



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

We sincerely wish that each of you are doing well and staying safe during these unusual and challenging times. If you and your place of business are like us, you have recently been inundated with information. This newsletter is an attempt to categorize the most recent information applicable to our stakeholders for your reference. Our intention is to help sort through the noise, not contribute to it. If you find this useful, please pass along to colleagues.

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### Information & Resources for Providers

The USDA is offering grants through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants Program



**Application Deadline: July 13, 2020**

The program helps rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. For example, the program can link teachers and medical service providers in one area to students and patients in another. Funds may be used for the acquisition of eligible capital assets, such as broadband transmission facilities, audio and video equipment, data terminal equipment, computer hardware, network components and software, and inside wiring and similar infrastructure that further telecommunications services; the acquisition of instructional programming that is a capital asset; and the acquisition of technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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### AHRQ Cross-Sectional Innovation to Improve Rural Postpartum Mental Health Challenge

One in seven mothers experiences a postpartum mental health condition. Rural women and families face barriers to accessing adequate care for postpartum mental health problems, including cost, transportation, and childcare barriers. To combat this, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) launched a challenge competition to improve postpartum mental health care for rural American families.

The challenge seeks success stories and proposals to address postpartum mental health diagnoses and treatment in rural communities. Submissions are due by September 15, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST. Winners in the success story category will receive \$15,000. Winners in the program proposal category can win up to \$50,000.

[For More Information](#)

[Link to Apply](#)

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The online series will take place Tuesdays from 2:30 - 3:30 pm ET, July 14 to August 4, 2020.

The first webinar session is titled "Webinar 1: Advocacy 101." This webinar is intended for beginner-level advocates and will focus on the critical role that nonprofits play in advocacy. Best practices for effective organizational advocacy will be shared, and leaders will discuss strategies that resonate with legislators and their staff and why it's more important than ever for service providers to engage legislators at every level.

The following webinar sessions are titled "Webinar 2: Values-Based Messaging for a Better Future," "Webinar 3: Influencing Your State's Budget in Times of Crisis," and "Webinar 4: Election Year Civic Engagement for Nonprofits."

This webinar is free, but advanced registration is required. If you are unable to attend the live event, register to receive the recording via email after the webinar concludes.

[Link to Register](#)

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### Virginia Tech Professor fights to bring clean water to Rural Virginia

Leigh-Anne Krometis, a 11-year biological systems engineering associate professor at Virginia Tech, and her group of five to 10 graduate students are focusing their work to southwest Virginia, southern Virginia, and eastern Kentucky. The team's process includes visiting several springs, collecting samples and testing them in the lab. They have found that some water in springs commonly test positive for E. coli or other infectious bacteria and more than 20,000 Virginians do not have piped water in their homes.

The professor believes a few suggestions that are ways to resolve the problem include extending public drinking lines and offering more centralized water halls. That process involves tanker trucks filling cisterns with safe and clean drinking water.

[Local News Story](#)



Register Now for the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) Grant Writing Institute (GWI)

The online series will take place Mondays from 3:00 - 4:30 PM, July 27, 2020 - September 28, 2020. Deadline to register is July 19, 2020.

GWI features a series of nine online learning sessions covering every aspect of grant writing with a unique rural health focus. The series is intended for beginners seeking to gain the skills to research and draft winning proposals from various agencies.

[For More Information](#)

[Link to Register](#)

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

## The LyftUp Covid-19 Community Grants program

The LyftUp Covid-19 Community Grants program provides support to organizations in the U.S. as well as British Columbia and Ontario, Canada. Through the Essential Deliveries program, organizations that need delivery services for essential goods—such as groceries, medical supplies, auto parts, and home necessities—are matched with Lyft drivers, who can carry the deliveries out. Additionally, in collaboration with 500+ community partners, Lyft is helping provide essential services, including trips to the grocery store, pharmacy, healthcare appointments, etc., to those in need. Requests may be submitted at any time.



[Link to Apply](#)

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## The TD Ready Challenge- addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically for communities that are experiencing these impacts disproportionately.

