



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

Community Spotlight



CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

Virginia Tech Council on Vibrant Virginia Approves Five Projects Focused on Addressing Challenges Across the Commonwealth

In October 2021, the Council approved five projects that address a range of community and economic development concerns facing Virginia, with focuses that include health and community well-being and talent development and education. The funding of these projects will advance one of the goals within Virginia Tech's Advancing Beyond Boundaries strategic plan, which is to increase the number of Vibrant Virginia projects by 2022, enhancing Virginia Tech's regional impact.

Approved Projects:

- Analyzing and Improving Vaccine Uptake among Latinx Populations in Southwest Virginia, led by Julie Gerdes
- Comprehensive Community Capacity Building Experiential Learning Model, led by Cornelia Deagle
- Recovering Critical Elements from Coal and Converting Coal to Advanced, Critically Needed Battery Materials, will be led by Feng Lin
- Supporting School-Industry Partnerships and Career Exploration in the New River Valley, led by Jacob Grohs
- Improving the Resilience of Stormwater Treatment in Fredericksburg, led by David Sample

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"
- UPDATED PHCC COVID-19 Booster Dose Messaging and Outreach Tools
- Rural Americans Share Personal Stories to Inspire Vaccine Confidence
- NRHA Partners to Promote Vaccine Confidence in Rural America
- **NEW** CDC Strategies for Reaching People with Limited Access to COVID-19 Vaccines
- **NEW** Reaching Farm Communities for Vaccine Confidence
- **NEW** PHCC Updated Toolkit: Children and COVID-19 Vaccination

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** CMS COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar for Rural Communities November 15 at 1:00 PM ET

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities



National Rural Health Day is next week, Thursday, November 18th!

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Stay tuned to participate in the Virginia State Office of Rural Health's (VA-SORH) National Rural Health Day celebrations!

The **Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)** is hosting a virtual celebration on **November 18th at 11:30 AM**. Learn about federal efforts to achieve health equity in rural America. Panelists will present on strategies the Administration is taking to prioritize health equity and eliminate disparities in health access, policy, and practice.

[To Register for HRSA's NRHD Event](#)

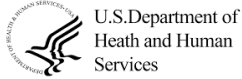
NRHA Accepting Health Equity Conference presentations



Submission Deadline: Thursday, December 9, 2021

NRHA's Health Equity Conference, one of the only meetings in the nation to focus on health equity issues in rural America, is May 10 in Albuquerque, N.M. This conference, coordinated by **NRHA's Health Equity Council**, is designed for those who are dedicated to bringing quality health care and health care services to underserved and often under-represented populations, including LGBTQIA+, veteran, homeless, and rural.

To Submit Abstracts



U.S. Department of
Health and Human
Services

New Federal Strategy for Overdose Prevention

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services announced a new focus prioritizing four objectives: primary prevention, harm reduction, evidence-based treatment and recovery support. Earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that **the rate of rural overdose deaths** from 1999 to 2019 rose from 4.0 to 19.6 per 100,000 people. In 2019, rates in rural counties were higher than in urban counties in California, Connecticut, North Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia.

For More Information

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Toolkit

Created in collaboration with NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, this newly released toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support programs implementing Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in rural communities.

Rural Medication for
Opioid Use Disorder
Toolkit



For More Information

Improving Outcomes for American Indian/Alaskan Native People Returning to the Community from Incarceration: A Resource Guide for Service Providers

Seeks to improve outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native populations returning to their communities and families after incarceration by sharing information, research, program examples, and other resources addressing various topics including culturally responsive programs, violence, housing, substance use, mental health, education, employment, and more. Also shares special considerations for service providers working with children and families, youth, and women.

For More Information and to Register

HHS Releases New Health Workforce Strategic Plan

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) released a new strategy for expanding supply, ensuring equitable distribution, and improving the quality of the nation's health workforce. The plan is one of the requirements of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and will be implemented by the Health Resources and Services Administration and several other operating divisions of HHS.

For More Information



Recreation Economy at USDA: Economic Development Resources for Rural Communities

A guide developed by USDA that can help rural communities leverage their assets and identify resources to grow their recreation economy. It explains how to plan for a recreation economy and how USDA programs can support technical assistance, infrastructure, business development and conservation/easement projects.

