



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

NRHA names Riverside Shore Memorial Top 20 Rural Hospital in America



We would like to recognize and congratulate [Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital](#) of Onancock, Virginia for being named one of the top 20 Rural Community Hospitals! The National Rural Health Association announced the 20 highest-ranked prospective payment system (PPS) hospitals in the country based on an evaluation by the Chartis Center for Rural Health. The hospitals are identified using the Hospital Strength Index, the most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural PPS hospital performance.

[View the NRHA Press
Release](#)

Updated COVID-19 Resources

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



- [Vaccinate Virginia](#)- VDH Vaccine Registration
- **NEW** 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](#)

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](#)
- **NEW** 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** Register for the "Successful COVID-19 Messaging in Rural Communities" Webinar on April 20, 2021 at noon ET hosted by the Public Health Collaborative

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](#)
- **NEW** [Biden Administration Announces Historic \\$10 Billion Investment to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Build Vaccine Confidence in Hardest-Hit and Highest-Risk Communities](#)
- **NEW** [Survey Results: COVID-19 Vaccine Activities in Rural Health Clinics](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

26 Federally Qualified Community Health Centers in Virginia received funding through the American Rescue Plan totaling \$79,907,625.

The American Rescue Plan invests in Community Health Centers to support and expand COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and treatment for vulnerable populations; deliver needed preventive and primary health care services to those at higher risk for COVID-19; and expand health centers' operational capacity during the pandemic and beyond, including modifying and improving physical infrastructure and adding mobile units. This investment will help increase access to vaccinations among hard-hit populations, as well as confidence in the vaccine by empowering local, trusted health professionals in their efforts to expand vaccinations.

[VA FQCHC Award Winners](#)

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](#)

New 2021 County Health Rankings data and resources are now available!

"Many factors influence how well and how long we live, from our access to affordable housing or well-paying jobs to opportunities for a good education for our kids. The County Health Rankings model shows us how these factors work together and illustrates where we can take action to improve health and eliminate unjust barriers to opportunity." These rankings are used in grant proposals and to inform Community Needs Assessments and Implementation Plans.

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

CHART Model's ACO Track RFA Delayed to Spring 2022



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that the release of the Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Transformation Track Request for Applications (RFA) is delayed until spring 2022. The CHART Model aims to help rural communities transform their health care delivery systems. This delay applies only to the ACO Transformation Track. Applications for the CHART Community Transformation Track are due by May 11, 2021.

[For More Information](#)



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](#)

State of the Healthcare Industry: Market Updates for Rural Strategy

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 2 PM ET

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](#)



Community Care Clinicians Can Take an Online Training Program to Learn How to Better Serve Women Veterans

VA is dedicated to ensuring that women Veterans get the gender-specific care they need, no matter where they receive their health care. To get the highest-quality care, women Veterans must have access to clinicians who are trained in women's health.

Community health care clinicians may not be aware of special areas of concern that need to be addressed when caring for women Veterans. To address this need, the VA Office of Women's Health has created a training module "Caring for Women Veterans," which trains community care clinicians to provide Veteran and gender-specific care.

This web-based course is one-hour, available 24/7 and offers JA-IPCE, ACCME, ACCME-NP, ANCC, ASWB, AAPA, ACPE accreditation to health care teams, doctors, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

[To Access the Course](#)

Register now for The National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) 2021 Spring Institute



Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from April 13 - 27, 2021

The National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) is holding a virtual as they cover the topics you want and need to know about! The NARHC conferences are attended by RHC professionals at every level. Whether you are a CEO, CFO, Provider, Clinic Manager, Biller, or Coder, there is something for you! Sessions will be Tuesday & Thursday afternoons, April 13-27. Busy schedule? Session recordings will be made available on demand to watch when you are ready.

[For More Information](#)

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities



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 Sessions](#) Tuesday, April 20 and Tuesday, May 4 from 9 AM - 5 PM ET.

Apply now for the Appalachian Community Fund's General Fund grant



Application Deadline: Friday, April 30, 2021

The Appalachian Community Fund (ACF) encourages grassroots social change in Central

Appalachia (eastern Tennessee, eastern Kentucky, southwest Virginia, and all of West Virginia). ACF's General Fund provides grants of up to \$3,000 to grassroots groups that are working for social, economic, racial, and environmental justice in Central Appalachia. Applying organizations must be community-led, community-driven, and community-based. The focus is on organizations with budgets of less than \$250,000. Awarded funds may be used for general support purposes as well as specific projects or programs.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

CDC Community Health Workers for COVID Response

Application Deadline: Monday, May 24 by 11:59 PM

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will make 70 awards with total funding of \$300 million for the training and deployment of community health workers in geographic areas experiencing health disparities. Priority populations are those with increased prevalence of COVID-19, including rural areas, racial and ethnic minority groups, and those who are economically disadvantaged.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants

Application Deadline: Friday, June 4

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will make 90 awards with total funding of \$44.5 million to improve distance learning and telemedicine in rural areas. Eligible applicants include state, local, and tribal governments; nonprofit organizations; school districts and institutions of higher education.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

SAMHSA First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Grants



Application Deadline: Monday, May 17

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will make up to 20 awards with total funding of \$7.9 million. The purpose of this program is to allow first responders and members of other key community sectors to administer a drug or device approved or cleared under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) for emergency reversal of known or suspected opioid overdose. Recipients will train and provide resources to first responders and members of other key community sectors at the state, tribal, and local governmental levels on carrying and administering a drug or devices approved or cleared under the FD&C Act for emergency reversal of known or suspected opioid overdose. Recipients will also establish processes, protocols, mechanisms for referral to appropriate treatment and recovery support services, and safety around fentanyl, carfentanil, and other dangerous licit and illicit drugs.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Apply now for the USDA Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program

Application Deadline: Monday, May 3, 2021

The purpose of the Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program is to increase the knowledge of agricultural science and improve the nutritional health of children. The program's goal is to increase the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as school cafeterias and classrooms, while fostering higher levels of community engagement between farms and school systems by bringing together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system. The initiative is part of a broader effort to not only increase access to school meals for low-income children, but also to dramatically improve their quality.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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