



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

Community Spotlight

Bringing Telehealth to Rescue Squad Stations in Patrick County



People in Patrick County may now access healthcare from their nearest rescue squad station thanks to [a grant from the State Office of Rural Health](#). While in its early stages, the program will hopefully enable people to have telehealth visits with specialists from all over the country without the need to travel. For more information call Caring Hearts Free Clinic at (276) 694-3410 or Patrick County Family Practice at (276) 694-4466.

[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](#).

VA-SORH Announcements

Join our team- we're hiring!

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Division of Primary Care and Rural Health is currently hiring for three positions; a part-time Rural Health Policy Analyst and 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 each position.



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

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
 - COVID-19 Vaccination Field Guide Addendum: Rural Considerations for Vaccine Confidence and Uptake Strategies
-

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)
 - Coverage Available for At-Home COVID-19 Tests
 - CDC Updated Guidelines on Quarantine and Isolation
 - **NEW** HRSA Rural Health Clinic (RHC) COVID-19 Test Kit Program
 - **NEW** Medicare Coverage for Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Tests
-

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities



Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc.

Eastern Shore Rural Health Dental Program Expands to Reach More Shore Residents

Dental screenings will begin in early February as part of the new Northampton County Public Schools dental program partnership. Information collected will be used to assess the oral health status of all NCPS children as well as connect children with urgent needs with care. Next, portable dental equipment will be deployed through Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc.'s Traveling Oral Health Prevention Program, or TOPS, to offer care to prevent dental disease. Finally, permanent dental offices will be established at each of the NCPS' three public schools that will provide both preventive care and treat children with existing dental disease. The NCPS program

will be modeled after the Accomack County Public Schools school dental program.

[To Read the Full Article](#)

These middle school students could change the way packages are delivered in Virginia

The St. Bridget Middle School Robotics Team came up with the idea "Bus Boxes," as part of their innovation project to help transport Amazon packages to rural areas on school buses. Now, their idea is making its way through the Virginia General Assembly.



[To Read the Full Article](#)

A New Era of Health Literacy? Expanded Definitions, Digital Influences, and Rural Inequities

by Kay Miller Temple, MD

The priority for rural population health is access, including access to health information needed to make personal health decisions. Two of the nation's health literacy experts join a federal agency official to review current rural challenges of accessing health information that is clear and usable. Along with an exploration of digital health literacy, recently expanded definitions of health literacy are discussed.

[For More Information](#)



Rural-Urban Differences in Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences: Results from the National Survey of Children's Health

The Rural and Minority Health Research Center (formerly the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center) Examines the types and counts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and positive childhood experiences (PCEs) for rural and urban children ages 6-17. Also reports on the differences between rural and urban ACEs and PCEs across 50 states and the District of Columbia. Features demographics with breakdowns by urban and rural location.

[For More Information](#)

Q&A: Beth Macy on her Journey from Paper Girl to Hard-Hitting Opioid Journalist

Virginia author, Beth Macy, sat down with The Daily Yonder to talk about her journalism career and the nation's reception of her 2018 book Dopesick, which was recently adapted to a mini-series on Hulu.



[To Read the Full Article](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars

HRSA Health Equity Series: Advancing Health Equity in the Hispanic Community



Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 1:00 PM ET

The third in a four-part series, this session will focus on barriers to digital health literacy and identify best practices and resources. The webinar will be broadcast in Spanish with live language interpretation to English.

[For More Information and to Register](#)



2022 Virginia Patient Safety Summit

Thursday, February 24, 2022 from 9:30 AM-3:30 PM ET

This virtual educational activity will focus on reviewing efforts in Virginia to address health care staff burnout and well-being as a continuation of the 2021 Virginia Patient Safety Summit's exploration of the extraordinary stress placed on health systems and frontline staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is NO cost to participate in this event, but registration is required by 5 PM Monday, February 21, 2022.

