



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

Community Spotlight

It is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week!

Each year, National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week unites federal, state, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and individuals to increase awareness of lead poisoning prevention.

During this important week, Virginia Department of Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program wants to help you Get The Facts.



Did you know...

- Many homes built before 1978 have lead based paint. Lead from paint, paint chips, and dust can pose serious health hazards particularly to children and pregnant women.
- Adults and children can get lead in their bodies by:
 - Breathing in lead dust (especially during activities such as renovating, repairing, or painting)
 - Swallowing lead dust that settles on food, food preparation surfaces, floors, window sills, and other places, or
 - Eating paint chips or soil that contains lead
- The most common source of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures.
- Other sources of lead include some metal toys, wooden toys or furniture painted with lead-based paint, some metal-containing jewelry, and lead glazed pottery or porcelain, some candies, spices, or make-up.

Young children are the most vulnerable to the harmful effects of lead. Children in Virginia should get a blood lead test at 12 and 24 months old if they are eligible for or receiving medicaid, or at an [increased risk of exposure to lead](#).

For more important information on lead, lead poisoning, and lead poisoning prevention, visit our Lead Safe Virginia website and our new [educational materials webpage](#).

Lead Safe Virginia

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
- VDH COVID-19 Vaccination Disparities and Social Determinants

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](#)
- [HHS "What works and What Doesn't in COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach"](#)
- **NEW** [UPDATED PHCC COVID-19 Booster Dose Messaging and Outreach Tools](#)
- **NEW** [Rural Americans Share Personal Stories to Inspire Vaccine Confidence](#)
- **NEW** [NRHA Partners to Promote Vaccine Confidence in Rural America](#)

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](#)
- [NRHRC "COVID-19 Funding Sources Impacting Rural Providers" guide](#)
- [CDC COVIDVaxView: A Data Dashboard](#)
- **NEW** [Financial Guide for the Rural Health Care Leaders During COVID and Post-COVID](#)
- **NEW** [Webinar: "Latest from CDC on COVID-19 Booster Vaccines," TODAY, October 26 at 2:00 PM ET](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

The *Proposed* Federal Rural Partnership Program: What You Need to Know

TOMORROW, Wednesday, October 27 at 2:00 PM ET

In this one-hour Rural Partnership Program Info Session, the Reimagining Rural Assistance Network (RRAN) will briefly offer current information about the provisions and status of RPP. This session will also include the perspective of expert rural practitioners who will share their thinking and experience about how providing federal resources through an RPP approach could accelerate and deepen positive rural development results. Questions will be encouraged and welcome!

[To Register](#)

This blog post describes two projects that show the importance of planning and engagement of rural populations for research teams. One of the projects, Cancer Center without Walls Community Advisory Board, is based in southwest Virginia. The blog post examining how each project engages with rural communities to build strong relationships.



[For More Information](#)



JOINT CENTER
FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES

Affordability and Availability: Expanding Broadband in the Black Rural South

Report examining broadband access in African American communities in the rural South, highlighting economic, healthcare, and educational opportunities that accompany broadband access. Discusses financial and policy barriers to broadband access in the Black rural South and offers policy recommendations to increase access.

[For More Information](#)

HHS Draft Strategic Plan, FY 2022 – 2026



U.S. Department of
Health and Human
Services

Draft strategic plan identifying strategic goals and objectives of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Includes information specific to meeting the needs of underserved communities, including rural and tribal communities. The Department is seeking public comment through November 7, 2021.

[For More Information](#)

Family Physicians in Rural America: Training, Distribution, and Scope of Practice

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 1:00 PM ET, Approximately 60 minutes

Family physicians are trained to treat patients of all ages and genders, for any clinical condition in any care setting. Consequently, they are the most prevalent physician specialty in rural America. Drs. Peterson and Patterson will present research findings on the training of family physicians in rural areas, the family physician workforce distribution, and rural/urban differences in scope of practice.

Registration is free and required. Attendance of the live webinar is limited to 500 persons. If you are unable to attend, you will be able to access the recording, archived on the Gateway website.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

Apply Now for Rural TransECHO!

Aimed at increasing the availability of affirming health care for transgender and gender-diverse people of all ages, Rural TransECHO will be open to healthcare organizations of any type who are located in and/or serve a predominantly rural area of the US.



Participation is free to health centers, providers, and staff who will connect once a month through an online video conference link. First session begins January 2022. 20-25 applicants will be selected. CME credits available!

