

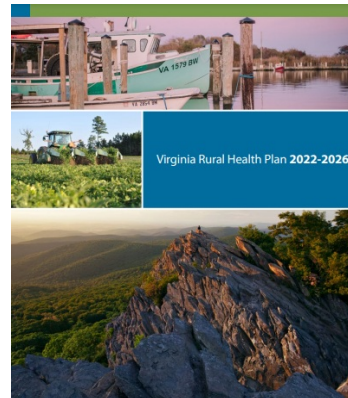


Greetings from the Virginia Primary Care Office & the State Office of Rural Health!

Introducing the Virginia Rural Health Plan 2022-2026!

The Virginia State Office of Rural Health is excited to announce the release of the Virginia Rural Health Plan 2022-2026 (VRHP). The goal of this working action plan is to showcase the resiliency and highlight the assets of the Commonwealth's rural communities.

With the intention of bringing the VRHP to life, the **Rural Health Data Commons** was created. The purposes of the Rural Health Data Commons are to amplify the understanding of priority metrics and provide opportunities for a variety of audiences to explore current data insights in their region, communities or neighborhoods. Currently, the Rural Health Data Commons features the Virginia State Office of Rural Health's seven priority metrics identified in the VRHP. These metrics aim to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the overall health and well-being of Virginia's rural communities.



Virginia State Office of Rural Health
Virginia Department of Health

[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

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.

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".

WE'RE HIRING!

VDH DIVISION OF PRIMARY CARE & RURAL HEALTH



[Job Announcement](#)

[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](#)
- [Shareable Graphic: What Mask Should I Wear?](#)

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

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

"Rural Community Health Initiative: Compendium of Best Practices"



Presents a collection of community-based health initiatives, including a school health initiative, a COVID-19 vaccine outreach and education program, and telehealth consortia, among others. Describes successful outcomes and sources of funding for each program.

The report features three Virginia programs:

- Four Oxen's "Rural health equity and COVID-19 vaccine access across the digital divide in Virginia"
- Eastern Shore Telehealth Consortium (ESTC)
- Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance's "Rural telehealth consortium including school, community, hospital, and behavioral health projects"

[For More Information](#)



United Way of
Southwest Virginia

"Child Care is a Key to Southwest Virginia's Economic Opportunity"

United Way of Southwest Virginia President and CEO Travis Staton wrote about child care in SWVA and what it could mean in terms of economic opportunity for the region Bristol Herald Courier "Guest View" column.

[To Read the Full Article](#)

Benefits of a Telehealth Approach to Treating Mental Illness among Veterans in Rural Settings



Details a study on the VA's use of telemedicine to provide mental healthcare to rural veterans. Focuses on underserved veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), especially women with military sexual trauma (MST). Includes feedback from veterans on their experience with tele-mental health treatment.

[For More Information](#)

NRHA Rural Health Advocacy Guide

NRHA's goal is to connect rural health stakeholders to help members of Congress, the executive

branch, and federal staff understand what is needed to improve rural health and health care. NRHA created this guide to help members more effectively amplify their voices through the information and tools provided by the association and make the most of every opportunity to educate Capitol Hill on the power of rural.

[For More Information](#)

Long COVID and Fatiguing Illness Recovery Program Webinar Series

Family Health Centers of San Diego, the ECHO Institute, University of Washington and University of Colorado have collaborated to provide a CDC-funded monthly learning session. The aim of the webinar-style program is to rapidly disseminate post-acute Sequelae of COVID-19 and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome findings and emerging best practices.



This large-scale national monthly ECHO webinar series will offer didactic presentations by subject matter experts, examples of emerging best practices and models of care and a facilitated Q&A.

[For More Information and to Register](#)



Health Workforce: Biden-Harris Administration 2021 HRSA Highlights

Fact sheet describing the Health Resources & Services Administration's efforts to support the health workforce and promote health equity. Includes descriptions of funding opportunities and efforts to promote expansion of graduate medical education programs in rural and underserved areas.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars

HRSA-NETRC 2022 Telehealth Tuesday Webinar Series: The Role of Telehealth in Expanding Access to Care and Social Services

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 from 12:00-1:00 PM ET



The rapid expansion of telehealth services to access health care during the COVID19 pandemic raised concerns of widening gaps in health equity among populations at risk. This 4-part webinar series will address these concerns by identifying barriers and by highlighting sustainable models that have reduced inequalities and improved health outcomes. Presenters will describe the role of telehealth and what staffing, programmatic, and process changes have been implemented to increase access to health care, and social services.