[For More Information and to Register](#)



Virginia Public Health Association 2022 Annual Conference & Research Day

Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM ET

The 2022 VPHA Conference & Research Day, "Rural Health in Virginia: Food Insecurity, Health Equity, Rural Education, Healthcare Access" will include speakers, networking opportunities, and poster presentations. Keynote speaker is VRHA Executive Director, Beth O'Connor. The conference will be held at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Virtual participation also available.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

2022 Investing in Rural America Conference

Wednesday, March 30, 2022



The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond will host a one-day event featuring national experts and local leaders on the forefront of rural economic and workforce development initiatives. This year's conference will feature panels and speakers discussing workforce development, locally-driven economic development, rural development hubs, early care and education, workforce housing, and demographic changes in rural America. This event will be a Hybrid Event (In-Person and Virtual), in Greensboro, North Carolina.

[For More Information and to Register](#)



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](#)

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

Indigenous Public Health Leadership Program

Application Deadline: Monday, February 21, 2022 by 5:00 PM ET

The Indigenous Public Health Leadership Program is a leadership training institute for emerging public health leaders working within a tribal department of health (DOH) or in Indian Health Service/Tribal/Urban (I/T/U) healthcare facilities serving American Indian and Alaskan Native Communities. The program is 6-months long (March-August 2022) and provides training in core public health competencies with a focus on key issues impacting tribal communities including mental health and resilience, emergency preparedness, and increased communication and collaboration amongst stakeholders.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Rural Development Broadband ReConnect Program



Application Deadline: Tuesday, February 22, 2022

The ReConnect Loan and Grant 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. In facilitating the expansion of broadband services and infrastructure, the Program will fuel long-term economic development and opportunities in rural America.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship Program

Application Deadline: Monday, February 28, 2022

Scholarships for medical students approaching their final year of medical school. Scholarship awards are made under 7 national and 4 regional categories, including scholarships for students underrepresented in medicine (such as Native Americans/Native Hawaiians/Alaska Natives) and students committed to addressing health equity for underserved populations and economically disadvantaged areas.

[For More Information](#)

Virginia Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) Grant Program

Application Deadline: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 5:00 PM ET



The financial assistance for Emergency Medical Services Grants Program, known as the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) is a multi-million dollar grant program for Virginia non-profit EMS agencies and organizations. Items eligible for funding include EMS equipment and vehicles, computers, EMS management programs, courses/classes and projects benefiting the recruitment and retention of EMS members.

[For More Information](#)



Appalachian INvestments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE) Initiative

Required Letter of Intent: Thursday, March 3, 2022
Application Deadline: Thursday, March 24, 2022

INSPIRE is a \$10 million initiative addressing the substance use disorder crisis by creating or expanding a recovery ecosystem that will lead to workforce entry or re-entry. Successful projects will support the post-treatment to employment continuum, which could include investments in healthcare networks that support substance use disorder recovery professionals, recovery-focused job training programs, as well as initiatives designed to coordinate, or link, recovery services and training that support the recovery ecosystem, among others.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Connecting Kids to Coverage HEALTHY KIDS 2022 Outreach and Enrollment Cooperative Agreement program

Application Deadline: Monday, March 28, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET



The Connecting Kids to Coverage HEALTHY KIDS 2022 Outreach and Enrollment Cooperative Agreements program provides funding opportunities to reduce the number of children who are eligible for, but not enrolled in, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and to improve retention of eligible children who are enrolled in the programs.

The HEALTHY KIDS Act 2022 NOFO will make \$49.4 million available, ranging between \$500,000 to \$1.5 million per awardee for a three-year period of performance, to fund efforts to increase the participation of eligible children, parents, and pregnant individuals in Medicaid and CHIP. This is the largest amount of funding CMS has ever made available for these outreach and enrollment awards.

[For More Information](#)

Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program

Application Deadline: Monday, March 31, 2022

The purpose of the THCGME Program is to support the training of residents in primary care residency training programs in community-based ambulatory patient care centers. Programs will prepare residents to provide high quality care, particularly in rural and underserved communities, and develop competencies to serve these diverse populations and communities

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

**National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT)
Diversity Scholarships**



Application Deadline: Thursday, March 31, 2022

Scholarships for students of color who do not hold an EMS certification but who intend to become an EMT or paramedic. The overall goal of the scholarship program is to promote the development of greater diversity in the EMS workforce so that the workforce reflects the communities they serve.

[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](#)