For more information or for questions please contact Nikk Selik, nselik@fenwayhealth.org

[For More Information and to Register](#)



2021 Report to Congress on the State Opioid Response Grants (SOR)

Report details the outcomes of state opioid response (SOR) grants to Congress. Highlights demographic breakdown of people served by SOR programs and discusses key accomplishments by state/territory. Includes rural references throughout.

[To Access the Report](#)



Join RTTC'S Virtual Launch Week: RISE for Rural Telementoring

THIS WEEK, October 25-29, 2021

Join the national Rural Telementoring Training Center (RTTC) for the virtual launch of Resources, Information, Support, and Education – RISE for Rural Telementoring. This week celebrates the release of an array of tools and resources to support the implementation and evaluation of telementoring for rural health care. Over the course of five days, the RTTC will host multiple virtual events to highlight the theme of Emerging Voices in Rural Telementoring, including a photography competition, micro-lectures from leaders in telementoring, and stories from community members and rural health workers.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

Exploring Rural Resilience Study

Are you a cancer survivor, or cancer survivor's caregiver, within 10 years from your date of diagnosis? Do you live in a rural community? If you answered YES to both questions, please consider helping out this cancer survivorship research team.



The research team wants to learn how and where rural cancer survivors and their caregivers strengthen their resilience.

[For More Information and to Participate](#)

Upcoming Conferences

Rural Resilience Summit

The Rural Resilience Summit brings together leaders, practitioners, educators, and community members to provide strategies that can be employed locally in your community. The previous Rural Summit hosted 500 attendees with an expanded audience planned for 2021 using a live virtual conferencing app; community members from around the globe can attend, engage, and interact during live sessions. In partnership with the Virginia State Office of Rural Health, the Rural Resilience Summit will provide subject matter expert-led sessions in school readiness, mental health, workforce readiness. Attendees will also be provided with resources to learn how to utilize the collective impact model with employing new strategies from the event.

To Register

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 8-12, 2021, **now fully virtual**



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 via the following tracks:

- Telehealth Track
- Hybrid Operations Track
- Fund Development Track
- Patient Outreach Track
- Inclusive & Equitable Care Track

For More Information

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

Development and Implementation of Innovative Interventions that Effectively Address Health Disparities in Access to Care for Medically Underserved Communities

Application Deadline: Friday, November 5, 2021

Grants for community health worker and patient navigation training and service delivery programs that address linkage to care and supportive services, care coordination, cultural

competency, and ethnic diversity. Rural communities are a priority population.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



Healthy Eating Research: COVID-19 and Socioeconomic Recovery Efforts Impacts on Children's Health and Well-Being

Letter of Intent (Required): Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Funding for research on how COVID-19 recovery-related social and economic programs and policies impact child obesity, diet quality, food security, and other relevant child and family health outcomes among lower-income and families of color. Populations of focus include Black, Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Bloomberg Fellows Indigenous Scholars



Application Deadline: Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Provides public health training, scholarships, and stipends for individuals who are currently working with organizations in the areas of adolescent health, addiction and overdose, environmental challenges, obesity and the food system, and violence. Beginning in 2022, the Bloomberg Fellows program will support cohorts of Indigenous Scholars that are looking to use public health tools to address the most pressing issues in their communities.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Rural Residency Planning and Development Program

Application Deadline: Monday, December 20, 2021

Grants to develop newly accredited, sustainable rural residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine, public health, general preventive medicine, psychiatry, general surgery, and obstetrics/gynecology. The overall goal of the program is to support expansion of the physician workforce in rural communities.

[For More Information](#)



New Funding Available for Rural Communities Opioid Response Program

Application Deadline: Thursday, January 13, 2022

The Health Resources and Services Administration will be making approximately 50 awards of \$1 million each to rural communities to enhance prevention, treatment, and recovery from substance use disorder. Eligible applicants are domestic public, private, and nonprofit entities that can deliver services in [HRSA-designated rural areas](#), particularly for populations that have

historically suffered from poorer health outcomes. The applicant organization must be part of an established network or consortium that includes at least three other separately-owned entities.

HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy will hold a **90 minute-long webinar for applicants** on **Wednesday, November 10th at 12:30 pm ET**. A recording will be made available for those who cannot attend. Please see "Related Documents" for the full announcement that includes dial-in information for the webinar. For questions, write to ruralopioidresponse@hrsa.gov.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

"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](#)

