



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

### Community Spotlight



Piedmont Access to Health Services (PATHS), VCU tackle racial disparities in cancer screening

by Elias Weiss, Star-Tribune

"Through a budding partnership between Piedmont Access to Health Services (PATHS) and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Massey Cancer Center Director Dr. Robert Winn is on a mission to "make Danville healthier" by addressing racial disparities systemic in screening of preventable cancers.

During a seminar Thursday afternoon in the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History auditorium, public health and community leaders from Danville, Pittsylvania County and Richmond engaged in a meeting of the minds as they discussed Project COALESCE, a two-year collaborative effort funded by Pfizer and the American Cancer Society to address race-related barriers to colorectal and cervical cancer screening in Danville, Martinsville, Brunswick and Richmond."

[To Read the Full Article](#)

If your organizations would like to be featured in our VA-SORH bi-weekly newsletter, Facebook page, and website please fill out the following [Google form](#).

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## Updated COVID-19 Resources

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



- [Vaccinate Virginia](#)- to find a vaccine near you
- Sign up for [Vaccinate Virginia Partner Updates](#)
- Become a 2021 VDH Community Ambassador
- [VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Patient Education Materials](#)
- Find out which phase of the vaccination campaign you fall in
- Contact your Local Health District

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### COVID-19 Communications Materials

- "About the Three COVID-19 Vaccines" Graphic ([download here](#))
- [The Language of Vaccine Acceptance](#) by de Beaumont
- [CDC Vaccination Communication Toolkit](#)
- Downloadable [VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Patient Education Materials](#)
- PHCC Updated "Tough Q&A" with helpful messaging resources
- [Rural Community Toolkit](#) to build vaccine confidence and promote preventive measures
- Case Study: Successful COVID-19 Messaging in Rural Communities- [presentation slides](#)
- **NEW** [NRHA COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points for Rural Leaders](#)
- **NEW** [COVID-19 Vaccination and Children- Answering Parents' Questions webinar](#) June 23rd from 1 - 2 PM ET

- **NEW** Customizable COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit for Rural Communities

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## Additional COVID-19 Resources

- CDC National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine
- COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Data Systems
- COVID-19 FAQs and Funding for HRSA Programs
- HRSA COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund (CAF)
- GHPC's Collection of Rural Health Strategies for COVID-19
- NRHA Rural-Relevant COVID-19 Resource Library
- **NEW** CMS Announces Payment for In-Home Vaccinations
- **NEW** 44 Virginia RHCs receive support for COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation

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## Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities



**BREAKING NEWS - RHC Vaccine Confidence Grant Deadline Extended by One Day**

**Extended Application Deadline: Thursday, June 24, 2021 by 11:59 PM ET**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced a one day extension on the RHC Vaccine Confidence grant. This grant was originally due Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 11:59 PM ET, and is now due Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 11:59 ET. There is still time for you to apply for this grant to improve vaccine confidence in your rural communities!

If you are unable to log in to the workspace because your SAM UEI is not verified be sure to call the [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) support line at 1-800-518-4726 and tell them you are waiting on your SAM UEI, they will manually give your [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) account permission to apply for the grant.

Any clinic interested in applying and in need of technical assistance should reach out to the State Office of Rural Health or the Virginia Rural Health Association.

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[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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**One Care of Southwest Virginia Educational Forum on Substance Use Disorders: Prescribing, Prevention, and Practical Applications to Practice**



**Tuesday, June 29, 2021**

One Care of Southwest Virginia, Inc. is joining forces with the Virginia Department of Health to offer a virtual forum that will provide health care providers with knowledge and skills to apply in clinical practice regarding prescribing controlled substances.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

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## Capital AHEC presents Lupus Education CE Webinar

**Monday, June 28, 2021 at 6 PM**

Attend this virtual webinar to hear keynote speaker, rheumatologist Dr. Beth Rubinstein (VCU). Participants will learn about lupus, including populations most at risk, signs and symptoms of lupus, and when to refer.

[To Register](#)

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### 2021 3RNet Annual Report

3RNet is a unique non-profit specializing in health care jobs in rural and underserved communities. This report reflects accomplishments from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. Check it out!



