



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

Please encourage your community members and stakeholders to participate in the following survey. 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.



If you have any questions about the survey, please contact VA-SORH's Program Coordinator, Sarah O'Connor, at [sarah.oconnor@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:sarah.oconnor@vdh.virginia.gov).

Primary Care Needs Assessment Survey

Digital Survey Flyer

---

## Information & Resources for Providers

### HHS Telemedicine Hack

Wednesdays at 12:00 PM ET through November 25, 2020



 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) has partnered with the ECHO Institute at the University of New Mexico, and the Public Health Foundation's TRAIN Learning Network to deliver a 10-week peer-to-peer learning community called Telemedicine Hack to provide knowledge and skills for video-based telemedicine. All ambulatory providers (e.g., primary care, surgical, rural/urban, dental, mental health, solo practitioners) are invited to participate.

For More Information and to Register



### HRSA National Research Service Award Grants

Deadline: November 9, 2020

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will make 15 awards of \$500,000 each for training postdoctoral professionals pursuing careers in biomedical and behavioral health research related to primary care. Eligible applicants are public and private institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community-based organizations.

For More Information and to Apply

---

Federal Grant Announced to Fund Telehealth Services in Virginia

Representative Abigail Spanberger, D-Henrico, announced a federal grant of \$100,000 to help strengthen telehealth services across Central Virginia. This is aimed at helping underserved and rural communities lacking access to affordable health care. The award is from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and will be disbursed through the department's Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant Program. It will support the work of the Virginia Rural Health Association, a nonprofit organization serving 2.5 million people living in rural areas in Virginia.

News Article

---

### Comments Requested: Modifications to the Definition of Rural for FORHP Grants

**Deadline to Submit Comments: October 23, 2020**

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) proposed modifications to the definition of 'rural' used to designate areas to be eligible for its rural health grants. The proposed definitions are based on a data-driven methodology that will allow community organizations serving rural populations within metro areas to be able to apply for grants as well as allow more of the rural populations within metro areas to access services provided using grant funds.



For More Information

---

### 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

---

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



Join 3RNet for the 2020 Academy "Recruiting for Retention Hierarchy: 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](mailto:info@3rnet.org) or 1-800-787-2512 or Olivette Burroughs at 804-864-7431 or [olivette.burroughs@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:olivette.burroughs@vdh.virginia.gov).

Registration Code: VIRGINIASORH!

[For More Information](#)[Link to Register](#)

---

## CMS Community Health Access and Rural Transformation Model (CHART)



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will make as many as 15 awards of up to \$5 million each for a seven-year project. This new model aims to change the way the federal government pays for health care in rural areas through Transformation Plans that coordinate care across communities defined as rural by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. Letters of Intent for the Community Transformation Track of the CHART Model are due by January 28, 2022 and applications will be due February 16, 2022.

[Press Release](#)

---

## Final Evaluation of the Medicare ACO Investment Model

This week, the CMS Innovation Center released the final evaluation results of the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Investment Model (AIM), which operated under the Shared Savings Program (SSP) from 2015 to 2018. AIM provided up-front payments to select ACOs to invest in infrastructure and staffing and targeted small ACOs, many of which were in rural areas. Overall, participating ACOs reduced total Medicare spending and utilization without decreasing quality of care.

[For More Information](#)

## Tool for Rural Grant Eligibility Updated

The Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer tool has been updated to include the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised delineations for metropolitan, micropolitan, and combined statistical areas. Health care providers who are located in geographic areas that are defined as Rural are eligible to apply for Rural Health Grants. Enter an address or choose a state and county to check for eligibility status.

[Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer](#)

---

## Rural Healthcare Surge Readiness Tool

The RHHub 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

## Governor Northam Announces More Than \$8.4 Million to Support COVID-19 Recovery and Response Efforts in Rural Virginia

Governor Ralph Northam yesterday announced more than \$8.4 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for 14 projects that will help rural communities across Virginia respond to recover from the public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Governor's Newsroom Release](#)

## LISC Lowe's Rural Relief Small Business Grants program

As part of our continuing commitment to elevate our impact in rural America, OneLISC is inviting small business owners in rural locations across the country to apply for the LISC-Lowe's Rural Relief Small Business Grants program.



Applications are being accepted in "rounds". You must submit a new application each time in order to be considered for funding. The next round opens on **Monday, September 28th**. To find out more about who is eligible, to sign up for updates, and to apply, please visit the LISC website.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

## 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.



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](#)



**Registration is Open for Rural Assembly Everywhere, featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Danielle Allen**

**October 26 through 30, 2020**

Rural Assembly Everywhere is a virtual festival for the curious and the critical, the listeners and the connectors. It's geared toward rural allies, neighbors, and admirers. The goal of Rural Assembly Everywhere is to create an experience that will inform, entertain, inspire, and demonstrate how we belong to each other.

[To Register](#)

## Helping Rural Communities Recover from the Opioid Crisis

**Fridays, October 2 through 23 at 12:00 PM ET**

Recovery Center of Excellence at the University of Rochester will host two virtual sessions each Friday from October 2 – 23 on this year's symposium theme: *Treatment on Demand and the Ecosystem of Recovery*. FORHP funds the University of Rochester in the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program as a Rural Center of Excellence on substance use disorder (RCORP-RCOE).

[For More Information and to Register](#)

"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](#)