For More Information

Upcoming Conferences & Virtual Meetings

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.



The Virginia State Office of Rural Health will be presenting on Thursday, November 18th at 10:00 AM ET to introduce the State Rural Health Plan 2022-2026.

For More Information and to Register



Critical Access Hospital Webinar Series

Every Friday from 1:00 - 2:30 PM from November 5 - December 17, 2021 (except for November 26)

Registration is open for Eide Bailly's Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Webinar Series. The six-session series is designed specifically for CAH professionals, addressing key topics with actionable information to help plan now for the future, including:

- 340B Programming Trends
- Navigating Price Transparency
- RHC Updates
- Physician Compensation Strategies
- Cybersecurity Trends in Healthcare
- Navigating Financial Markets

For More Information and to Register

Emergency Preparedness for Maternal and Child Health

Wednesday, November 10 at 2:00 PM ET

HRSA will host community leaders and advocates for a discussion about their experiences during recent wildfires. Weather-related disasters that also include tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods are expected to become more frequent and severe as a result of climate change, with more challenges to preparedness and response in rural areas. The HHS Maternal-Child Health (MCH) Emergency Planning toolkit includes considerations for rural populations and highlights promising practices.

To Register

3rd Annual Rural Oral Health Virtual Conference 2021

Friday, November 19, 2021 from 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

It's time again for Zufall Health Center's 3rd Annual Rural Oral Health Virtual Conference 2021 Diversity and Inclusion: Addressing the Needs of Marginalized Populations in Rural Communities. We are very excited to welcome our keynote speaker Paul Moore, D.Ph. Register by November 16th to attend!

For More Information and to Register



Virtual CME/CE Event for Clinicians Who Serve Rural & Underserved Areas

Saturday, November 20, 2021

The **3rd Annual Rural Health Clinical Congress**, a free virtual live CME/CE conference, is less than a month away! This unique educational event is designed specifically for clinicians serving patients in rural and underserved communities. It will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021, in conjunction with NOSORH's National Rural Health Day. Clinicians can earn up to 6.0 complimentary CME/CE/MOC credits by participating.

For More Information and to Register

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities



Grants and Technical Assistance for Coal Communities Applying for Federal Funding

Application Deadline: Monday, November 15, 2021

Funding and technical assistance to help coal communities submit competitive federal applications for community-led transition projects. Priority will be given to projects that are led by and serve low-income and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities most impacted by the transition.

For More Information and to Apply



NHSC Loan Repayment Programs: One Application, Three Programs

Application Deadline: Thursday, December 16, 2022

Three programs will award more applicants this year with an historic \$800 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan. Loan repayment programs play a critical role in supporting clinicians in rural communities, with more than 30 percent of the funds going to rural applicants. The NHSC Loan Repayment Program awards up to \$50,000 in exchange for a two-year commitment to provide primary medical, dental or mental/behavioral health care at approved sites in high-need, underserved areas. The NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program provides up to \$75,000 in exchange for a three-year commitment to health care professionals who provide substance use disorder treatment services. Providers in rural communities may apply to the NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program, which awards up to \$100,000 for three years of service.

[For More Information](#)

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 and to Apply](#)

DATA 2000 Waiver Training Payment Program

In June of this year, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) launched an effort to improve access to substance use disorder treatment by paying for providers who are waived to prescribe buprenorphine, a medication used to treat opioid use disorder. Rural Health Clinics still have the opportunity to apply for a \$3,000 payment on behalf of each provider who trained to obtain the waiver necessary to prescribe buprenorphine after January 1, 2019. Approximately \$1.5 million in program funding remains available for RHCs and will be paid on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

Send questions to DATA2000WaiverPayments@hrsa.gov. There is ongoing availability of a [free online course for waiver eligibility training](#) from the American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine and the Providers Clinical Support System.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



USDA Farm to School Grants

Application Deadline: Monday, January 10, 2022

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will make 200 awards of up to \$500,000 each for planning, developing, and implementing programs that bring local foods to schools. The National School Lunch Act calls for equal distribution of grants in rural, tribal, and urban communities.

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

