



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

Community Photo Feature

Happy Spring! This beautiful photo was taken by Miranda Ellis on a hike at James River State Park in Nelson County.

Miranda submitted this photo into the 2021 VA-SORH Photo Contest and it was selected to be featured on the cover of the 2022 VA-SORH Community Conversations Calendar.



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 Updates



Join our team!

The VDH Division of Primary Care and Rural Health is currently looking to hire a Health Workforce Coordinator. The person in this position will support Virginia's statewide health workforce incentive programs. These programs encourage health professionals to work in Virginia's medically underserved areas.

[For More Information & To Apply](#)

Updated COVID-19 Resources

For a compiled list of Virginia Department of Health, Communication, and External COVID-19 Resources, please visit our website linked below.

New resources include:

- [The Implications of Long COVID for Rural Communities](#)
- PHCC Webinar "[Communicating Through COVID-19 and Beyond: Impact and Insights from the Field of Public Health](#)" Wednesday, 4/13/22 at 1:00 PM ET
- [VDH COVID-19 Communications Hub Shareables](#)



[Visit our website](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Supporting Rural Health Coalitions: Opportunities with your SORH

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) developed a new fact sheet to help rural community-based health coalitions understand how a State Office of Rural Health (SORH) can support their efforts. The fact sheet highlights the importance of connecting to a SORH and offers links to additional resources.



[For More Information](#)

Comments Requested: FCC Promoting Telehealth in Rural America

Submission Deadline: Thursday, April 14, 2022

Notice of proposed rule from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) making revisions to the Rural Health Care Telecommunications Program rules to ensure that rural healthcare providers receive the funding necessary for the broadband and telecommunications services that they need to provide healthcare services. Proposed changes include the modification of the applicability of the internal funding cap on upfront costs and multi-year commitments in the Rural Health Care Healthcare Connect Fund Program and streamlining the invoice process in the Telecom Program. The FCC is seeking comment on the proposed changes and on ways to further increase the speed of funding commitments.

[For More Information](#)



Cori's shop just launched! - A new way to show your support for rural America

When Matt Dunne founded CORI in 2017, he did so with the belief that we could create a more equitable and inclusive economic future for rural America by harnessing the potential of the digital economy. Each day, in each community we work with, we get closer to achieving that. We are building a digital economic future in rural America, so if you are once again asking yourself "How can I support CORI?" then here is your

answer — be a part of rural prosperity, support innovation and entrepreneurship in rural America, and get your rural gear today!

[For More Information](#)

Comments Requested: CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids

Submission Deadline: Monday, April 11, 2022

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is in the process of updating the 2016 guidelines and values feedback from health care professionals and members of the public who experience



acute or chronic pain.

[For More Information](#)

Engaging Rural Communities in Cancer Prevention and Control Research: Development and Preliminary Insights from a Community-Based Research Registry

Discusses the establishment of the Virginia Living Well (VALW) registry in 2018 and the methodology involved to include rural and underrepresented populations in cancer research through community outreach. Includes county-level maps of cancer data in Virginia as well as demographic data on VALW participants broken down by employment, income, insurance status, cancer screening frequency, race, rural versus urban, and more.

[For More Information](#)

Removing Barriers to Rural Health Care Equity

On this episode of Managed Care Cast, Teresa Tyson, DNP, MSN, FNP-BC, FAANP, and Paula Hill-Collins, DNP, MSN, FAANP, discuss how **The Health Wagon**, a free mobile-based and nurse-managed clinic, provides accessible health care to rural residents in Virginia's Appalachian region.



[For More Information](#)

Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee (VRHAC) Spring Meeting to Focus on Rural Workforce Disparities

April 5-7, 2022 from 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM ET

The VRHAC will convene for its annual spring meeting in April to examine the latest issues regarding rural workforce recruitment and retention. Rural communities face stark shortages of doctors, nurses, psychologists and other health professionals. For rural Veterans, these shortages often mean long travel times to medical appointments, lack of access to specialty care, and poorer health outcomes compared to their urban and suburban peers. This spring, VRHAC members will be briefed by VA leadership, researchers, and rural clinicians on the biggest barriers as well as potential solutions to recruiting and retaining health professionals in rural areas. The information they receive will ultimately inform their work to develop policy recommendations for the VA Secretary on how to build a robust rural health care workforce that can address the diverse needs of rural Veterans and the communities they call home.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



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](#)

Meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services

April 11-13, 2022



Registration Deadline: Friday, April 8, 2022

The Health Resources and Services Administration will hold a virtual public meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services (NACRHHS). The agenda will include discussions on access to emergency medical services in rural America and rural human services programs and issues.

