



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

Updated COVID-19 Resources

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) COVID-19 Vaccination Resources



- [Vaccinate Virginia- VDH Vaccine Registration](#)
- [Become a 2021 VDH Community Ambassador](#)
- [VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Patient Education Materials](#)
- [VDH COVID-19 Vaccination Response](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Phase by Health District](#)
- [Find out which phase of the vaccination campaign you fall in](#)
- [Contact your Local Health District](#)

COVID-19 Communications Materials

- ["The Best Ways for Employers to Promote COVID-19 Vaccines \(download here\)](#)
- ["About the Three COVID-19 Vaccines" Graphic \(download here\)](#)
- [Conversation with CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, about COVID-19 communications and the important partnership between the CDC and local health departments, 03/30/2021 at 1 PM ET \(register here\)](#)
- [The Language of Vaccine Acceptance](#) by de Beaumont
- [Public Health Communications Collaborative \(PHCC\)- Misinformation Alerts](#)
- [Public Health Communications Collaborative \(PHCC\)- Communications Resources](#)
- [CDC Vaccination Communication Toolkit](#)
- [Downloadable VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Patient Education Materials](#)

Additional COVID-19 Resources

- [CDC National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [NIH Assessment of COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Data Systems](#)
- [CDC Vaccine Tracking System \(VTrckS\)](#)
- [COVID-19 FAQs and Funding for HRSA Programs](#)
- [COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing, Treatment, and Vaccine Administration for the Uninsured](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

HRSA Health Center Program

Help health center patients obtain the internet access they need to connect with virtual health care, jobs, and education. [Eligible health center patients](#) may apply for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [Emergency Broadband Benefit](#) (EBB) program when it opens in **late April**.

This bulletin provides background information, ideas on how you can prepare to help, and



resources.

The EBB program lowers the cost of high-speed internet service to ensure people have the connectivity they need during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. By the end of April, \$3.2 billion in funding will be available to provide qualifying households discounts on their internet service bills and an opportunity to receive a discount on a computer or tablet.

How You Can Help

- Share information about the EBB program with patients.
 - FCC's EBB webpage (note that the content is available in several languages)
 - Fact sheet
- Provide access to the internet at your health center and basic technical support so that patients can complete the application.

We encourage you to develop your plan now to support patients to apply promptly after the application period is announced; funds are expected to go quickly. Health Center Program strategic partners (Health Center Controlled Networks, National Training and Technical Assistance Partners, and Primary Care Associations) can support health centers in their efforts.

Information Requested: NIH Improving the Mental Health of Rural People

Deadline to Submit: April 15



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) seeks input on how the National Institute of Mental Health might learn about and remedy research gaps in knowledge to address mental health disparities in rural people and communities.

[To Submit a Response](#)



Social Determinants of Health and Aging in Place in Rural Virginia: Workshop Series

April 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM ET

Join the Rappahannock Region Virginia AHEC for the final presentation of their Social Determinants of Health and Aging in Place in Rural Virginia: Workshop Series, "Overcoming the Myth of Hospice for Rural Dwellers Workshop" presented by Cynthia Barrack, RN, the Nurse Manager of Riverside Hospice.

[For More Information and to Register](#)



Check out the Healthy Places, Healthy Lives data dashboard

For many Americans the neighborhood in which they live has a significant impact on their opportunity for optimal health. However, most measures of community characteristics and health outcomes are made at the county or metro level. These often hide vulnerable populations, diluting their impact in mapping and analysis.

Healthy Places, Healthy Lives bridges this gap by combining robust, Census Tract-level, measures into a single visualization. For health outcomes, the visualization uses life expectancy estimates created by the United States Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP). For neighborhood characteristics the visualization incorporates the Health Opportunity Index (HOI), a Census Tract-level index comprising 13 Social Determinant of Health (SDOH) indicators, created by the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity.

[Explore the Data](#)

Virginia State Health Commissioner Amends and Reissues the 2016 Declaration of a Public Health Emergency in response to opioid addiction

On November 21, 2016 the then-State Health Commissioner declared a Public Health Emergency in response to opioid addiction. In response to the continuation of significant opioid addiction issues in Virginia, and in response to questions as to the status of the prior declaration, Dr. Oliver has decided to amend and reissue the Declaration of a Public Health Emergency. The declaration is attached for your information.

[To View the Declaration](#)

Save the date: The Appalachian Communities Opioid Response Summit will be held May 19, 2021.

The State Rural Health Associations in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia have teamed up to gather ideas and resources for addressing the opioid crisis and other Substance Use Disorders in the Appalachian Region.



This will be your opportunity to (virtually) learn from experts in the field, hold discussions about specific topics related to Substance Use Disorders and meet other stakeholders in the region.

