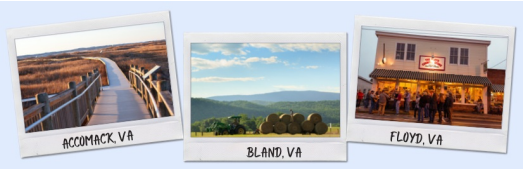
VIRGINIA STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

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

Community Spotlight



Encourage members of your organization and community to participate in the VA SORH Photo Contest!

Celebrate the beauty of rural Virginia with us by capturing its diverse landscapes, weather, wildlife, workforce, and communities. Photographers of all experience levels are encourage to participate for the chance to be featured on the cover of the 2022 Virginia State Office of Rural Health calendar!

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 & 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
- NEW VDH COVID-19 Vaccination Disparities and Social Determinants

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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
- 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 PHCC COVID-19 Booster Dose Messaging and Outreach Tools
- NEW VHHA Launches Statewide Outreach Campaign Aimed at Vaccine Hesitant Audiences Amid a More Than 1,000 Percent Surge in COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations

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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
- NRHRC "COVID-19 Funding Sources Impacting Rural Providers" guide
- NEW RAND Identifying Strategies to Boost COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance in the US
- NEW NRHA Rural Vaccine Confidence Initiative

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

NEW Workforce Incentive Programs: COMING SOON!

Office of Health Equity VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Virginia Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program

The Virginia Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program (BH-LRP) program will repay a portion of an eligible behavioral health professional's student loan debt. In return, recipients commit to practicing in Virginia for a minimum of two years at an eligible site.

Applications for the first year of this program will be reviewed and acted on in two cycles:
- October 15, 2021 – December 15, 2021
- February 1, 2022 – April 15, 2022

For More Information

Nursing Preceptor Incentive Program

The Nursing Preceptor Incentive Program (NPIP) will provide financial incentives for practitioners who serve as otherwise uncompensated preceptors for APRN students to help increase access to care, address the primary care shortage, handle mental health crises, and manage chronic diseases. All of these factors are crucial in improving the health and wellness of all Virginians.

Application Cycles (registration):
- First cycle: October 1, 2021– December 15, 2021
- Thereafter, register December 1st through January 31st and July 1st through August 31st.

For More Information

Save the date for National Rural Health Day!

November 18, 2021 #powerofrural National Rural Health Day Celebrating the Power of Rural IT'S NOT JUST A DAY, IT'S A MOVEMENT.

Thursday, November 18, 2021

National Rural Health Day (NRHD) is an opportunity to "Celebrate the Power of Rural" by honoring the selfless, community-minded spirit that prevails in rural America. NRHD showcases the efforts of rural healthcare providers, State Offices of Rural Health and other rural stakeholders to address the unique healthcare challenges that rural citizens face today and into the future.

Does your organization have any plans to celebrate National Rural Health Day this year? If so, let us know! Email **ellie.wilson@vdh.virginia.gov** so that we can share your plans with our stakeholders.

The Health Wagon is seeking support for rural southwest Virginians battling COVID-19.

They are in a critical emergency situation and in need of three things:

- Nurse Practitioners, Physicians, RNs, LPNs, Medical Assistants, and Nursing Assistants (click **here** for more information about needs/duties)
- General Volunteers to help with non-medical duties (click **here** for more information about needs/duties)
- Additional funding to support this emergency

To Donate

Project Echo Mini Series

Sessions will take place every Tuesday, starting TODAY through 10/19, from 3 - 4 PM ET

Join Project ECHO for a four-week mini-series that will explore the telehealth challenges encountered by FQHCs during the start of the pandemic, including engagement of hard to reach populations, staff engagement, making smart and effective telehealth technology decisions and decisions about where to go with telehealth after the end of the public health emergency.

