



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

### Outreach Opportunity

SORH partners,

We would love the opportunity to share some of the amazing things that you and your organizations are doing for our rural communities with our partners. Whether it be an accomplishment, upcoming event, or exciting news, we want to know about it! If you are interested in sharing your updates with us to be featured in our VA-SORH bi-weekly newsletter, Facebook page, and website please fill out the following [Google form](#).

Thanks for all that you do!

[VA-SORH Outreach Feature Form](#)

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### Updated COVID-19 Resources

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



- [Vaccinate Virginia](#)- VDH Vaccine Registration
- Sign up for [Vaccinate Virginia Partner Updates](#)
- 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](#)

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#### 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](#))
  - [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](#)
  - HHS Launches [COVID-19 Community Corps](#) - a nationwide network of trusted voices to encourage vaccination in next phase of COVID-19 public education campaign
  - **NEW** PHCC [Updated "Tough Q&A"](#) with helpful messaging following the FDA and CDC's decision to resume the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine
  - **NEW** Register for the HMA Associates x VDH ["Building vaccine confidence among Native Americans/American Indians"](#) webinar on April 29, 2021 at 1 PM ET
  - **NEW** Register for PHCC webinar ["Summer Travel and COVID-19: Safety messaging that will inform and motivate"](#) on May 13, 2021 at 1 PM ET
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## 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](#)
- [Survey Results: COVID-19 Vaccine Activities in Rural Health Clinics](#)
- **NEW** [ACL Strategies for Helping Older Adults and People with Disabilities Access COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

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## Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

**VDH and Elite Business Strategies are hiring Outreach Specialists to help register people for COVID-19 vaccinations**

Be a part of the vaccination education and outreach efforts targeting vulnerable communities throughout the Commonwealth. There are full-time and part-time positions available.



Positions:

- Vaccination Program Outreach Staff
- Vaccination Outreach Field Coordinator
- Vaccination Program Senior County Staff

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

[To View the Flyer](#)

[Virginia Zip Recruiter Links](#)

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### 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.



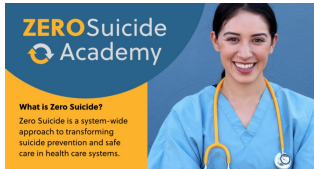
The EBB program lowers the cost of high-speed internet service to ensure people have the connectivity they need during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. By the end of April, \$3.2 billion in funding will be available to provide qualifying households discounts on their internet service bills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

For More Information



### Applications open 5/17 for the 2021 Zero Suicide Academy

Virginia Department of Health invites community health and behavioral health care systems to apply to the 2021 Zero Suicide Academy. The two-day online Academy will be held in July.

Zero Suicide is a system-wide approach to transforming suicide prevention and safe care in health care systems. The Zero Suicide Academy is your opportunity to learn from nationwide experts in Zero Suicide implementation. By the end of the Academy, your team will have created a 90-Day Plan for Zero Suicide implementation at your site.

More information about how to apply will be available in May. Please address questions to the Virginia Department of Health Injury and Violence Prevention Program at [ivp@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:ivp@vdh.virginia.gov)

To View the Flyer

### Register now for the 2021 Virginia Health Care Conference

**June 3, 2021 from 10 AM - 12:30 PM ET**

Virtual Conference Registration price is \$45. The Virginia Chamber Foundation is pleased to present the 2021 Virginia Health Care Conference.

Business and healthcare leaders will discuss how we can look beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and make Virginia more economically competitive by addressing the needs of our workforce and providing greater equity in health care.

Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in polling for *Blueprint Virginia 2030 – A Business Plan for the Commonwealth* and help set the policy goals for Virginia's health care future. This plan will be presented to our next Governor following the November election. Please join us in developing a plan for Virginia's health care future and make sure your voice is heard!

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

## VAFCC Volunteer Opportunity Board and Directory



Volunteers are the life blood of our Virginia's free and charitable clinics – indeed they could not provide the vulnerable communities across the Commonwealth with high-quality care without the incredible support of medical and non-medical volunteers. However, due to the pandemic and other factors, clinics have seen a decrease in volunteerism, especially in licensed healthcare providers.

Realizing the critical role volunteers play in service delivery and with the rising need for free clinic services, the [Virginia Association of Free & Charitable Clinics](#), which represents 60 clinics across the state launched a [Volunteer Opportunity Board & Volunteer Directory](#). This is a centralized, easy-to-use, web-based tool that quickly and conveniently connects interested health care volunteers with current volunteer needs in Virginia's free clinics. By visiting this website, interested medical volunteers can review current needs as well as register to add their name to the directory of interested volunteers for free clinics to contact once an opportunity becomes available.

[VAFCC Volunteer Board](#)



### Accredited, Veteran-Focused Competency Courses Available Online

Community providers who treat Veterans are invited to take a variety of self-paced, accredited online courses, offered 24/7 through [VHA TRAIN MISSION Act \(MA\) Curriculum](#), to help meet MISSION Act 131 and 133 competency standards. Sections 131 and 133 require VA to ensure that all community providers treating Veterans meet certain requirements regarding opioid prescribing practices and meet certain competency standards.

