



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

Community Spotlight

Mount Rogers Community Services is a 2021 Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) Grant Program Recipient



Three Virginia organizations, including **Mount Rogers Community Service** which provides Mental Health, Developmental Disability, and Substance Use Services to the people of Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth, and Wythe Counties and the City of Galax, were awarded funding through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), Grant Program. This funding is intended to enable community mental health centers to support and restore the delivery of clinical services that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and effectively address the needs of individuals with mental health concerns.

For More Information

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"

- PHCC COVID-19 Booster Dose Messaging and Outreach Tools

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** COVID-19 Provider Funding Application Portal Open through 10/26
- **NEW** Rural Health Safety Net Survey: The pandemic's impact on rural hospital staffing
- **NEW** NARHC Identifying Allowable Expenses for COVID-19 Programs Video
- **NEW** CDC COVIDVaxView: A Data Dashboard

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Revised Geographic Eligibility for Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Funding



Beginning with Fiscal Year 2022 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022), FORHP will consider all outlying Metropolitan Statistical Area counties without an Urbanized Area (UA) population (50,000 or more people) to be eligible for rural health grant programs. For more detail on the addition of outlying metro counties, read the Federal Register Notice, Revised Geographic Eligibility for Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Grants (linked below).

[For More Information](#)



Expanding the Rural Public Health Workforce: An Advance Briefing on New Program Funding

HHS will make \$52 million from the American Rescue Plan available to train a range of health care workers to fill in-demand professions affected by the pandemic. Specifically, HHS is creating rural health networks by pairing together minority-serving institutions, community colleges, technical colleges, rural hospitals, Rural Health Clinics, community health centers, nursing homes and substance abuse providers.

Rural Public Health Workforce Grants

- The Concept:
 - Supporting networks linking educational entities, clinical sites, key workforce stakeholders
 - Linking the training directly to potential work sites through practicums and employment
 - Ensuring that the networks are community focused and use a shared co-equal governance approach
- Four Tracks:
 - Community Health Workers with a focus on cross training in high-value areas
 - Community Paramedicine

- Health Information Technology, Telehealth Technical Support
- Respiratory Therapy and Case Management/Coordination
- Expected Timing:
 - Notice of Funding Opportunity in November
 - Reviews in late Spring
 - Awards in Summer
- Expected Structure:
 - Single Awards; Multi-year project period
- Next Steps
 - Engaging stakeholders to begin putting together network partners; focus areas; brainstorm governance

If your organization is interested in partnering with us, Virginia State Office of Rural Health, please reach out to Sarah O'Connor at sarah.oconnor@vdh.virginia.gov.

For More Information

Save the date for National Rural Health Day!

Thursday, November 18, 2021



The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) sets aside the third Thursday of every November to celebrate National Rural Health Day (NRHD) and the #PowerofRural. This year's theme is the *Power of Rural: Resiliency, Resolve, Relationships, & Readiness*. Be sure to visit PowerofRural.org (the NRHD headquarters) for more information and ways to get involved. We hope you can join us in celebrating all the GREAT things happening in rural health!

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.



Unite Virginia Information Sessions

October 15, 22, and 29 at 10:00 AM ET

Learn about Unite Virginia, a coordinated care network of health and social care providers working to address Social Determinants of Health and advance health equity in the Commonwealth. Includes software demonstration.

To Register

Virginia Workforce Surveys

Three separate overviews of the licensed clinical psychologist (LCP), pharmacist, and pharmacy technician workforces in Virginia based on data from the 2021 and 2020 workforce surveys. Features statistics including the number of LCPs, pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians in rural Virginia and how many grew up in rural areas.

To access the:

- Virginia's Licensed Clinical Psychologist Workforce: 2021 report [click here](#)
- Virginia's Pharmacist Workforce: 2020 report [click here](#)
- Virginia's Pharmacy Technician Workforce: 2020 report [click here](#)

Submission Deadline: November 26, 2021

In accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Service Act, HRSA, authorized by the Secretary of HHS, shall establish the criteria which will be used to determine maternity care health professional target areas (MCTAs) in existing primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). This notice sets forth the proposed criteria which will be used to identify and score MCTAs.

[For More Information and to Submit Comments](#)



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

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](#)

HRSA's New Primary Care Workforce Projections

Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 2:00 PM ET

While HRSA's National Center for Workforce Analysis predicts a shortfall of primary care physicians by 2030, their latest report shows a surplus of nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Join experts for more details in this 90-minute webinar.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Conferences



NARMH
National Association for
Rural Mental Health

NARMH Virtual Conference 2021

October 13, 20, 27, 2021

The 2021 National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH) Conference - "Emerging from COVID-19 – Lessons Learned and Future Directions for Rural Mental Health" will feature online sessions every Wednesday in October.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

Shared Prosperity: Building Power Towards an Equitable Rural Economy



TOMORROW, October 13, 2021 at 11:30 AM ET

Shared Prosperity: Building Power Towards an Equitable Rural Economy, held in conjunction with Rural LISC's annual National Seminar. This virtual session will explore the positive economic and social potential that comes with improving racial equity in rural places. Come hear stories of power and capacity building at the community level and take away lessons on how rural places have united to become more inclusive and economically vibrant.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

4th Annual Health Literacy in Action Conference

October 14-15, 2021

The HLiA conference, co-sponsored by IHA and the Horowitz Center, showcases practice and policy ideas to advance health literacy and health equity.



[For More Information and to Register](#)



Rural Resilience Summit

October 28, 2021 from 9 AM to 4:30 PM ET

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](#)

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](#)



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 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

[Nursing Preceptor Incentive Program](#)

Application Cycles (registration):

- **First cycle: October 1, 2021– December 15, 2021**
- **Thereafter, register December 1st through January 31st and July 1st through August 31st.**

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.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Virginia Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program: COMING SOON!

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**

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.

[For More Information](#)

MAT Waiver Eligibility Training

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis



A free online and computer-based training series for physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants that satisfies some of the requirements to obtain a waiver for prescribing buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

Combating Opioid Overdose Through Community-Level Intervention

Application Deadline: Nov 1, 2021

Grants for evidence-based or promising community-level approaches that aim to reduce opioid-involved overdose, overdose involving stimulants, or poly-drug overdose in regions of the United States with the highest rates of fatal and non-fatal overdoses.

[For More Information](#)

Innovation Award: COVID-19 and Health Equity (U01) Clinical Trials

Letter of Intent Deadline (Optional): November 12, 2021

Application Deadline: November 29, 2021

The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is to fund innovative research that will strengthen and advance COVID-19 health equity research. One area of interest includes proposals that support the evaluation of outcomes by demographic data including, but not limited to, ethnicity, race, age, disability, and geography.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



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](#)

USDA Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis

Loans from eligible private lenders, guaranteed by USDA, to help build essential community facilities in rural areas.



[For More Information and to Apply](#)



Community Health Center Capital Fund LoanPLUS Program

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

A Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) program that provides loan capital and technical assistance designed to meet the needs of smaller health centers and/or those with limited financial resources. Health centers that have not been able to access financing through conventional lenders are encouraged to apply.

[For More Information](#)

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[Visit the VA-SORH Facebook Page](#)