To Register

Health and Wellness in the New River Valley

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, from 9:00 -10:00 AM

One of the four central themes of the NRV Livability Plan is Building Healthy Communities with goals and strategies to address access to and the cost of healthcare, recreation and nutrition, early childhood education and development, and environmental quality. Our next series is focused on health and wellness. Join us for "Session 2- Healthy Roots"

Started in 2019, Healthy Roots NRV is a network of individuals and organizations dedicated to improving health and well-being in the New River Valley. It draws together existing collaborative efforts in healthcare, childcare, food access, and more, and provides the staffing and coordination needed to take an effective, regional approach to our health and wellness challenges. This session will provide an overview of Healthy Roots NRV and ways to get involved.

To Register

Rural Healthy People 2030

The Southwest Rural Health Research Center at Texas A&M University with funding support from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is conducting a survey as part of Rural Healthy People 2030 – a project designed to understand the most important health priorities for rural Americans. For this survey, we are asking rural health stakeholders – individuals who work in roles aimed at improving the lives and health of rural Americans – to participate by completing the survey. The study should take about 20 minutes. If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to reach out to Timothy Callaghan at callaghan@tamu.edu.

Survey Link

Strengthening SNAP and TANF is Essential to Support Children in Early Childhood

Lerner Center FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROMOTION Maxwell | Syracuse University

Research brief examining participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Virginia during children's first six years of life. Uses administrative data from the Virginia Longitudinal Data System to explore differences in participation by race and residence in rural versus urban counties.
Sponsoring organization: Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion

For More Information

Upcoming Conferences

The RURAL RESILIENCE Summit

Rural Resilience Summit

October 28, 2021

Early Bird Reduced Rate Registration ends TODAY!

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

3rd Annual Health Disparities Conference

October 5, 2021 from 12:30 - 3:15 PM ET

This online, half-day symposium for healthcare professionals will discuss strategies for implementing individual, team, community, and systemic change to address health disparities and improve the health and wellbeing of culturally and ethnically diverse patients.

For More Information and to Register

3RNet Recruiting for Retention Academy

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

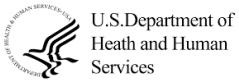
November 8-12, 2021, now fully virtual

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.

For More Information

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

HRSA Look-Alike Initial Designation Technical Assistance



Application are accepted on an ongoing basis

Resources to assist organizations in the application for Look-Alike Initial Designation under the Health Center Program.

Health Center Program look-alikes are health centers that, like Health Center Program award recipients, improve the health of the nation's underserved communities and vulnerable populations by expanding access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services. While LALs do not receive Health Center Program funding, once designated, they become eligible to apply for several beneficial programs:

- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Prospective Payment System (PPS) reimbursement through the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services** (CMS)
- HRSA's **340B Federal Drug Pricing Program**
- **National Health Service Corps**

Health Center Program LALs ensure access to comprehensive primary health care services that are responsive to identified health care needs, provide services to all persons regardless of ability to pay, and meet all Health Center Program requirements.

For More Information

Emerging Issues in Childhood Agricultural Health Grants

Letter of Intent (Required): October 1, 2021
Application Deadline: November 1, 2021

Grants to test, implement, or recommend strategies that are likely to identify causes, effects, and

prevention interventions in response to emerging health and safety concerns of children working on, living in, or visiting agricultural environments. The 2021 funding cycle will focus on documenting, intervening, and otherwise exploring COVID-19 related impacts upon children in and around agricultural settings.

For More Information and to Apply

USDA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)- Phase 1

Application Deadline: Nov 3, 2021

Funding for research that focuses on the development of new technologies that address important problems affecting people, institutions, and communities in rural America, including health, agriculture, rural development, and the environment.

For More Information and to Apply

State and National Public Health AmeriCorps

Application Deadline: Nov 8, 2021

Funding for the recruitment, training, and development of a new generation of public health leaders who are ready to respond to the public health needs of the country by providing service primarily in state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments.

For More Information

Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellows

Letter of Intent (Required): Nov 12, 2021
Application Deadline: Feb 11, 2022

A fellowship program designed to develop the capacity of mid-career health professionals and behavioral and social scientists with an interest in health and healthcare policy. Individuals with diverse and unique perspectives are strongly encouraged to apply, and the foundation has an interest in rural.

For More Information and to Apply

Virginia AHEC Scholars Program is accepting applications for the 2023 Cohort!

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.

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