



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

Community Spotlight

"Local Dairy Queen manager known for heart of gold"

Todd Dunn, the district manager of three Dairy Queen restaurants in Abingdon and Bristol, Virginia, is known for his extreme generosity. Dunn has inspired both his coworkers and customers to join him in his countless acts of kindness. Read more about what Dunn is doing for his community in the article 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](#)

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
- HHS COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot Resources
- **NEW** PHCC updated FAQ "Omicron and other variants"

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** Reducing Missed Opportunities with Routine Vaccinations and Incorporating Preventative Screenings Strategies (1/11 from 12 PM to 1 PM ET)
- **NEW** Webinar: Protecting Ag Employees from Infectious Disease Including New COVID19 Variants (1/13 at 10 AM ET)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities



Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Final Rule with Comment Period (CMS-1752-FC3)

Deadline to submit comments: Friday, February 25, 2022

On December 17, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule with comment period to implement the legislative changes to Medicare direct graduate medical education (DGME) and indirect medical education (IME) payments to teaching hospitals that were contained in sections 126, 127, and 131 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub.L. 116-260, December 27, 2020). In addition, this final rule with comment period solicits comments on the following issues to inform potential future rulemaking:

- How to account for health care provided outside of a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) to HPSA residents, and feasible alternatives to HPSA scores as a proxy for health

- disparities in the prioritization of additional full-time equivalent (FTE) cap slots; and
- The review process to determine eligibility for per resident amount (PRA) or FTE cap resets in situations where a hospital disagrees with the information on cost reports that are no longer within the three-year reopening period.

[For More Information](#)



Veteran Oral Health: Expanding Access and Equity

Report discusses the oral health disparities and barriers to access for veterans. Features data pertaining to the oral health status of rural veterans and explores oral health coverage among veterans.

[To Read the Full Report](#)

Growing Rural Outreach through Veteran Engagement (GROVE)

The Center for Growing Rural Outreach through Veteran Engagement (GROVE) is a novel resource for HSR&D researchers who want to use engagement methodology in their projects. GROVE develops capacity and resources for VA researchers and staff to be more inclusive of rural Veteran populations and to serve as a resource center to support projects interested in including Veteran engagement in their methods.



[For More Information](#)



"Aging in Place in Rural America: Challenges, Opportunities, and Policy Initiatives" webinar

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 1:00 PM ET

This webinar will present results from a range of studies investigating challenges, opportunities, and policy implications for older adults aging in place living in rural areas. Results are drawn from nationally representative survey data, a content analysis of state-level policies and initiatives, and a survey of representatives of state offices of rural health.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

2021 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report



For the 19th year, AHRQ is reporting on healthcare quality and disparities. The annual National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report is mandated by Congress to provide a comprehensive overview of the quality of healthcare received by the general U.S. population and disparities in care experienced by different racial and socioeconomic groups. The report is produced with the help of an Interagency Work Group led by AHRQ.

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



Call for Speaker Proposals: National Rural EMS & Care Conference 2022

April 19-20, 2022

Deadline to Submit Proposals: Friday, January 14, 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.

You're invited to submit a proposal(s) to present rural innovations, research findings, model programs, resources, and projects to help EMS stakeholder attendees address the needs of rural communities to prepare for the future.

For More Information



National Rural Health Association

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

Scholarship Opportunity: NARHC Certified Rural Health Clinic Professional (CRHCP) Online Course

Registration Opens: January 17, 2022

The National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) offers a Certified Rural Health Clinic Professional (CRHCP) course twice a year (Spring & Fall). The course educates RHC Clinic Managers, Directors, and other staff on the best practices for operating a successful RHC.



Rural health clinic personnel interested in receiving a scholarship for the CRHCP course should reach out to the Virginia State Office of Rural Health. Contact information can be found near the bottom of the [VA-SORH "Who We Are" webpage](#).

[For More Information](#)



Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program

Application Deadline: Monday, January 31, 2022

The purpose of the Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program is to increase the knowledge of agricultural science and improve the nutritional health of children. The program's goal is to increase the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as school cafeterias and classrooms, while fostering higher levels of community engagement between farms and school systems by bringing together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system. The initiative is part of a broader effort to not only increase access to school meals for low-income children, but also to dramatically improve their quality.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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](#)



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](#)

Application Deadline: Friday, March 18, 2021

The purpose of this program is to expand public health capacity by supporting health care job development, training and placement in rural and tribal communities. The expected impact of this program is to enhance clinical and operational capacity in order to adequately address the population health needs of rural communities affected by COVID-19.

[For More Information](#)

Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program

Application Deadline: Monday, March 21, 2022

The purpose of this program is to support the planning and implementation of quality improvement activities for rural primary care providers or providers of health care services, such as critical access hospitals (CAH), rural health clinics (RHC), or a network of rural health providers, serving rural residents. The goal of the Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program is to promote the development of a quality improvement culture and the delivery of cost-effective, coordinated, culturally appropriate, and equitable health care services in rural primary care settings.

[For More Information](#)



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