



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

## Community Spotlight

### Grad and Southwest Virginia native returns home to practice rural medicine

Courtney Dawson is following in the footsteps of her mentor and fellow VCU alum R. Randolph Duffer. Dawson, will care for the patients of her mentor Duffer, after his retirement from his rural family medicine practice in Gretna, Virginia.



For more information, please read the article by Nicole Van Esselstyn linked below.

[To Read the Full Article](#)

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](#).



## VA-SORH Announcements

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](#)

## Join our team- we're hiring!

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Division of Primary Care and Rural Health is currently hiring for two 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.

## WE'RE HIRING!

VDH DIVISION OF PRIMARY CARE & RURAL HEALTH



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".

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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](#)
- [Supporting Testing Access through Community Collaboration STACC](#) (free test kits)
- **NEW** [Mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinics](#) part of VDH efforts to reach rural, underserved areas

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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"](#)
- [PHCC Updated Toolkit: COVID-19 Booster Messaging and Outreach Tools](#)
- [Reaching Farm Communities for Vaccine Confidence](#)
- [Community Toolkit for Addressing Health Misinformation](#)
- **updated** [HHS COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot Resources](#)
- **NEW** [COVID-19 Vaccination Field Guide Addendum: Rural Considerations for Vaccine Confidence and Uptake Strategies](#)
- **NEW** [Shareable Graphic: What Mask Should I Wear?](#)

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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](#)
- [CDC COVIDVaxView: A Data Dashboard](#)
- [CDC Tracking Rural Vaccination Rates \(Data Tracker\)](#)

- **NEW** Coverage Available for At-Home COVID-19 Tests
- **NEW** CDC Updated Guidelines on Quarantine and Isolation

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## Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

### Virginia to Outfit Every EMS Agency With the Handtevy System

After an extensive evaluation process, the Virginia Department of Health, Office of EMS, has chosen to outfit all of their EMS units with the Handtevy resuscitation system of lifesaving tools. Handtevy will empower Virginia EMS agencies to consistently deliver the highest quality emergency care to approximately 8.6 million residents.



Virginia's decision to utilize Handtevy across the Commonwealth as their go-to, frontline, lifesaving tool will undoubtedly lead to many additional lives saved each year.

[For More Information](#)



### Report: Only a Fraction of Eligible Households Signed up for Emergency Broadband Benefit Service

Experts say the enrollment numbers are "reasonable," but more should be done to promote the program.

[To Read the Full Report](#)

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### FCC Affordable Connectivity Program

Throughout the pandemic, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has guided a federal program, the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program) that provided low-cost internet connection for individuals and households. The EBB was replaced on December 31, 2021 with the Affordable Connectivity Program. Eligible households may receive a monthly discount on internet service and one-time discount on a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer.



[For More Information](#)

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### Rural Healthy People 2030: Challenges and Opportunities for the New Decade

#### Deadline to Complete the Survey: Monday, February 14, 2022

Do you live or work in rural communities? The Southwest Rural Health Research Center at Texas A&M University wants to hear from individuals who live or work in rural communities for a 20-minute survey on the most important Healthy People 2030 objectives for rural health. The last day to complete the survey is February 14th. The project is supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy through its Rural Health Research Centers program. Please reach out to Tim Callaghan, [callaghan@tamu.edu](mailto:callaghan@tamu.edu), if you have any questions.

## United Way of Southwest Virginia Named Lead Organization For Ready Region



United Way of Southwest Virginia was named the lead organization for Ready Region Southwest by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF). Ready Regions is a new way of approaching early childhood care and education across the Commonwealth and the program will benefit from United Way of Southwest Virginia's years of early childhood experience in the region. Ready Regions coincides with the Ready SWVA initiative announced by United Way of Southwest Virginia on December 8, 2021, with both programs working to bring high-quality, affordable, and easily-accessible childcare to all 21 localities in the service area of United Way of Southwest Virginia.

