



Greetings from the Virginia Primary Care Office & the State Office of Rural Health

As we continue to navigate through these unusual and challenging times this bi-weekly newsletter aims to serve as a meaningful source for the latest information, news, funding opportunities, and resources involving Virginia rural health. This newsletter is an attempt to categorize the most recent information applicable to our stakeholders for your reference. If you find this useful, please pass along to colleagues.

Please visit the new Virginia State Office of Rural Health Facebook page and give it a "like" in order to receive live updates on Virginia rural health issues and important messages from our community partners on your Facebook News Feed.



[Visit the VA-SORH Facebook Page](#)

Information & Resources for Providers



The Virginia Rural Health Association (VRHA) is in search of a Rural Health Clinic Specialist.

The Rural Health Clinic Specialist will be responsible for working with and on behalf of Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to facilitate provider operational improvement, regulatory compliance, and technology-based solutions that will help providers achieve improved patient outcomes, office efficiency and satisfaction for the patient and the health care team.

To apply, submit your cover letter and resume to accounting@vrha.org.

[Position Announcement](#)

[Job Description](#)

Executive Order on Improving Rural Health and Telehealth Access

On August 3rd, President Trump signed a new Executive Order to further expand access to telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in rural communities.



[Executive Order Details](#)



Connect Americans Now: Bridging the digital divide for rural and underserved communities

Wednesday, August 5, 2020 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET

This webinar, provided by the Connect Americans Now coalition, is intended to reach State Offices of Rural Health and their stakeholders interested in forming health partnerships with the community development sector to impact rural health initiatives. The webinar will discuss the impact of the digital divide on every aspect of life for rural Americans and the urgency for action, particularly in the time of COVID-19.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

Rural Assembly Everywhere

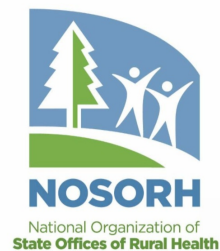
October 26 - 30, 2020

The Rural Assembly will be hosting its first-ever virtual gathering with a diverse line-up of activities, speakers, and workshops crafted for rural advocates and allies.

[For More Information](#)

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health define "rural population health" and "health equity"

As the terms "population health" and "health equity" become integrated into the rural health vocabulary, it is important to establish a unified understanding of what these terms mean. This issue brief aims to define population health and health equity, with particular attention to the nuances for rural clinical partners. It can be used to educate rural health and clinical care partners on their approaches to population health and health equity and engage rural health stakeholders in meaningful discussions that improve the health and well-being of rural residents.



[Link to Issue Brief](#)

For Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities (FQHCs, RHCs, Free Clinics, Tribal):

Designing Senior Housing for Safe Interaction in the Age of COVID-19 Webinar

Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 12:00 - 1:00 PM ET

How do we design for safe interaction, not social isolation? Co-hosted by Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies and MASS Design Group, a virtual roundtable will present design strategies for the creation of safe and dignifying shared housing spaces for older adults in light of COVID-19.

[Link to Register](#)

The Sorenson Impact Foundation Funding Opportunity

Deadline: Sunday, August 30, 2020

The Sorenson Impact Foundation is inviting proposals for solutions that can contribute to a more equitable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis. The Foundation is specifically targeting solutions that enable recovery through developing and growing businesses as well as the communities they're in to equitably rebuild coming out of the current social, health, and economic crisis.

[Funding Guidelines](#)



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Funding Opportunity

Deadline: Monday, September 21, 2020

The HHS is offering funding to operate Early Head Start programming within a community, leveraging existing local resources to provide a comprehensive array of health, mental health, nutrition, and social services for infants, toddlers, and their families.

[Program Guidelines](#)

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) COVID-19 Funding Opportunity

Deadline: Tuesday, December 1, 2020

HHS is offering grants to implement and evaluate community interventions testing: the impacts of mitigation strategies to prevent COVID-19 transmission in NIH-designated health disparity populations and other vulnerable groups; and already implemented, new, or adapted interventions to address the adverse psychosocial, behavioral, and socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic on the health of these groups.

[Application Guidelines](#)



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Funding Opportunity

Deadline: Monday, September 28, 2020

HUD is offering rural capacity building for community development and affordable housing grants to fund national organizations that can provide technical assistance to local communities. Assistance will be targeted to help communities create thriving community development and affordable housing strategies that will result in healthier homes and communities.

[Grant Guidelines](#)

Deadline: Tuesday, August 18, 2020

HUD Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program will award grants to be used to modify or rehabilitate eligible veterans' primary residences or to provide grantees' affiliates with technical, administrative, and training support in connection with those services.

[Grant Guidelines](#)



Rural Health Information Hub (RHIhub) Toolkit: Community Paramedicine

The Rural Health Information Hub (RHIhub) and the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis created a toolkit to help rural organizations with implementing community paramedicine programs in their communities. Community paramedicine is an emerging model that increases access to primary care and reduces the use of emergency care resources.

[Community Paramedicine Toolkit](#)

The Laura Jane Musser Fund

Applications Accepted: September 1, 2020 - October 1, 2020

The Laura Jane Musser Fund is offering funding through the Rural Initiative, and encourages collaborative and participatory efforts among residents in rural communities that will help to strengthen their towns and regions. The applicant community must have a population of 10,000 or fewer. Program planning grants up to \$5,000 and program implementation grants up to \$25,000 will be considered.

[Application Guidelines](#)

USDA Funding Opportunity for Socially Disadvantaged and/or Veteran Farmers and Ranchers



Deadline: Wednesday, August 26, 2020

USDA has announced approximately \$15 million in available funding to help socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers own and operate successful farms. Funding is made through the USDA's Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (also known as the 2501 Program).

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

USDA's Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Deadline: Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Food and Nutrition Service provides USDA foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations and to Native American households residing in designated areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. USDA distributes both food and administrative funds to participating Indian Tribal Organizations and state agencies to operate FDPIR.

[Application Guidelines](#)

Retired miner discusses Black Lung Disease and the potentially fatal complications of COVID-19

Buddy Collins, a retired miner and vice president of a local chapter of the Black Lung Association, spoke with the Appalachian Citizens Law Center (ACLC) about the additional dangers of contracting COVID-19 for miners.

[Link to Story](#)