[For More Information and to Register](#)



New Rural FQHC Resources

Capital Link has just released three new resources that focus specifically on Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that serve rural communities.

Located in all 50 states and territories, rural FQHCs are the healthcare safety net in many parts of the rural US. They provide comprehensive primary care and other critical health services including dental, prenatal care, and mental and behavioral health to rural residents, including immigrants and communities of color. Rural FQHCs also often serve as major employers in their communities.

[For More Information](#)

New Guidance on Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Payments

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued new guidance on Medicare payment changes for independent and provider-based RHCs, effective April 1, 2021.

[For More Information](#)



Coverage to Care (C2C) Telehealth Resources

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released two new resources to support the use of telehealth. The first educates patients on what to expect during a telehealth visit, and the second supports providers in how to conduct a successful telehealth visit and how to keep up to date on Medicare and Medicaid telehealth payments. Social media graphics are also available.

[For More Information](#)

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

The Virginia State Loan Repayment Program (VA-SLRP) application cycle is now open!



Application Deadline: [March 31, 2021](#)

VA-SLRP is operated by the Virginia Department of Health-Office of Health Equity (VDH-OHE) providing a non-taxed incentive to qualified medical, dental, behavioral health and pharmaceutical (pharmacists) professionals in return for a minimum of two (2) years of service at an eligible practice site in one of the federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in a qualified field of practice in Virginia. There is a total of \$2,465,000 in available funding.

For more specific details, please call (804) 864-7431 or email olivette.burroughs@vdh.virginia.gov.

[Updated Program Flyer](#)

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



HRSA Healthy Grants Workshop Registration Now Open

You can now register for the Healthy Grants Workshop – presented as a web series.

There is no cost to attend and you can attend as many sessions as you would like. The first session begins in May, followed by a new session every two weeks through August 24. Each session includes two to three topics, from grants policies, financial monitoring, and grant budgeting, to Prior Approvals, an Electronic Handbooks overview, and more.

[To Register](#)

[Updates Posted Here](#)

[Full Schedule](#)

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program- Technical Assistance (RCORP-TA)

The application will be open by April 7, 2021 and the deadline to apply is May 10, 2021 at 11:59 PM ET



The National RTAP (NRTAP) Community Rides Grant Program offers current recipients and subrecipients of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)'s Formula Grants for Rural Areas (Section 5311) program the opportunity to apply for grant awards of up to \$100,000 for projects that develop or strengthen transportation partnerships that improve social determinants of health in rural and tribal communities. The project duration is 15 months.

All applications must be submitted through National RTAP's online grant management portal (SurveyMonkey Apply).

NRTAP is offering two webinars for interested applicants, in order to answer questions and provide an overview of the RFP and the online grant application system. The webinars will also feature speakers who will share examples of transportation partnerships and lessons learned. Registration is required to attend. The webinars will be recorded. During registration, you can submit questions to be addressed during the webinar.

[For More Information](#)

New CDC Funding for COVID-19 Targets Underserved Communities

On March 17, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a non-competitive grant program, "National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities." The program provides funding to improve testing capabilities and other COVID-19 response purposes. Grants will go to state, local, US territorial and freely associated state health departments.

[For More Information](#)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has opened the 2021 Nurse Corps Scholarship Program (SP) application cycle.



Deadline to Apply: May 6, 2021

Nurse Corps SP provides financial support to students enrolled in nursing degree programs in exchange for a commitment to serve in high-need areas across the country. Scholarship support includes payment of tuition, required fees, other reasonable educational costs, as well as a monthly living stipend. After graduation, scholarship recipients fulfill their service commitment at an approved health care facility with a critical shortage of nurses.

HRSA has received a historic increase in funding this year under the American Rescue Plan. With this additional funding, Nurse Corps anticipates making significantly more awards overall, including in the following areas:

- Up to 20 percent of total awards to nurse practitioners (NP) specializing in psychiatric mental health
- Up to \$5 million to women's health NPs and certified nurse midwife advanced practice nurses and registered nurses (RNs) who wish to pursue a career in women's health
- Up to \$2 million for career pathway/entry-level health professionals such as certified nursing assistants, home health aides, medical assistants, and licensed practical (vocational) nurses seeking degrees to become RNs

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

NHSC Scholarship Program

Deadline to apply: May 11, 2021 at 7:30 PM

The 2021 National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program (NHSC SP) awards scholarships to students pursuing an education in eligible primary care health professions.

The NHSC Scholarship Program applicants include health professional students studying to become physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives or physician assistants with a commitment to practice in underserved communities. In exchange, they commit to serve a minimum of two years in high-need, underserved communities. Scholars receive one year of financial support (up to four years) for each year of service at an NHSC-approved site.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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