Written statements and request to make oral comments should be submitted to Steven Hirsch at least 3 business days prior to the meeting.

[To Register](#)

National Virtual Rural EMS & Care Conference

April 19-21, 2022

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 8, 2022

The conference will take place virtually. Invited attendees include rural ambulance services, rural EMS directors, medical directors and officers, rural health care providers, ambulatory agencies and staff, state EMS officials, state rural health officials, hospital administrators, federal agency officials, and State Offices of Rural Health.

[For More Information](#)

Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC) Telehealth Summit

April 24-26, 2022



Attendees can access the MATRC Telehealth Summit in-person or virtually.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare innovation was often discussed in the context of a five to ten-year strategic plan. COVID-19 has served as an accelerant to adoption and implementation of digital solutions. Processes that would have taken years under normal circumstances began coming to fruition in a matter of weeks and months. But where do we go from here? For some, keeping up with all the movement toward on-demand healthcare, big data and predictive analytics, remote monitoring and wearable medical devices, artificial intelligence and virtual reality has been exhausting and overwhelming. For others, it is welcomed and exhilarating. Where are you on this continuum? How much do you trust that these disruptions in

how we normally do business will actually result in improving patient outcomes, efficiencies and/or creating a better work-life balance? Join us as we explore these and other questions related to care model redesign.

For More Information and to Register

NRHA's Annual Rural Health Conference

May 10-13, 2022



Join NRHA and rural health leaders from across the country in Albuquerque, NM to help raise the standard for rural health with over 80 innovative, practical, and cost-saving sessions and much more.

For More Information and to Register

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

Virginia State Loan Repayment Program (VA-SLRP)

Application Deadlines: Thursday, March 31, 2022

The VA-SLRP is operated by the Virginia Department of Health-Office of Health Equity (VDH-OHE) providing a non-taxed incentive to qualified medical, dental, behavioral health and pharmaceutical (pharmacists) professionals in return for a minimum of two (2) years of service at an eligible practice site in one of the federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in a qualified field of practice in Virginia.



For More Information



2022 NHSC Scholarship Program

Application deadline: Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 7:30 PM ET

The 2022 National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program (NHSC SP) is now accepting applications from health professional students studying to become physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives or physician assistants. The NHSC Scholarship Program participants agree to provide a one year service commitment in an underserved community for each year of scholarship support received. There is a two year minimum service commitment and participants can receive a maximum of four years of support.

To Apply



Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Drug Courts

Application Deadline: Monday, May 9, 2022

Grants to enhance and expand substance use disorder treatment services in existing drug courts, recognizing the need for treatment instead of incarceration for individuals with substance use disorders.

[For More Information](#)

2022 NHSC New Site Application Cycle is now open

Application Deadline: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET



The [2022 NHSC New Site Application Cycle is now open](#) for sites that:

- Have never been approved for NHSC, including sites that have applied and had their application denied or cancelled.
- Are currently an inactive NHSC site due to expiration or past compliance issues.
- Interested sites and treatment facilities should review the [Site Reference Guide \(SRG\)](#) for details on how to become NHSC approved.

Why be NHSC approved?

- Recruit and retain qualified providers using NHSC loan repayment programs and attract NHSC scholars who are ready to fulfill their service obligation at sites like yours.
- Post vacancies to the Health Workforce Connector.
- Participate in HRSA Virtual Job Fairs to connect with job-seeking primary care trainees and practicing clinicians.

There will be an [NHSC New Site Program Applicant Webinar](#) on **Thursday, March 31, 2022 from 1:00 - 2:30 PM ET.**

[To Apply](#)

NIH Research to Improve Native American Health

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides grants to support health promotion, disease prevention, treatment, or treatment services research to improve health in Native American populations. For the purposes of this program, Native Americans include Alaska Natives, American Indians (whose ancestral lands fall at least partially within the U.S. mainland border), and Native Hawaiians.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant

Application Deadline: Monday, May 23, 2022

Grants to intermediary organizations to provide technical assistance and training for rural organizations and agencies to identify and plan for community facility needs that exist in their area, and once those needs have been identified, locating public and private resources to finance those identified needs.

[For More Information](#)



"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

