



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

**Don't forget to request your copy of the first ever VA-SORH annual "Community Conversations Calendar"!**

The calendar highlights topics commonly discussed during conversations held in various rural communities, "Community Champions," and local resources. Calendar photos were taken exclusively from rural Virginia. If you're interested in receiving a copy or more of the calendar, please complete the form below.



ALSO, submit your own photos of rural Virginia for the chance to be featured in the 2022 edition of the VA-SORH Community Conversations Calendar!

[Calendar Request Form](#)

[Photo Submission Form](#)

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## Information & Resources for Providers



**KidneyX COVID-19 Kidney Care Challenge**

**Solution Submission Deadline: December 4, 2020**

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) and the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) teamed up to launch the KidneyX COVID-19 Kidney Care Challenge designed to address the higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 for people with kidney disease. The challenge will be accepting solution ideas that reduce the transmission of coronavirus among people with kidney disease from both entities and individuals. Winners will receive \$20,000 each from a total prize pool of \$300,000.

[For More Information and to Submit your Solution](#)

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**The 2020 Southwest Virginia ALICE report is available now!**

"The United Way ALICE Report provides a comprehensive picture of financial need in Virginia, beyond traditional federal poverty guidelines. The statewide ALICE Report shows data at a county and city level for the entire state to bring awareness to part of our population known as ALICE, an acronym coined by United Way that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. The ALICE population represents those of us (men, women, and families) who work hard and earn more than the official Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living."



[For More Information and to Download the Report](#)

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**"Tazewell grants Carilion \$363,000 to Expand Access for Rural Health Care"**

"Tazewell County supervisors invested \$363,000 in CARES Act funds to expand telemedicine and improve access to health care. Supervisors are giving the money to Carilion Clinic, which owns the hospital in the rural county in far Southwest Virginia, to use technology to bring more health care providers to their residents."

For More Information

### VDH Primary Care Needs Assessment Survey

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

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



Webinar: "Smartphone-based Financial Incentives to Promote Smoking Cessation Among Pregnant Women"

**December 9, 2020 at 12:00 PM ET**

The University of Vermont's Center on Rural Addiction will host an hour-long webinar reviewing the research, development, and outcomes produced by an innovative, remotely-delivered financial incentives intervention for reducing cigarette smoking during pregnancy. Although effective smoking cessation treatments for pregnant women are sparse, one exception to this is financial incentives-based interventions.

For More Information and to Register

Medicare Extreme and Uncontrollable Exceptions Applications

**CMS.gov**

**Application Deadline: December 31, 2020**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is encouraging clinicians to submit an application now if there are concerns about the effect of COVID-19 on their performance data for the Quality Payment Program. Learn more about how the extreme and uncontrollable exception will change data reporting requirements. Clinicians should cite COVID-19 as the reason for the application.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

## Webinar: The Public Health Associates Program- Opportunities for Rural Host Sites

**December 2, 2020 from 1:00 - 1:30 PM ET**

Learn more about the Public Health Associates Program, a two-year public health training program, and how it can benefit rural health departments that apply to be host sites.



[For More Information and to Register](#)

## CDC Research to Inform Pandemic Response for Displaced Persons

**Application Deadline: February 18, 2021**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will make five awards with total funding of \$75 million to better understand "the needs of emergency-affected and displaced populations by improving epidemiological methods, estimating morbidity and mortality of these populations during COVID-19, as well as understand the specific health sector needs of persons affected by humanitarian /public health emergencies and best practices for improving health outcomes."

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

## State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

**The VA-SORH Innovative Rural Programming Application Cycle is Open Now!**

**Application Deadline: January 8, 2021 by 5 PM ET**



The Virginia State Office of Rural Health (VA-SORH) is pleased to announce that we will be offering awards for *Innovative Rural Programming* for the fiscal year 2021-2022. Awards consist of annual grants that range in value from \$1,000 to \$20,000.

[Application Announcement](#)

[Application](#)

[Policy & Procedure Manual](#)



United Way of  
Southwest Virginia

**United Way of Southwest Virginia "Wireless on Wheels"**

**Application Deadline: December 21, 2020**

"As part of the continued response efforts of the COVID-19 Relief Fund for Southwest Virginia Communities, a second round of funding is available for Planning District Commissions, 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organizations, and local school districts who wish to install a publicly available wifi hotspot in their community. During the pandemic, access to the internet has become an essential service needed for students, workers, and people trying to access online healthcare. The purpose of this funding is to create internet hotspots that will provide access to

the internet across Southwest Virginia. Successful applicants will submit proposals that will place hotspots that do not have access to the internet or lack consistent, reliable access to the internet."

For More Information and to Apply



#### USDA Farm to School Grants Program

**Application Deadline: January 8, 2021**

The Farm to School Grants program seeks to improve access to local foods in schools. Funds support a wide range of activities from training, planning, and developing partnerships to creating new menu items, establishing supply chains, offering taste tests to children, purchasing equipment, planting school gardens, and organizing field trips to agricultural operations.

For More Information and to Apply

#### FORHP Funding Opportunity: Rural Health Care Outreach Services Program



**Application Deadline: December 8, 2020**

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy has released a new funding opportunity called the Rural Health Care Outreach Services Program. Information about the grant opportunity is below with links to the application and slides from a webinar hosted by FORHP for your reference. If your agency plans to apply for funding you must send an email to the VA State Office of Rural Health, at [heather.anderson@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:heather.anderson@vdh.virginia.gov), notifying VA-SORH of the intent. Additionally, if you need any technical assistance please reach out to the VA-SORH for assistance.

For More Information and to Apply

"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