These courses available on VHA TRAIN provide training and resources in the areas of military culture, suicide prevention and other Veteran-related topics, equipping community providers with general knowledge about mental and physical health diagnoses commonly found in the Veteran population.

[For More Information and to Access the Courses](#)

### HRSA Awards over \$12.7 Million to Programs Enhancing Health Care Delivery to Rural Underserved Populations



Last week, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced \$12.7 million in funding to 61 recipients serving rural communities across 35 states as part of its community-based Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program (Outreach Program). For the first time funding will support the Healthy Rural Hometown Initiative (HRHI) to address rural health disparities related to heart disease, cancer, unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease, and stroke.

James Madison University of Harrisonburg, VA received \$94,399.00 in funding through the program's HRHI track. Horizon Behavioral Health of Lynchburg, VA received \$199,887.00 in funding through the program's Outreach Track.

[For More Information](#)

The REH model will offer the opportunity for current CAHs and rural PPS hospitals with fewer than 50 beds to convert to REH status to furnish certain outpatient hospital services in rural areas, including emergency department and observation services. NRHA believes the REH model will be an opportunity for vulnerable rural communities to maintain an essential access point for health services.

[To View the Full Outline](#)

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## State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

VDH OHE Nursing Scholarship application cycle opens May 1, 2021



**Application Deadline: June 30, 2021**

Virginia offers several scholarship opportunities to help pay for nursing education in exchange for service in Virginia after graduation. Scholarships are available for students enrolled in an approved nurse education program in Virginia. The program must prepare them for examination for licensure as a: Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, and Certified Nursing Aides. Scholarships are for students enrolled at an accredited program in the state of Virginia.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

[To View Program Flyer](#)

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### Apply now for the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program (RMOMS)!

**Application Deadline: Friday, June 4, 2021**

A total of \$3 million is anticipated to fund up to three health networks in this cooperative agreement program.

The program intends to demonstrate the impact on access to and continuity of maternal and obstetrics care in rural communities through testing models that address the following **RMOMS Focus Areas**:

1. Rural Regional Approaches to Risk Appropriate Care
2. Network Approach to Coordinating a Continuum of Care
3. Leveraging Telehealth and Specialty Care
4. Financial Sustainability

The goals of the program are to...

- improve maternal and neonatal outcomes within a rural region,
- develop a sustainable network approach to increase the delivery and access of preconception, pregnancy, labor and delivery, and postpartum services,
- develop a safe delivery environment with the support and access to specialty care for perinatal women and infants,
- and develop sustainable financing models for the provision of maternal and obstetrics care in rural hospitals and communities.

Moreover, this program will allow awardees to test models in order to address unmet needs for their target population which could include populations who have historically suffered from poorer health outcomes, health disparities and other inequities.

[For More Information](#)

[To Apply](#)

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## 2021 NHSC LRP programs now open with historic increase in funding

**Application Deadline: Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:30 PM ET**

The Health Resources and Services Administration's National Health Service Corps (NHSC) opened its application for three loan repayment programs: the [NHSC Loan Repayment Program](#), the [NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program](#) and the [NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program](#).

Get help with your application and attend the [NHSC Loan Repayment Program Q&A Session](#) Tuesday, May 4 from 9 AM - 5 PM ET.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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## Apply now to become an NHSC Site

**Application Deadline: May 25, 2021**

Health care sites and treatment facilities that have never been approved as NHSC sites may apply. This year's application is also open to formerly approved NHSC sites that have become inactive. Eligibility includes health care sites providing outpatient, ambulatory, and primary health care services (medical, dental, and behavioral health) in [Health Professional Shortage Areas](#). Additional eligible site types include facilities providing general substance use disorder treatment, a Medication-Assisted Treatment Program, or an Opioid Treatment Program.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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## NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference Scholarships

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) is now accepting applications for full-cost scholarships to attend the association's virtual Annual Rural Health Conference events. The scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to students and community members with a critical need for financial support for conference expenses.



[For More Information and to Apply](#)



## Apply now for the DOL Mine Health and Safety Grants

**Application Deadline: May 27, 2021**

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) will make 56 awards with total funding of more than \$10.5 million to secure safe and healthy working conditions for miners, and prevent fatalities, disease, and injury. Eligible applicants include state, local, and tribal governments; nonprofit organizations, and public or private institutions of higher education.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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Applications for round 2 of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program will open on April 29, 2021 at 12:00 PM ET

**Application Deadline: May 6, 2021**

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Wireline Competition Bureau announced they will accept applications for the second round of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program between April 29-May 6, 2021. Round two includes almost \$250 million to support the utilization of telehealth services during the pandemic.

[For More Information](#)

"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](#)

