



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

Community Spotlight

The VA SORH Photo Contest!

Submit your best photos of rural Virginia for the chance to be featured on the cover of the 2022 Virginia State Office of Rural Health calendar!



Celebrate the beauty of rural Virginia by capturing its diverse landscapes, weather, wildlife, workforce, and communities. Photographers of all experience levels are encouraged to participate. The deadline to submit photos is October 8th, 2021. Winners of the photo contest will be announced on Thursday, November 18th, 2021, National Rural Health Day.

[For More Information and to Submit your Photos](#)

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

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](#)
- [VDH Tele Town-Hall and Other Vaccine Confidence Resources](#)

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](#)
 - [Rural Community Toolkit](#) to build vaccine confidence and promote preventive measures
 - [NRHA COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points for Rural Leaders](#)
 - [Customizable COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit for Rural Communities](#)
 - CDC "How to Address COVID-19 Vaccine Misinformation"
 - CDC "Talking with Patients about COVID-19 Vaccinations"
 - CDC "Ways to Help Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations"
 - HRSA "RHC COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Program" information
 - **NEW** HHS "What works and What Doesn't in COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach"
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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
- We Can Do This: COVID-19 Public Education Campaign launches a [Spanish-language website](#)
- **NEW** NRHA "Rural Resourcefulness: How communities are innovating in the face of COVID-19"
- **NEW** NRHC "COVID-19 Funding Sources Impacting Rural Providers" guide

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Health Care Professionals Play an Important Role in Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning



Childhood lead poisoning is considered the most preventable environmental disease among young children. Health care providers play an important role in preventing lead exposure by identifying children who are at risk for lead poisoning and giving them blood lead tests.

In accordance with Virginia state policy, providers must:

- Screen children at risk for lead exposure at 12 months and 24 months of age.
- Report all blood lead levels in children 15 years of age and younger to the Virginia Department of Health
- Report all blood lead levels greater than 5 µg/dL in persons older than 15 years of age to the Virginia Department of Health.
- Educate pregnant women about the different sources of lead.

The Virginia Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) aims to ensure that children at risk for lead exposure are identified, tested, and connected to additional services. Please visit the [Lead Safe Virginia](#) website for more information on risk factors, educational materials, or to contact program staff.

Additionally, the FDA has identified a [recall](#) on certain LeadCare blood lead testing devices due to risk of falsely low results. Review the recall notice to ensure your facility is receiving accurate blood lead test results.

To report a blood lead level, please complete [this form](#) or fax results to 804-864-8102.

[For More Information](#)

Donate to the United Way of Southwest Virginia Disaster Relief Fund for Hurley

Hurley, Virginia experienced catastrophic flooding and landslides destroying multiple homes. Immediately following rescue and recovery operations, United Way of Southwest Virginia activated the Disaster Relief Fund for Hurley with seed funding from the American Electric Power Foundation on September 1, 2021.

All donations will go directly to provide support for those impacted by the Hurley disaster. United Way of Southwest Virginia is working with authorities and partners in Buchanan County on the distribution of funds.



United Way of
Southwest Virginia

To Donate



Veterans Health Administration Employee Education System (EES) training opportunities regarding post-deployment health

There are three series, eLearning, podcast and webinar, in which we would like to draw attention. Many of these courses are on-demand and offer continuing education credit. The [VHA TRAIN course catalog](#) is always available.

WRIISC-HOME eLearning Series

- The War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC), in conjunction with the newly named VA Health Outcomes Military Exposures (HOME) office has created a comprehensive curriculum with content focused on key exposure and other clinical deployment health topics. This on-demand, eLearning training series, consisting of five modules, offers information and tools to increase knowledge of community and VA providers to support high quality care for Veterans. These WRIISC-HOME courses are accessible below.

WRIISC Podcast Series: Veterans' Health Matters

- Veterans' Health Matters, a podcast series sponsored by the War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC), offers clinicians, Veterans and caregivers information on post-deployment care. In each episode of Veterans' Health Matters, subject-matter experts weigh in on these topics and discuss the services the WRIISC provides, because every Veteran's health really does matter.