[To View the Report](#)



### ARC The Chartbook Data Overview of the Appalachian Region

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) announced the release of the 11th annual update of The Appalachian Region: A Data Overview from the 2015–2019 American Community Survey. The report, also known as "The Chartbook," indicates that Appalachia was improving in educational attainment, higher income and reduced poverty prior to COVID-19, yet continued to lag behind the rest of the nation in broadband access, population health, and other key indicators.

[For More Information](#)

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### Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) dashboard

The Office of Family Health Services has released an updated Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) dashboard. The dashboard consists of health behavior data at the health district level from 2011-2019. The BRFSS is a telephone (cellphone and landline) survey conducted by the health departments of all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam, with assistance from the CDC. The BRFSS is the largest continuously conducted telephone health surveillance system in the world.

[To Access the Dashboard](#)

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### Capital Project Financing Sources for Rural Health Centers

**June 24, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET**

This webinar session specifically designed for rural health centers looking to learn more about the various avenues of financing available for capital projects, including USDA, New Markets Tax Credits, and the HRSA Loan Guarantee Program.

To Register



### Leveraging Telemedicine to Fully Staff Rural Hospitals – Models that Work

Wednesday July 14, 2021 from 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET

Rural telehealth adoption is growing significantly – particularly by connecting patients in their homes to a provider. While the growth is compelling, there is still untapped potential for rural hospitals to utilize telemedicine to drive down costs and improve the delivery of care within the acute care setting. In this webinar, you'll hear from Dr. Brian Carpenter and Dr. Steve Ward about ways to leverage tele-hospitalists to stabilize staffing, reduce recruiting costs, support advanced practice providers, and positively impact sub-specialist care.

To Register

### AAMC Reports on Physician Supply and Demand

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) projects the future supply of active physicians, including projected demand for primary care or non-primary care specialties by urban or rural location.

For More Information

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## State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

VDH OHE Nursing Scholarship application cycle is open until the end of this month!



**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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### CARES Act Funds Reporting Begins Soon

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) just released new **requirements** for using and reporting CARES Act funds. All healthcare providers who received one or more CARES Act payments exceeding, in the aggregate, \$10,000 must report. The reporting portal opens on July 1, 2021 and closes September 30, 2021.

For More Information

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**Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program (STAR LRP)**



**Application Deadline: July 22, 2021 by 7:30 PM ET**

Every day you're using skills to help end substance use disorders (SUD) within your community. The Health Resources and Services Administration is here to help you with the new the STAR LRP (Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program). Pay off your school loans with up to \$250,000 from the STAR LRP in exchange for six years of full-time service at an approved facility. Behavioral health clinicians, paraprofessionals, clinical support staff and many others trained in substance use disorder treatment are encouraged to apply.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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**Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program**

**Application Deadline: September 1, 2021**

Grant to Indian tribes and tribal organizations for broadband infrastructure projects and programs that promote the adoption and use of broadband to access remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[For More Information](#)

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**USDA Rural Housing Preservation Grants (HPG) Program**

**Application Deadline: July 19, 2021**

The HPG program provides qualified public agencies, private nonprofit organizations grant funds to assist very low- and low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes in rural areas. In addition, the HPG program assists rental property owners and cooperative housing complexes in repairing and rehabilitating their units if they agree to make such units available to low- and very low-income persons. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will make 160 awards of up to \$50,000 each.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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**DOL Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC)**

**Application Deadline: July 21, 2021**



The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) will make 30 awards of up to \$1.5 million each to provide training and diversify employment opportunities in rural areas of the Delta and Appalachian regions historically dominated by energy extraction industries. Eligible applicants include state, local, and Tribal governments; institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations. Applications with strategies to address the employment and training needs of individuals affected by substance use disorder are encouraged.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

## Virginia Health Safety Net Grants

**Letter of Intent Deadline: July 16, 2021**

**Application Deadline: September 1, 2021**



Most VHCF grants work to increase access to primary care for uninsured Virginians and those who live in areas with limited access to care. Funding focuses on projects that grow and strengthen Virginia's healthcare safety net by developing or expanding patient capacity, establishing a broader scope of services, creating local systems of care, and strengthening infrastructure.

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