



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

### Community Spotlight

#### 2021 Governor's EMS Awards

Several rural organizations and individuals received 2021 Governor's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Awards last month during the 41st Annual Virginia EMS Symposium!



[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](#).

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## 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](#)

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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](#)
- [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 Updated Toolkit: COVID-19 Booster Messaging and Outreach Tools](#)
- **NEW** [Reaching Farm Communities for Vaccine Confidence](#)
- **NEW** [Community Toolkit for Addressing Health Misinformation](#)
- **NEW** ["Provider Strategies to Boost COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence" webinar 12/9/21 from 12:00-1:30 PM ET with HRSA](#)

## 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** [CDC Tracking Rural Vaccination Rates \(Data Tracker\)](#)

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## 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](mailto:sarah.oconnor@vdh.virginia.gov) with the subject line "Public Health Program Coordinator, Division of PC&RH".

## WE'RE HIRING!

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION OF PRIMARY CARE & RURAL HEALTH



[Job Announcement](#)

[VA-SORH Job Announcements Web Page](#)

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### Addressing Rural Co-Morbidities of Mental Health and Social Conditions

This three-part webinar series will review practices that providers can utilize to support rural populations presenting with a variety of co-morbid conditions.

- Part One: Employing Treatment and Environmental Interventions to Support Rural Populations
- Part Two: Supporting Rural Aging Populations
- Part Three: Using Faith Supports to Increase Mental Health in Rural Communities

[For More Information](#)

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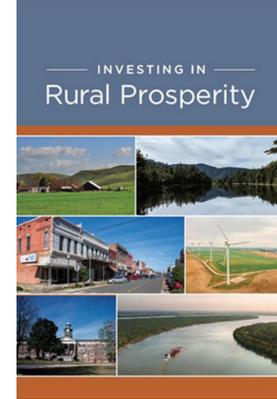
### Investing in Rural Prosperity

*Investing in Rural Prosperity* seeks to help rural communities achieve

shared economic prosperity by outlining a new framework for how to approach rural development successfully, showcasing stories of progress in different communities, and highlighting recommendations for action by policymakers, practitioners, funders, and researchers.

The book – available free of charge electronically or in hard copy – includes contributions from 79 authors in the United States and abroad, representing financial institutions, nonprofits, philanthropies, academia, and government agencies. The chapters touch on a wide range of topics, including entrepreneurship support, workforce development, energy efficient manufactured housing, and digital inclusion.

The book delves into the challenges of our past and the promise of our future. Ultimately, *Investing in Rural Prosperity* is a call to action, so we can realize that promise— together.



[For More Information](#)

## Transition of the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program into the Affordable Connectivity Program

**Initial comments deadline: Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

**Reply comments deadline: Tuesday, December 28, 2021**



The new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act modifies and extends the **Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program)** into a longer-term effort to increase access to broadband called the Affordable Connectivity Program. The FCC is seeking comments from the public on program requirements, impact of changes on providers and communities, and a timeline for rapid implementation. (See section IV, Filing Requirements, on page 55.)

[FCC Public Notice](#)



## “Rural America at a Glance: 2021 Edition”

This report provides an overview of social and economic factors affecting rural America, with a focus on the resiliency and recovery of rural communities following the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes data on population and employment changes, infection rates, and broadband internet access and adoption, as well as persistent poverty.

[For More Information](#)

## President Biden Announces New Actions to Protect Americans Against the Delta and Omicron Variants as We Battle COVID-19 this Winter



This plan includes expanding free at-home testing for through neighborhood sites such as health centers and rural clinics.

"To ensure equitable access to free at-home tests for our uninsured and underserved communities, the President will double the commitment from September to distribute 25 million free tests to community sites to 50 million tests and will add rural clinics to the program. Partnerships with trusted community providers will aid in getting these important testing supplies

into the homes of our hardest-hit communities."

[For More Information](#)

### Download Free Resources from the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation

The following links lead to resources that the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation can provide for clinics and Virginians in need throughout the state.

- [Educational Materials](#)
- [Newly Diagnosed Kit](#)
- [Survivorship Packets](#)
- [E-Newsletter](#)
- [Advocacy Alerts](#)



[For More Information](#)

## Upcoming Conferences & Meetings

### Economic Development Infrastructure: A Hub & Spoke Model

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021 from 10 AM to 1 PM ET**



United Way of  
Southwest Virginia

For the last several years, United Way of Southwest Virginia has been working with educators, employers and community leaders to make it easier for employers to find skilled workers, and for students to find good jobs. We've seen the unlimited potential with our own eyes.

Join United Way of SWVA and key stakeholders from business, education, government, economic development, and workforce development to visualize the future and discuss multiple opportunities to make a lasting impact in the Southwest Virginia region. Leaders from multiple sectors will explore localized solutions for a proposed regional plan.

[For More Information and to Register](#)



presented by  
**CEARH**  
Center for Economic Analysis of Rural Health

### Economic Development for Health Care Leaders, Part One

**Wednesday, December 8, at 3:00 PM ET**

NOSORH and the Center for Economic Analysis of Rural Health (CEARH) invite you to join the first of two economic development webinars for rural health care leaders. In Economic Development for Health Care Leaders, Part One, we will explore the basics of economic development (ED): what it is, why communities "do" ED, and the primary stakeholders who are involved in ED efforts. ED efforts aim to create new primary jobs that pay more than the prevailing wage, increase the amount of income coming into the community from outside its market area, and create greater capital investment in the community.

[For More Information](#)

[To Register](#)

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

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## 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



The deadline to submit your application for one of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Programs has been extended!

**EXTENDED Application Deadline: Thursday, February 3 at 7:30 PM ET**

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

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USDA Begins Accepting Applications for \$1.15 Billion in Loans and Grants to Help People Living in Rural Communities Get Access to High-Speed Internet

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, February 22, 2022**



The Broadband ReConnect Program furnishes loans and grants to provide funds for the costs of

construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas. The application window for the third round of funding is now open.

[For More Information](#)



## Strengthening Disability Inclusion Efforts within Local Health Departments

**Application Deadline: Monday, December 20, 2021**

NACCHO, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Division of Human Development and Disability, is pleased to provide funding for the **Strengthening Disability Inclusion Efforts within Local Health Departments** demonstration site project. The goal of this project is to enhance local capacity to meet the needs of people with disabilities within health department programs, policies, and services.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

## Predoctoral Training in General, Pediatric, and Public Health Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

**Application Deadline: Monday, February 7, 2022**

The purpose of this program is to improve the oral health of vulnerable, underserved, or rural populations by enhancing the ability of oral health care trainees' (predoctoral dental, dental hygiene, other approved public health dentistry trainees) ability to care for populations and individuals with medically complex conditions, special and behavioral health care needs, and focus on patient-centered care, so that students gain a better understanding of the social determinants of health and their impact on oral and systemic health.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

## Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program

**Application Deadline: Monday, February 7, 2022**

Grants to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives that provide supportive services for very low-income veterans and their families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing. Supportive services grants will be equitably distributed across geographic regions, including rural communities and tribal lands.



[For More Information](#)

**The 2022 Virginia Rural Leadership Institute  
Application is now open!**



**Virginia Rural Leadership Institute**  
PRESENTED BY THE VIRGINIA RURAL CENTER

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, March 15, 2022**

The Rural Leadership Institute (RLI) presented by the Virginia Rural Center is a rural leadership program that develops and supports highly-skilled, highly-motivated leaders who are committed revitalizing their communities across the Commonwealth.

[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](#)