December Newsletter

Wishing you a very Happy Holidays!

From the Virginia State Office of Rural Health!

Community Spotlight

United Way of Southwest Virginia Launches Ready SWVA: A Hub & Spoke Model

The Ready SWVA model will:

- Develop 5 new high-quality, affordable childcare centers utilizing partnerships,
- Develop a regional workforce of professional, credentialed early childhood educators,
- Support regional economic development strategies to attract new talent, young families, and higher-paying jobs,
- Support entrepreneurs in Southwest Virginia by developing an emerging industry sector as a sustainable small business with support from a shared services alliance, and
- Provide long-term outcomes of a healthy, appropriately educated and trained, financially stable workforce through high-quality curriculum preparing young students for school success.

Ready SWVA Project Form

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
- Supporting Testing Access through Community Collaboration STACC (free test kits)

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
- 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 Updated Toolkit: COVID-19 Booster Messaging and Outreach Tools
- Reaching Farm Communities for Vaccine Confidence
- Community Toolkit for Addressing Health Misinformation
- NEW HHS COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot Resources

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
- CDC Tracking Rural Vaccination Rates (Data Tracker)
- NEW Last Day for RHCs to Spend COVID-19 Testing Funds – December 31

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Join our team- we're hiring!

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Division of Primary Care and Rural Health is currently hiring for three Public Health Program Coordinators. Please click on the "Job Announcement" button below to download a PDF that includes a job description, list of qualifications, special requirements, and how to apply for the position.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to Sarah O'Connor at **sarah.oconnor@vdh.virginia.gov** with the subject line "Public Health Program Coordinator, Division of PC&RH".

Job Announcement

VA-SORH Job Announcements Web Page

RHIhub Topic Guide: Applying for Grants to Support Rural Health Projects

This recently updated topic guide can help you get started with writing grants and raising funds. It includes a new FAQ on designing a needs statement that showcases your community assets.

For More Information

Virginia Medicaid is removing its final barrier to treatment for hepatitis C

"Beginning in January, Virginia Medicaid will eliminate its final restriction to the treatment of hepatitis C — the need for providers to receive prior authorization for the medication... Experts say expanded access is vital to treating a virus largely driven by the opioid epidemic."

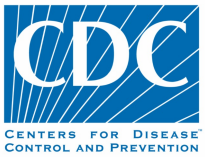
The article by Kate Masters, of the Virginia Mercury, consults several rural stakeholders.

To Read the Full Article

Research Brief: LGBTQ Youth in Small Towns and Rural Areas

This research brief, published last month, reports findings of a national survey of LGBTQ youth comparing urban and rural responses related to mental health, risk of depression, and considered or attempted suicide.

For More Information



CDC Seeking Public Input on Work-Related Stress for Health Workers

Comment Submission Deadline: Tuesday, January 25, 2022

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) seeks information on best and promising practices for the positive mental health and well-being of health workers. The feedback will be used to inform interventions under development by the CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

For More Information

Governor Northam Announces Virginia Deploys $2 Billion to Achieve Near-Universal Broadband

This plan relies on a combination of state, federal, local, and private-sector investments that Virginia has accelerated over the past four years.

Governor Ralph Northam last week announced new grants that will advance Virginia 90% to the goal of achieving universal access to broadband and high-speed internet, placing Virginia on track to being one of the first states successfully charting a path to universal access to broadband.

For More Information

Rural Midwives Fill Gap as Hospitals Cut Childbirth Services

Reports on the increased demand for rural midwives nationwide as some hospitals have had to suspend or reduce obstetric services due to financial and workforce challenges. Notes that midwives attend under 10% of hospital births in urban areas and 30% in rural areas, and describes the ongoing maternal healthcare access issues in rural areas.

For More Information

Upcoming Conferences & Meetings

Mental Health First Aid Training

January 7, 2022 from 6-8 PM ET and January 8, 2022 from 9 AM to 12 PM ET

Recover Fest 2021 organizers in partnership with the Virginia Rural Health Association is inviting the community to a FREE Mental Health First Aid Training. This event is open to those of all ages and from all walks of life, with our focus being on Virginia residents. Internet access is needed, and it is preferred that cameras are on during the training.

For More Information and to Register

Rural Health Policy Institute

February 8-10, 2022

Advocate with colleagues on Capitol Hill! The National Rural Health Association's (NRHA) 33rd Annual Rural Health Policy Institute is your chance to guide the future of rural health policy with NRHA leadership and advocate for issues you care about with new and returning members of Congress and the administration

To Register

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

The VA-SORH Innovative Rural Programming Awards application cycle for grant year 2022-2023 is now open!

Application Deadline: Friday, February 4, 2022 at 5 PM ET

For 30 years, the VA-SORH has provided funding that bridges small, rural communities to state and federal resources with the goal of developing long-term solutions to address the root causes of rural health disparities. One way the VA-SORH accomplishes this goal is by awarding funds to grant sub-recipients or "grantees". Each grantee utilizes funding to implement innovative

programming in rural communities across the Commonwealth.

For More Information and to Apply

Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grant

Application Deadline: Monday, February 14, 2022

The purpose of this program is to recruit and train EMS personnel in rural areas with a particular focus on addressing mental and substance use disorders. SAMHSA recognizes the great need for emergency services in rural areas and the critical role EMS personnel serve across the country.

Eligibility is statutorily limited to rural emergency medical service agencies operated by a local or tribal government (fire-based and non-fire based) and non-profit emergency medical service agencies.

For More Information and to Apply

IHS Health Professions Extern Program

Application Deadline: Friday, December 31, 2021

The Indian Health Service (IHS) offers scholarship recipients, the opportunity to participate in a hands-on instructive experience that will complement the knowledge and skills developed in school. This experience will help to enhance pre-professional training, while also familiarizing yourself with Native communities that are of interest to you when you begin your health professions career.

For More Information

HHS Family Planning Services Grants

Application Deadline: Tuesday, January 11, 2022

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) expects to make 90 awards with total funding of $256 million to provide comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services for low-income and/or uninsured individuals. Medically approved services include methods to prevent or assist pregnancy; infertility services; pregnancy testing and counseling; and education, testing, and referral for sexually transmitted infection. Target populations for the program are people who live in rural areas, underserved ethnic/racial minorities, LGBTQ+ persons, and individuals affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

For More Information

Gather Food Sovereignty Grant

Application Deadline: Thursday, January 13, 2022

Support work contributing to building a national movement that will fulfill a vision of Native communities and food systems that are self-directed, well-resourced and supported by

community policies and systems. This opportunity is targeting emerging projects that focus on developing Tribal Food Sovereignty. In this round of the Gather Food Sovereignty Grant, First Nations expects to award up to seven grants averaging $32,000 to support Native American-led food sovereignty work.

For More Information and to Apply

Clinical Workforce Development Training, Technical Assistance, and Learning Collaboratives for FQHCs

Application Deadline: Friday, January 14, 2022

A model of free technical and training assistance to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) across the United States. This free training and technical assistance is data driven, cutting edge and focused on quality and operational improvement to support health centers and look-alikes.

For More Information

Harm Reduction Program Grant

Application Deadline: Monday, February 7, 2022

The purpose of the program is to support community-based overdose prevention programs, syringe services programs, and other harm reduction services.

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

Visit our website