



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

National Rural Health Day is November 19th!

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](#)

Information & Resources for Providers

HRSA 2019-2020 Report on Health Equity



On October 14, 2020, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Office of Health Equity, released the HRSA 2019-2020 Health Equity Report: Special Feature on Housing and Health Inequalities. The report indicates substantial progress has been made nationally for all Americans in vital indicators including life expectancy, cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and influenza and pneumonia; while health inequities between population groups and geographic areas persist.

[For More Information](#)

ATTC Network COVID-19 Response Resources for Addictions Treatment

The Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network, established by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, has put together an online catalog of COVID-related resources. The resources are regularly updated.

[For More Information](#)



Webinar: Telehealth for Rural Cancer Care During COVID-19

Friday, October 30 at 12:00 PM ET

The National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will hold an hour-long discussion on sustained cancer control for rural populations during the pandemic. The session is part of the Healthcare Teams (HTC) Cyber Discussions Series.

[For More Information](#)

[To Register](#)

Quarterly at 2:00 PM ET; October 27, 2020, January 26, 2021, April 27, 2021, and July 27, 2021

NOSORH, in partnership with Stroudwater Associates, announces and invites you to participate in a series of quarterly market updates for rural healthcare stakeholders to stay current on the changes in the healthcare marketplace in order to strategize responses to ensure vital services for rural communities.

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.

Primary Care Needs Assessment Survey

Digital Survey Flyer

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

Medicare Open Enrollment Has Begun

Deadline to Enroll: December 7, 2020

Medicare beneficiaries can review health and drug plans for 2021 and make changes between now and December 7. The online system helps beneficiaries compare pricing and benefits between Original Medicare (Parts A and B), Medicare prescription drug plans (Part D), Medicare Advantage plans (Part C), and individually-purchased Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policies. Free, personalized counseling on Medicare options is available through the nonprofit [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#), or calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). [Free materials](#) are also available to support rural providers, among others, with outreach activities.

For More Information

CHART Information Session with the Rural Health Value Team



Wednesday, October 28 at 4:00 PM ET

The virtual discussion, "Let's talk about CHART!," hosted by the Rural Health Value team will identify opportunities, questions, and potential next steps for rural organizations interested in the

Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Community Transformation Track from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Innovation Center (CMMI).

[For More Information](#)

[To Register](#)

Updated “COVID-19 Funding Sources Impacting Rural Providers” guide

The Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC), in coordination with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), are pleased to provide an update of the COVID-19 Funding Sources Impacting Rural Providers guide. This funding resource is intended to support rural health care providers, along with their state and local partners, navigate the availability of federal funds to support the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic response and recovery efforts. This guide is updated regularly to capture changes in funding sources.

[For More Information](#)



HRSA Introduction to Grant Writing

Thursday, October 29 at 4:00 PM ET

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will hold a 90-minute webinar with tips and techniques for completing most private and public grant applications. For more information, contact Valerie Gallo at vgallo@hrsa.gov.

[To Register](#)

HRSA Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program (BHWET)

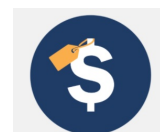
Deadline to Apply: January 21, 2021

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will make 92 awards with a total investment of \$44.2 million dollars. The purpose of the BHWET Program is to increase the supply of behavioral health professionals while also improving distribution of a quality behavioral health workforce and thereby increasing access to behavioral health services. Eligible applicants are accredited professional training programs that are establishing or expanding internships or other field placement programs.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

New CMS “Hospital Price Transparency” Assistance Website

The new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website is designed to assist hospitals with meeting the requirements of the FY2020 [Price Transparency Rule](#). By January 1, 2021, all hospitals, including rural and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), must provide clear, accessible pricing information online about the items and services they provide. This information must include a machine-readable file with all items and services as



well as a display of shoppable services in a consumer-friendly format.

For More Information

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities



VA COPEs Warmline

A new warmline, VA COPEs, is now available to all Virginia residents who may be struggling to cope with the effects and circumstances (such as isolation, fear, grief, and anxiety) around COVID-19. It can be used to provide peer support, to help you identify coping strategies, local area resources and support groups, and to support your mental health.

VA COPEs crisis counselors are available Monday-Friday 9am-9pm and Saturday-Sunday 5pm-9pm and can be reached by phone or text at 877-349-6428. Spanish speaking counselors are also available.

A warmline is not a hotline, which is for individuals in need of emergency services. If you are in crisis, please call the National Crisis Hotlines at 1-800-273-8255 or 911.

For More Information

CMS Updated “State Medicaid & CHIP Telehealth Toolkit”

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updated the “State Medicaid & CHIP Telehealth Toolkit: Policy Considerations for States Expanding Use of Telehealth, COVID-19 Version,” originally released in April 2020. It has new examples and insights into lessons learned from states that have implemented telehealth changes. CMS also updated the [list of Medicare services that can be provided via telehealth](#) during the COVID-19 public health emergency.



For More Information



USDA Training for Regional Wastewater Treatment Solutions

Deadline to Apply: November 4

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will invest \$5 million for two awards in a pilot grant program for rural communities. Eligible applicants include regional institutions of higher education and economic development entities.

For More Information and to Apply

The next rounds of the LISC-Lowe’s Rural Relief Small Business Grants program is now open!

Deadline to apply for the current round of funding: November 2, 2020



Small businesses located in rural communities, defined as having a population of 50,000 or less, are encouraged to apply to the LISC-Lowe's Rural Relief Small Business Grants program. The program intends to support small businesses and enterprises affected by Covid-19 across the country, especially those in underserved communities, including entrepreneurs of color, women- and veteran-owned businesses that often lack access to flexible, affordable capital. Applications will be reviewed based on criteria designed to prioritize particularly challenged businesses, and the final grantees will be randomly selected from the top scoring applicants.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

"In Rural Virginia, Remote Schoolwork is Powered by the Sun" Article By Meg McIntyre

Solar-powered internet hotspots in Louisa County, Virginia, help fill the void in internet access in rural areas.

[To Read the Article](#)

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