



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

Sign up now to receive the first ever VA-SORH annual "2021 Community Conversations Calendar"!

As part of updating Virginia's State Rural Health Plan, the "2021 Community Conversations Calendar" was designed with an all-inclusive audience in mind and will be distributed far and wide. Each month of the calendar highlights a topic commonly discussed during conversations held in various rural communities. A topical "Community Champion" is featured in addition to a snapshot of available 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.




Calendar Request Form

RURAL HEALTH COMMUNITY CHAMPION
 New River Valley Agency on Aging (NRVAAA) With a focus on advocacy, information and services, NRVAAA makes it possible for older adults to maintain their dignity and independence. And because there are so many different local resources available to seniors, they publish a practical workbook, written as a guide for caregivers, community and faith-based organizations, health care workers, working adults and people who choose to age in place.

"Many of our services help support the social determinants of health such as our nutrition programs. The home delivered and the community-based Friendship Cafes provide a nutritious meal and help alleviate social isolation that can lead to loneliness."

Trina King, Executive Director



6/22/20 Community Champion, June 2020 Virginia Department of Health

Virginia State Office of Rural Health
Virginia Department of Health

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Showcase photos of your rural Virginia community in the 2022 edition of our calendar!

We want you to be a part of the second edition of the VA-State Office of Rural Health "Community Conversations Calendar!" Please submit photos capturing landscapes, industries, people, or organizations in your rural Virginia community for a chance to be included in the 2022 edition of the annual calendar.

If you have an issue submitting your photo with this Google form, feel free to email the photo as an attachment to ellie.wilson@vdh.virginia.gov.

Photo Submission Form

Information & Resources for Providers

National Rural Health Day is next week on Thursday, November 19, 2020!

Be on the lookout for exciting announcements from us leading up to National Rural Health Day! We will be sharing some fun ways that you and your organization can join us in celebrating the #PowerOfRural this year!



More Information

Response Deadline: December 18, 2020 by 11:59 PM ET

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) at the Health Resources and Services Administration supports research and federal grant programs that ensure the health and well-being of mothers, children, and families. The bureau seeks feedback from the public about future plans for their work, including how MCHB can support efforts to eliminate disparities based on race, income, disability, and geography.

Submit comments by email to MCHStrategy.hrsa@hrsa.gov.

For More Information

ALICE in Southwest Virginia Virtual Launch

November 19, 2020 at 12:00 PM ET



United Way of
Southwest Virginia

United Way has coined the acronym ALICE® which 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.

The ALICE Report for Southwest Virginia describes the population called ALICE. These households contribute to Southwest Virginia's economy by earning, spending, and paying taxes, yet they still struggle to make ends meet. Even though the cost of living in the region is lower than in the rest of the state, it is higher than what most residents earn.

Join us as we explore trends and factors related to ALICE.

To Register for the Virtual Launch

HRSA Celebrates National Rural Health Day with Virtual Job Fair

Wednesday, November 18 from 6:45 PM - 10:45 PM ET



In celebration of National Rural Health day, the November Virtual Job Fair will highlight health care facilities located in rural areas. These communities are wonderful places to live, work, and have unique healthcare needs. HRSA Virtual Job Fairs are free events and a great way to connect health care facilities with clinicians like you. During the fair, you will learn about available employment opportunities across the country, benefit packages offered, and general information about patient populations.

For More Information and to Register

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.

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



New Telehealth Platform to Mobilize Health Care Workforce During COVID-19

ProviderBridge.org was created by the Federation of State Medical Boards through the CARES Act and the FORHP-supported Licensure Portability Program. The site streamlines the process for mobilizing health care professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic and future public health emergencies. It provides up-to-date information on emergency regulation and licensing by state as well as a provider portal to connect volunteer health care professionals to state agencies and health care entities.

[For More Information](#)

CMS Coronavirus Stakeholder Calls



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosts recurring online sessions to share information related to COVID-19. These sessions are open to members of the health care community and are intended to provide updates, share best practices among peers, and offer attendees an opportunity to ask questions of CMS and other subject matter experts.

[For More Information](#)

[To Listen to Audio Files/Read Transcripts](#)

HRSA Virtual Workshop: Introducing Telehealth to Rural and Indigenous Communities

November 18 - 19, 2020 from 1 - 6 PM ET

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will hold a two-day training event, including information about successful programs. Topics include "Introduction to Telehealth," "Building a Telehealth Business Plan," "Telehealth Standards, Guidelines, and Evaluation," "Telehealth Technology and Facility Design," "Policy Trends and Considerations," "Funding to Support Telehealth Efforts," "Successful Tribal Telehealth Programs (Medication Assisted Treatment, Prenatal Care, Remote Patient Monitoring, Home Visiting Programs)," and "Resources." There is no registration fee.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities



HRSA Regional Telehealth Resource Center Program

Application Deadline: January 21, 2021

You can now apply for funding under the Regional Telehealth Resource Center (RTRC) Program. RTRCs assist health care organizations, health care networks, and health care providers in the implementation of cost-effective telehealth programs to serve rural areas and populations. RTRCs also assist patients and families living in rural areas with telehealth technology to obtain health services. This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) will support 12 RTRCs that focus on statewide and regional telehealth activities as shown below. RTRCs will serve as focal points for advancing the effective use of telehealth technologies in their respective communities and states.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



USDA Community Connect Grant Program

Application Deadline: December 23, 2020

USDA is offering funding through the Community Connect Program. This program provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide broadband service in rural, economically-challenged communities where service does not exist.

[For More Information](#)

VDH Office of Health Equity program giving away cloth face masks

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity, will be providing cloth face masks to faith and interfaith communities (places of worship) for the Commonwealth of Virginia through the Virginia Partners in Prayer and Prevention program. There is no cost for the masks. Supplies are limited. Please share this information with your communities.



[Request Form](#)

Community Champion Updates

Smyth County Community Hospital recognized as a "CMS Five-Star Patient Experience Rating Hospital"

Ballad Health Smyth County Community Hospital has been named a CMS Five-Star Patient Experience Rating Hospital! "Smyth County Community Hospital was the only hospital in Virginia to be recognized as a CMS Five-Star Patient Experience Rating Hospital. With only 266 hospitals receiving this recognition in the country, this rating speaks to the excellent work this team performs every day to ensure our patients receive the best experience possible when they seek care at our facility."



"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