**Application deadline: August 13, 2020**

The TD Ready Challenge, an initiative of the TD Bank Group, is an annual North American initiative that provides support to catalyze innovative solutions for a changing world. Grants are awarded to organizations in the United States and Canada that have impactful and measurable solutions that will help open doors for a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow. The theme of the 2020 Challenge focuses on addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically for communities that are experiencing these impacts disproportionately. Funded solutions must also address at least one of the four interconnected drivers of change of the TD Ready Commitment: Financial Security, Vibrant Planet, Connected Communities, and Better Health. Grants will range from \$350,000 to \$1 million (CAD).

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



## CDFA-ARI Rural Finance Webinar Series: "Access to Capital and Community Facilities"

**Wednesday, July 8, 2020 - 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Central**

Access to healthcare services is critical for communities of all sizes, and COVID-19 has shown us just how great the need for these and other community facilities is in much of rural America. Although community facilities are challenging to finance, there are a variety of capital and investment sources for these projects available. During the fourth installment of the CDFA-ARI Rural Finance Webinar Series, join us for a discussion of community facilities resources and other accessible capital for rural community development.

[Link to Register](#)

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**Webinar: "COVID-19 Vulnerability and Mortality in Nursing Homes: Why Systemic Changes are Needed Now"**

**Tuesday, July 21, 2020, 12:00 - 1:00 PM EDT**

This webinar is part of “Aging and COVID-19: What Does Science Actually Tell Us?,” a Webinar Series Presented by the American Federation for Aging Research and Grantmakers in Aging. In many states, nursing home patients account for 40% of COVID-19 related deaths. Drawing on front-line experience and published research, this webinar will examine strategies for lowering illness and death rates among this highly vulnerable population and propose immediate solutions and need for a national planning task force.

[Link to Register](#)

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**Webinar: “How to Know if Your Programs Are Effective,” presented by Elevate**

**Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 2:00 - 3:30 PM EDT**

This webinar is for non-experts who want to understand the fundamentals better. The webinar carries a \$69.00 registration fee. It will make monitoring and evaluation easy to understand and focus on practical tips and case studies. By the end of the webinar, participants will be able to understand the purposes of program evaluation, link it to their organization's goals, and have concrete tips and techniques to begin or improve evaluation efforts.

[Link to Register](#)

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## State & Regional Resources

### Rural Community Toolbox

Created by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Rural Community Toolbox, is a clearinghouse for funding, technical assistance, and other information from 16 Federal departments and agencies to support local action in rural America. In addition to funding and technical assistance, the Rural Community Toolbox includes a library of current informational resources from Federal departments and agencies on 46 key topics related to drug addiction in rural America, such as adverse childhood experiences; American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian populations; economic development; healthcare workforce; housing and homelessness; infrastructure; medication-assisted treatment (MAT); recovery; suicide and suicide prevention; and transportation.



[Fact Sheet](#)

[Resource Link](#)

[Webinar Slides](#)

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### The Federal Communications Commission Rural Digital Opportunity Fund

**Application Deadline: October 22, 2020**

The Federal Communications Commission provides funding to bring high-speed, fixed broadband service to rural homes and small businesses that lack access. The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund is the Commission’s next step in bridging the digital divide. The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund will ensure that networks stand the test of time by prioritizing higher network speeds and lower latency, so that those benefitting from these networks will be able to use tomorrow’s Internet applications as well as today’s.

For More Information

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) is offering financial assistance to improve access to healthy food in underserved areas

**Letter of Interest Deadline: July 10, 2020**



The HFFI, a public-private partnership administered by Reinvestment Fund on behalf of USDA Rural Development, is currently offering grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$200,000, as well as technical assistance, to eligible healthy food retail projects across the country that seek to improve access to healthy food in underserved areas. Funded projects must 1) plan to expand or preserve the availability of staple and perishable foods in underserved areas with low- and moderate-income populations, and 2) accept or plan to accept benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

For More Information and to Apply

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is accepting applications for grants for the Tribal Management Grant (TMG).

**Application Deadline: Aug 24, 2020**

IHS is offering grants to assist federally-recognized tribes and tribal organizations in assuming all or part of existing Indian Health Service programs, services, functions, and activities. Funds may also be used to obtain technical assistance for program planning and evaluation, including development of management systems for contract management; and for planning, designing, monitoring, and evaluating federal programs serving tribes.

For More Information