WRIISC-HOME Webinar Series

- The WRIISC-HOME webinar series was created to support provider directed education for Veterans with health concerns related to potentially toxic exposures, post-deployment. These webinars reflect current best practices, science and policies. They are categorized into clinical specialty areas, and provide introductory, intermediate and advanced level training to increase learning. Live and recorded webinar sessions can be accessed [here](#).

For More Information

Provide Comment on New Draft of Model EMS Clinical Guidelines

Deadline to Submit Comments: Friday, September 24, 2021

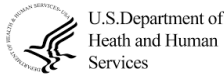
The National Association of State EMS Officials has invited the EMS community and members of the public to provide feedback on a draft of version 3 of the Model EMS Clinical Guidelines. Feedback must be submitted by September 24, 2021.



The Model EMS Clinical Guidelines were created by NASEMSO with funding from the NHTSA Office of EMS and the Health Resources Services Administration to assist state and local EMS medical directors and leaders in their efforts to provide evidence-based care and improve patient safety and outcomes. The guidelines have been used by a variety of civilian, military, private and public EMS systems nationally and internationally since they were first created in 2014.

To Submit Comments

3RNET is the Nation's most trusted resource for health professionals seeking careers in rural and underserved communities- powered by the National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network. To help celebrate their new website, 3RNET is emailing \$5 Starbucks gift cards to new registrations. Simply select the "new website welcome" option under "Discovery Source" when registering, and wait for this small gift from 3RNET in your inbox!

[To Register](#)**HHS Region 3 Resource & Opportunity Summit****Tuesday, September 21, 2021**

This summit will feature presentations on federal programs in the following areas: 1) COVID-19; 2) Children and Families; 3) Aging and Disabilities; 4) Vulnerable Populations. Each session will last 45 minutes and focus on providing the participants with an overview of federal resources and the display of the Office of Minority Health Resource Center. The sessions will also have a special focus on health equity, maternal health, the Medical Reserve Corp and Vital Conditions of Health.

Session Focus Areas

- 9:30 AM: COVID-19
- 10:30 AM: Children and Families
- 1:30 PM: Aging & Disability Services

[For More Information and to Register](#)**RHIHub updated Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) topic guide**

RHIHub has updated their topic guide on Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) to include two new FAQs on 340B eligibility and Rural Emergency Hospitals. There is also updated info on reimbursement, eligibility, funding, legislation, and more. Check it out!

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Conferences

**NRHA's Rural Health Clinic and Critical Access Hospital Conferences****September 21-24, 2021**

Register now for the [NRHA's Rural Health Clinic](#) and [Critical Access Hospital Conferences](#), the association's fastest-growing events. No need to worry about airfare or accommodations – you can join us for these events at reduced virtual rates.

[To Register](#)

October 5 - December 14, 2021

This six-part webinar series features practical, action-oriented content for health care employers using a workshop-type approach.

The 2021 Academy will examine the recruiting process: everything from planning and preparation to sourcing to closing the deal. Without a well defined recruitment process, employers will be hard pressed to succeed in recruitment efforts.

[For More Information](#)**2021 Catalyst Annual Summit****October 7 - 8, 2021**

Each year, the health care community comes together to discuss new innovations and drive change in Virginia at the Catalyst Annual Summit. The virtual 2021 summit features nationally recognized speakers on topics like value-based care, water equity, and racism in healthcare.

[For More Information and to Register](#)**NARHC 2021 Fall Institute****October 18-20, 2021**

Join the National Association of Rural Health Clinics at their 2021 Fall Institute on October 18-20 in Covington, Kentucky! NARHC is the only association in the country focused entirely on Rural Health Clinics. The two-and-a-half-day conference sees a wide variety of rural health professionals in attendance, ranging from hospital CEOs to physicians, to clinic managers, to coders.

