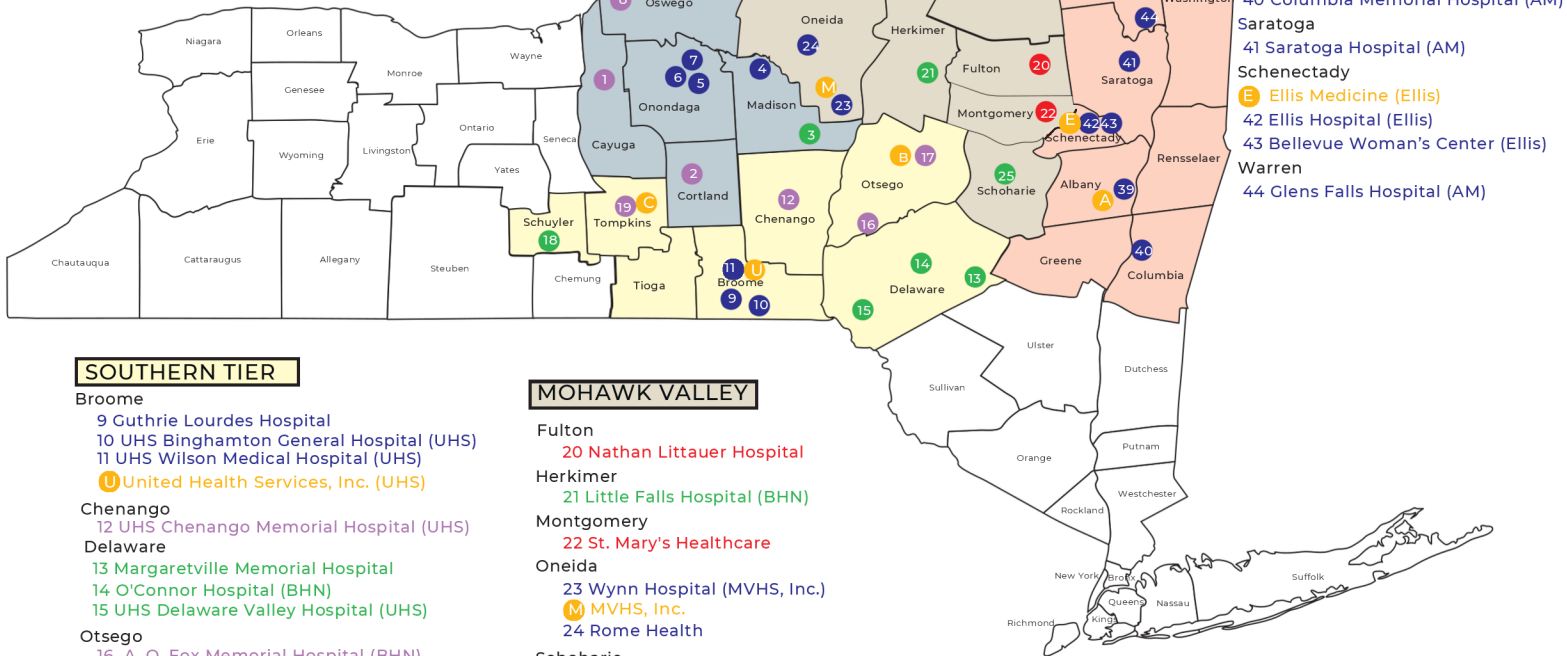
- 3 Community Memorial Hospital
- 4 Oneida Health

#### Onondaga

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

#### Oswego

- O Oswego Health
- B Oswego Health



### 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)
- C Centralus Health (CH)

### 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)