[For More Information](#)

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## Upcoming Conferences & Meetings

### Free Recovery Ally Training

**Wednesday, January 26, 2022 from 1-4 PM ET (Virtual)**



Northwestern Prevention Collaborative is offering a free, virtual Recovery Ally training. This training, developed at Virginia Commonwealth University, is designed to increase a community's recovery capital, decrease stigma and grow intervention skills. It offers a basic overview of the science of addiction and addresses what an ally does.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

**National Rural Health Association**

**Rural Health Policy Institute**

**February 8-10, 2022**

**NRHA will host 2022 Rural Health Policy Institute virtually.**

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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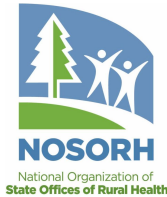
### 2022 Investing in Rural America Conference

**Wednesday, March 30, 2022**



Save the date! The 2022 Investing in Rural America Conference will be hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, March 30, 2022. This event will be a Hybrid Event (In-Person and Virtual), in Greensboro, North Carolina. More details

to come.



## National Rural EMS & Care Conference 2022

**April 19-20, 2022**

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), and the Joint Committee on Rural Emergency Care (JCREC) invite you to partner with us to bring meaningful education to the National Rural EMS & Care Conference in 2022.

[For More Information](#)

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## State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

### Affordable Housing for Rural Veterans Initiative

**Application Deadline: Friday, January 21, 2022 by 4 PM ET**



Funding for "bricks and mortar" projects that assist low-income, elderly, and disabled veterans with home repair needs, support homeless veterans, help veterans become homeowners, and/or secure affordable rental housing in rural areas of the United States.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



### Expanded Eligibility Allows More Rural Clinicians to Qualify for Loan Repayment

**Application Deadline: Thursday, February 3, 2022 by 7:30 PM ET**

Find out which program is right for you, and apply to one of the three loan repayment programs. Last application cycle, every eligible NHSC applicant received an award regardless of HPSA score.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

### Emergency Medicine Foundation Health Disparities Research Grant



**Proposal Submission Deadline: Friday, February 4, 2022**

Grants for research to improve healthcare access, delivery, utilization, quality, and outcomes of those affected by health disparities. Proposals are encouraged to propose or lay the groundwork for emergency department-based interventions that produce actionable evidence and/or reproducible findings to improve health outcomes for disparities groups.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



**Application Deadline: Friday, February 18, 2022**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is seeking partnerships with public health agencies and tribal and nongovernmental organizations to serve as host sites for the Public Health Associate Program (PHAP). PHAP is a paid training program funded by the CDC where associates gain hands-on experience across a variety of public health settings. Applicants from rural areas are strongly encouraged.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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## Rural Health and Economic Development Analysis



**Application Deadline: Friday, March 8, 2022**

The purpose of this program is to quantify and describe the economic impacts of local health care sectors on rural economies to provide information which will assist policy makers and other rural stakeholders to improve health care in rural areas. Research and analysis funded by RHEDAP will focus on quantifying the relationship between health care and economic factors in rural communities, particularly the economic impact of rural health care services, to provide information to improve health care in rural areas.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



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

**Virginia Rural Leadership Institute**

**Application Deadline: March 15, 2022**

The vision of the Rural Leadership Institute is to retain, attract, and develop rural Virginians into innovative, responsible, and civic minded leaders who build strong local and regional communities; bringing rural prosperity across the entire Commonwealth.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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## Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program (RMOMS)



**Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 5, 2022**

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is pleased to announce the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program (RMOMS) is open on grants.gov (announcement number: HRSA-22-115). A total of \$5 million is anticipated to fund up to five health networks in this cooperative agreement program.

A live technical assistance webinar is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 26, 2022 from 1:00-2:00 PM ET** to assist applicants in preparing their applications. The webinar will be recorded and playback information can be accessed at the [RMOMS webpage](#).

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

[Link to Webinar](#)

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