[For More Information](#)**2021 Rural Health Voice Conference****November 1 - 18, 2021**

Registration is now open for the 2021 Rural Health Voice Conference hosted virtually by the [Virginia Rural Health Association](#) in November. This conference is an occasion to recognize that all aspects of rural communities, not just healthcare, are providers or barriers to health.

[For More Information and to Register](#)**VAFCC's 2021 Annual Conference****November 7-12, 2021**

The VAFCC's Annual Conference, The Path Ahead: Advancing Health Equity & the Future of Healthcare Post COVID, is the premier educational and networking meeting for Virginia's free and charitable clinics, their safety net partners, and healthcare advocates. The VAFCC's Annual Conference will be an asynchronous hybrid event involving both virtual and in-person components. Attendees can expect to learn, share, and network with their peers and partners from across the Commonwealth.

[For More Information](#)

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation

Application Deadline: TOMORROW Wednesday, September 15, 2021

The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation is offering funding to nonprofit organizations in the communities served by Food Lion stores in Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Grants are provided to hunger relief organizations operating within a 20-mile radius of a Food Lion store. The Foundation's focus is on reducing the number of children at risk of hunger by helping feeding agencies increase their "fresh" capacity so families can put nutritious meals on their tables.

[For More Information](#)

Resources for Provider Relief Fund Reporting



Deadline to Submit: September 30, 2021

Provider Relief Fund (PRF) recipients who received funds prior to June 30, 2020, have through September 30, 2021, to complete reports in the PRF Reporting Portal.

[Provider Relief Fund Reporting Portal](#)

[Reporting Resource Guide](#)

AAPD Foundation: Access to Care Grants

Application Deadline: October 1, 2021

The AAPD (American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry) Foundation is committed to supporting community-based initiatives throughout the United States and its territories that provide Dental Homes to children whose families cannot afford dental care. The Foundation offers Access to Care Grants of up to \$20,000 to organizations that effectively demonstrate their ability to provide Dental Homes to children. (The AAPD defines a Dental Home as the ongoing relationship between the dentist and the patient, inclusive of all aspects of oral healthcare, delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, and family-centered way.) Special consideration will be given to initiatives that provide care for children ages eight and younger.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Federal Transit Administration, National Center for Mobility Management is offering grants and technical assistance to support communities that are ready to take concrete steps toward implementing transportation solutions to help underserved residents become more fully engaged in economic opportunities, improve their health and well-being, and/or become more integrated into their community.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

AmeriCorps VISTA Sponsoring Agency Request for Concept Papers

Application Deadline: November 3, 2021

A national service program that provides resources and staffing for organizations and agencies working to alleviate poverty and address poverty-related problems in local communities.

[For More Information](#)

National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program

Application Deadline: November 4, 2021

Loan repayment assistance for medical, nursing, physician assistant, and dental students who agree to provide services in eligible Health Professional Shortage Areas of greatest need.



Sponsors: Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administration, National Health Service Corps, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Rural Veterans Health Access Program (RVHAP)

Application Deadline: Friday, December 10, 2021

The FY22 Rural Veterans Health Access Program (RVHAP) Notice of Funding Opportunity is available. This program will fund up to 3 awards for up to \$300,000/year for three years.

The Rural Veterans Health Access Program focuses on improving access to needed healthcare services and improving coordination of care for veterans, which includes underserved veteran populations (including geriatric, women, Native American, and minority veteran populations) in rural areas. Award recipients can implement a variety of strategies to improve the capacity of critical access hospitals (CAHs) and other rural health care organizations to provide services that meet the needs of veterans living in rural areas. Award recipients can also assist providers in making connections to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system to coordinate care for rural veterans using community health care providers as well as the VA system.

A webinar for applicants is scheduled on **Thursday, September 23 from 3 - 4:00 PM ET**. A recording will be made available for those who cannot attend, email mredmond@hrsa.gov for recording.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

[To Access Webinar](#)

Virginia AHEC Scholars Program

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

A multidisciplinary certificate program for health professions students in Virginia that offers opportunities for hands-on training, experience in rural and underserved communities, and networking with other students and professionals.

Sponsor: Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority

[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](#)

