



2026 Government Relations Academy



AMERICA'S
ESSENTIAL
HOSPITALS

The Government Relations (GR) Academy includes:

- Three highly interactive sessions at the association's spring Federal Advocacy Assembly fly-in, in Washington, D.C.; at our annual conference, VITAL2026, in Minneapolis; and returning to Washington, D.C., for our final session in the fall
- Supplemental learning activities between sessions, including webinars
- Ongoing access to advisers with decades of experience advocating for essential hospitals and their patients
- The option to earn continuing education credits

How to Apply

Applications will be available in fall 2025 and accepted through Dec. 10, 2025. Each participant's sponsoring organization is responsible for tuition of \$8,500 in addition to travel and lodging.

Questions? Contact Julia Grady at jgrady@essentialhospitals.org or 404-539-3309.

Stay Connected

Follow the association @OurHospitals and join the Academy's social discussion with #GRAcademy.

TAKING ESSENTIAL HOSPITAL ADVOCATES TO THE NEXT LEVEL

The America's Essential Hospitals GR Academy elevates the federal advocacy skills of government relations professionals at hospitals with a mission to serve low-income patients and others who face barriers to care. Over nine months, participants will:

- Expand their knowledge of safety net financing, the 340B Drug Pricing Program, and other key legislative and regulatory issues
- Explore effective messaging for the Hill to help advance advocacy
- Develop and execute a federal advocacy campaign to achieve a policy victory for their hospital
- Build their professional network with government relations peers and seasoned advisers from essential hospitals.

In addition to virtual activities between sessions, they will participate in three in-person meetings:

SESSION I Navigating Washington: Foundations of Essential Hospital Advocacy

Spring 2026 | Washington (at spring Federal Advocacy Assembly)

SESSION II Effective Advocacy Messaging on the Hill and in Your District

Summer 2026 | Minneapolis (at VITAL2026)

SESSION III Implementing Your Advocacy Campaign

Fall 2026 | Washington