



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

Help us make your community healthier! The Virginia Office of Health Equity and Virginia Department of Health are conducting a survey in order to fuel discussion about how to improve the Primary Care system for all Virginians. Please encourage your community members and stakeholders to participate in the survey.



[Primary Care Needs Assessment Survey](#)

Information & Resources for Providers

Three federal departments team up for rural health initiative

The Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced on September 1, 2020 that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together on the Rural Telehealth Initiative, to promote broadband services and technology to rural areas. This action delivers on President Trump's recently signed Executive Order on Improving Rural Health and Telehealth Access.

[For More Information](#)



National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program

Deadline: November 5, 2020 at 7:30 PM ET

The NHSC S2S LRP application cycle is open with two new eligible disciplines – nurse practitioner and certified nurse-midwife. These students, along with medical and dental students in their final year of school can receive awards up to \$120,000 in exchange for a three-year commitment providing primary care services at NHSC-approved sites in high-need areas.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Conversations on COVID-19: Impacts on Communities of Color

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have a long history of gathering leading experts to share the latest research and information on health equity. A new National Academies resource, Conversations on COVID-19: Impacts on Communities of Color, includes conversations with experts on a variety of topics related to minority health and COVID-19, as well as information and resources from the National Academies on issues related to health equity.

[For More Information](#)

RHIhub introduces Rural Community Paramedicine Toolkit

Thursday, September 24 at 1:00 pm ET



The Rural Health Information Hub (RHIhub) is hosting a webinar that will provide an overview of how the community paramedicine model of care functions and benefits rural communities. It will feature existing programs that have successfully provided rural community paramedicine services and discusses lessons learned related to establishing and sustaining rural programs.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

HRSA Request for Information (RFI): Health Professional Shortage Area Criteria

September 18, 2020

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) seeks feedback from the public on the following two topics:

- Scoring criteria for Health Professional Shortage Areas
- Maternity Health Professional Target Areas

These designations indicate areas with health care provider shortages in primary care, dental health, mental health or maternity care health professionals. Email responses to RFIComments@hrsa.gov and reference either "Health Professional Shortage Area Scoring Criteria RFI" or "Maternity Care Health Professional Target Area Criteria RFI" in the subject line.

[HPSA Scoring Criteria RFI](#)

[Maternity Care Target Area Criteria RFI](#)

HRSA Webinar on Telehealth for HIV Care

Tuesday, September 29 at 2:00 PM ET

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will hold a one-hour webinar to identify existing resources and opportunities to develop infrastructure. A previous HRSA webinar on HIV and telehealth is available for viewing.

[To Register](#)



Veterans Affairs (VA) COVID-19 Training

Wednesday, September 16 at 2:00 pm ET

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will hold a session on caring for patients who do not have COVID-19 during the pandemic. The session is designed for clinicians of all disciplines and open to both VA and non-VA clinicians. Continuing education credit is available for those who preregister in VHA TRAIN.

For More Information

OMH on COVID-19 Response in Minority Communities

Thursday, September 17 at 12:00 PM ET



Registration is now open for a virtual symposium hosted by the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) to highlight state, Tribal, territorial, and community-based efforts to address COVID-19 among racial and ethnic minority populations.

For More Information and to Register

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



Join 3RNet for the 2020 Academy "Recruiting for Retention Hierarchically: Strategically Market Using Candidate Motivations," a free six-part webinar series

Starting Tuesday, October 6, 2020

There are a lot of options for recruitment education, but the 3RNet Recruiting for Retention Academy is the only online training specific to rural and underserved communities. The Virginia Office of Health Equity is offering the 3RNet 2020 Academy webinar series at no charge.

If you have any questions please contact 3RNet at info@3rnet.org or 1-800-787-2512 or Olivette Burroughs at 804-864-7431 or olivette.burroughs@vdh.virginia.gov.

Registration Code: VIRGINIASORH!

For More Information

Link to Register

ARC Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems

Deadline for Letters of Intent: October 16, 2020

Application Deadline: November 13, 2020



The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will make grants of up to \$500,000 for projects within ARC's 13 state region that create or expand upon a recovery ecosystem that will lead to workforce re-entry for individuals in recovery from substance abuse disorder. Projects are encouraged to support the post-treatment-to-employment continuum, which could include investments in healthcare networks and/or recovery-focused job training. Eligible applicants include state and local governments, local development districts, institutions of higher education, tribes/tribal consortium, and public or private nonprofit organizations.

For More Information

Rural Crosswalk for COVID Waivers and Flexibilities

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a summary of all current COVID-19-related waivers and flexibilities that affect Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Critical Access Hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and rural hospitals generally. It also describes the significance of each provision for these rural providers and facilities.



[To Access the CMS Resource](#)

Rural Healthcare Surge Readiness Tool

The RHIhub has gathered resources, tools and training to promote Rural Healthcare Surge Readiness. These resources are for healthcare systems preparing for and responding to a COVID-19 surge in their communities. The resources are categorized by both healthcare setting and topic.

[Healthcare Surge Readiness Resources](#)

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

HHS Rural Action Plan to Improve Care

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released the Rural Action Plan, outlining existing and upcoming Federal activities to improve care in rural communities. It examines the key challenges facing rural communities and lays out a four-point strategy to transform rural health and human services: 1) build a sustainable health and human services model for rural communities; 2) leverage technology and innovation; 3) focus on preventing disease and mortality; and 4) increase rural access to care.

[For More Information](#)

Grant Opportunity for Childcare Centers and Parents

United Way of Southwest Virginia has partnered with Washington County to help childcare centers and parents. Washington County has designated a significant portion of the federal CARES Act funds to support childcare for school age children. Through this partnership, we will be working to distribute these funds to childcare centers.



United Way of
Southwest Virginia

Eligible childcare programs can receive \$100 a week from CARES funding for each school age child enrolled between September 1 and December 31, 2020.

[For More Information](#)

[To Apply](#)

COVID-19 Back-to-School Resources for Mental Health

The Mental Health Technology Transfer Center has a series of webinars and other resources useful for helping students and staff cope with changes in schooling.

[Back-To-School Mental Health Resources](#)



HUD Indian Housing Block Grant Program

Deadline: December 10, 2020

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will invest more than \$91 million in grants to develop, maintain, and operate affordable housing on American Indian reservations and in other American Indian areas. Eligible applicants include Indian Tribes and Tribally-designated housing entities.

[For More Information](#)

"Like" us on Facebook 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](#)