This webinar is a close collaboration between HRSA IEA Region 1 and the Northeast Telehealth Resource Center. The series' goal is to highlight sustainable models of telehealth and best practices to increase access to health care and reduce health disparities. The PowerPoint presentations of The Role of Telehealth in Expanding Access to Health Care and Social Services webinar series will be e-mailed to all participants.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

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](#)

Advancing Health Equity among Hispanic/Latino Populations

Session #3: Improving Digital Health Literacy among Hispanic/Latino Populations



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

This four-part series will include didactic portions on selected topics as well as discussions about factors that contribute to health disparities, barriers to health equity, and successful strategies and models to improve access to care and advance health equity among Hispanic populations. Participants will be able to engage with subject matter experts and potential new partners. Participants will also receive information on HRSA programs and resources to support their health equity efforts.

Session #3 of this four-part series will focus on digital literacy resources and best practices. The session will be broadcast in Spanish with live language interpretation to English.

[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](#)

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](#)

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program- Behavioral Health Care Support (RCORP-BHS)



Technical Assistance Webinar: Thursday, February 3, 2022 from 1-2:30 PM ET

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 19, 2022

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is a multi-year initiative aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD) in high-risk rural communities. This notice announces the opportunity to apply for funding under the RCORP–Behavioral Health Care Support (RCORP-BHS). RCORP-BHS will advance RCORP’s overall goal by **improving access to and quality of SUD and other behavioral health care services in rural communities**. For the purposes of this NOFO, improving rural behavioral health care service delivery includes increasing access to and utilization of prevention, treatment and recovery services to improve the care for those affected by behavioral health conditions, which may include substance use and mental health disorders.

You do not need to register in advance for the webinar. Please email ruralopioidresponse@hrsa.gov for a link to the recording.

[For More Information](#)



Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Funding: Broad Pragmatic Studies

Letter of Intent (Required): Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Application Deadline: Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Funding for patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research in the areas of addressing disparities; assessment of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options; communication and dissemination research; and improving healthcare systems. Special areas of emphasis for the 2022 cycle include 1) addressing racism, discrimination, and bias in healthcare systems and care delivery and 2) health system–level interventions to improve healthcare worker well-being and reduce burnout.

[For More Information](#)

**Application Deadline for all three programs: Thursday,
February 17, 2022**

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation supports nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and libraries that offer literacy programs in communities served by Dollar General in every state with the exception of Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, and Montana.

- Adult Literacy Grants support nonprofit organizations that provide direct services to adults in need of literacy assistance.
- Family Literacy Grants support family literacy service providers that combine parent and youth literacy instruction.
- Summer Reading Grants help nonprofit organizations, schools, and libraries with the creation or expansion of summer reading programs for students who are new readers, below grade level readers, or readers with learning disabilities.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

DOL Employment Services for Homeless Vets

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 23, 2022

The intent of this grant program is to obtain high-quality career outcomes for veterans experiencing homelessness. The Department encourages applicants to propose strategies to achieve economic opportunity, address historical inequities, and provide equitable access and outcomes to marginalized groups.



According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, almost a quarter of all veterans in the United States return from active military careers to reside in rural communities.

[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](#)



Health Information Outreach Award: Region 1

Application Deadline: Monday, March 28, 2022

The purpose of the Health Information Outreach Award is to provide support for projects that improve health information literacy and increase the ability of patients, family members, students, and members of the public to find and use health information; or improve health professionals' access to, awareness of, and skills for locating high-quality biomedical and health information.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Virginia State Loan Repayment Program (VA-SLRP)

Application Deadline: Thursday, March 31, 2022



VA-SLRP is a federal grant from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Professions and is administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Health Equity (OHE). VA-SLRP grants participants educational loan repayment in exchange for at least two years of service in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) in Virginia.

[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](#)



