



ALASKA STATE HOSPITAL &
NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

Recover.
Rebuild.
Advance.



2022 PRIORITIES

ASHNHA commissioned the *Alaska Health Care Workforce Analysis*, a report released in November 2021 highlighting the many workforce challenges and opportunities in health care. As Alaska recovers from the pandemic, ASHNHA's top priorities are working to rebuild and advance Alaska's health care workforce and ensuring access to care.

workforce

HEALTH CARE IS VITAL TO ALASKA'S ECONOMY

- 42,900 jobs, \$2.7 billion in annual wages
- Pays out more wages than any other industry
- Projected to add more jobs than any sector over next 10 years

CANNOT KEEP UP WITH JOB DEMAND

- 6,300 health care openings each year
- 1,400 openings alone for registered nurses
- 21% of key positions are vacant in our hospitals and nursing homes
- Alaska's workforce training pipeline is too small

Did you know Alaska's largest nursing program has to turn away twice as many eligible nursing students than it accepts? We could be producing 200% more Alaska nurses per year right here at home.

OUT-OF-STATE WORKFORCE HELPS, BUT IS NOT ENOUGH

- 11.3% of Alaska's health care workforce are non-residents
- Only a quarter of non-residents go on to attain residency
- On average, it is 64% more expensive to engage a traveling health care worker than to hire a permanent employee

access

MEDICAID is a sound investment. Alaska appropriates less general fund dollars to the Medicaid program today than it did 10 years ago despite providing health care coverage to 114,000 more Alaskans.

Developing BEHAVIORAL HEALTH is critical. There were 128,000 emergency room visits last year for behavioral health. The Crisis Now model in other states shows for every 100 calls, only 10 require a physical visit from a mobile care team.

TELEHEALTH makes sense. In the age of mobile devices and technology, why not continue telehealth innovations from the pandemic for efficient access to a variety of health care services?