



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

Community Spotlight

**CONGRATULATIONS,
TOP 100 HOSPITALS!** 

Congratulations to Shenandoah Memorial Hospital and Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital for being recognized by The Chartis Center for Rural Health as some of the top performing hospitals in the country.

Shenandoah Memorial Hospital

Out of the 1,353 critical access hospitals in the US, **Valley Health Shenandoah Memorial Hospital** has been named as one of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals for 2022.

Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital

Located on Virginia's eastern shore, **Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital** has been named as one of the Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals for 2022.

[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 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.

WE'RE HIRING!

VDH DIVISION OF PRIMARY CARE & RURAL HEALTH



**Public Health
Program
Coordinator**

[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
 - 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)
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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"](#)
 - [HHS "What works and What Doesn't in COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach"](#)
 - [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](#)
 - **NEW** [PHCC Answers to Tough Questions on Children and Vaccinations](#)
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Additional COVID-19 Resources

- [COVID-19 FAQs and Funding for HRSA Programs](#)
 - [HRSA COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund \(CAF\)](#)
 - [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 \(Data Tracker\)](#)
 - [CDC Updated Guidelines on Quarantine and Isolation](#)
 - [HRSA Rural Health Clinic \(RHC\) COVID-19 Test Kit Program](#)
 - [Medicare Coverage for Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Tests](#)
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Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities



Caring for the Women Veterans in the Community

This web-based course is designed to provide community providers an overview of the unique characteristics of women Veterans that may require different assessments, care and resources compared to non-Veteran patients. Community providers need knowledge about mental and physical health diagnoses common in women Veterans.

Community providers will gain a basic understanding of mental and physical health diagnoses common in Veterans, military culture, trauma-sensitive care principles, suicide awareness and prevention, as well as resources that are available.

If you require assistance, please contact the VHA TRAIN Help Desk by email at VHATRAN@va.gov.

FCC Affordable Connectivity Program

Households that were enrolled in the previous [Emergency Broadband Benefit program](#) may need to take steps to stay enrolled after March 1st.



Throughout the pandemic, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has guided a federal program providing low-cost internet connection for individuals and households. The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

[For More Information](#)

A Get Connected Through Lifeline

This Federal program offers a monthly discount on phone, internet, or bundled package bills to qualified low-income people, that can give them the tools to access services like telehealth. Customers living on Tribal lands can receive [an additional benefit](#).

[For More Information](#)

Rural Hospital- State and National Data Tables

The national and state data tables offer state-by-state breakdowns of the key metrics The Chartis Group tracks including, operating margin, policy impact (e.g., revenue loss, potential job loss) and rural hospital vulnerability.

[For More Information](#)

A Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial for a Multi-Level, Clinic-Based Smoking Cessation Program with Women in Appalachian Communities: Study Protocol for the "Break Free" Program

Results of a study to increase smoking cessation among women living rural Appalachia, by embedding a smoking cessation program within a larger cervical cancer prevention program. Uses data from focus groups comprising 510 women from West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Virginia.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars

Thursday, March 3, 2022 from 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM ET

The Federal Communications Commission's Connect2Health Task Force is hosting this virtual event which will gather public and private sector thought leaders from a variety of disciplines, including telecommunications and health care, to discuss issues around recognizing broadband connectivity as a "social determinant of health. Participants will also explore the implications of this framework for national broadband policies, population health, and government-wide efforts to address health inequities. Achieving digital health equity through improving broadband access and adoption is an FCC priority and will be an overarching theme of this event.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

NRHA is now accepting session proposals for its 2022 Rural Health Clinic and Critical Access Hospital conferences



Submission Deadline: June 1, 2022

Sessions are selected by a panel of judges which changes from year-to-year. The application form includes a 50-word narrative which serves as the primary basis on which sessions are rated. A full slate of speakers, along with each speaker's full contact information and full knowledge of listing, must be submitted by the posted deadline. Entries containing "TBA" or other vague session or speaker information will be disqualified.

[For More Information](#)



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

Hillman Emergent Innovation Program

Letter of Intent Deadline: Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Application Deadline: Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Grants to accelerate the development of creative nursing-driven interventions that will improve the health and healthcare of marginalized populations. Projects should address racism and its impact on health. Target populations include Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), the economically disadvantaged, LGBTQ+ people, people experiencing homelessness, low-income rural populations, refugee, and immigrant populations.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



NIH Health Disparities Research Institute

Application Deadline: Monday, March 14, 2022 at 5:00 PM ET

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides an intensive training experience to support the career development of promising minority health/health disparities research scientists early in their careers. Applicants must have either a Ph.D., M.D./D.O., Sc.D., Dr. P.H., Pharm.D., Psy.D., D.D.S./D.M.D., or equivalent doctoral degree from an accredited domestic or foreign institution at the time of submitting the application. The program will take place August 15-19, 2022 and will be held in-person or virtually, depending on COVID-19 guidelines.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Building Rural/Frontier Workforce Capacity for COVID-19

Application Deadline: Wednesday, March 16, 2022



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) will make approximately 35 awards of up to \$35,000 each to build **local health department** workforce capacity in rural and frontier health departments. Applicants must have at least 50 percent of their jurisdiction designated as rural or frontier according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

[For More Information](#)

Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program



Application Deadline: Tuesday, March 22, 2022

The purpose of this program is to increase the number of dental and dental hygiene faculty in the workforce by assisting dental and dental hygiene training programs to attract and retain dental and dental hygiene faculty through the operation of a loan repayment program.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)



Jeffress Trust Awards Program in Research Advancing Health Equity

Application Deadline: Tuesday, March 29, 2022

The Jeffress Memorial Trust has recently completed a landscape assessment of health needs and funding initiatives within Virginia. Based upon those findings, the 2022 grant cycle will support research that addresses the root causes of health inequities within the state of Virginia.

The Jeffress Trust Awards will support:

1. Partnership/Collaborative Establishment Awards to support the development and establishment of collaborative efforts upon which to carry out future research activities to advance health equity
2. Research Awards to support collaborative research partnerships to conduct research to advance health equity in one of the following areas:
 - Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change Strategies Analysis
 - Program/Practice Analysis
 - General Research

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization in Coal-Affected Appalachia (POWER)



Required Letter of Intent: Monday, April 4, 2022

Application Deadline: Friday, April 29, 2022

The POWER Initiative targets federal resources to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production.

[For More Information](#)



Angel Flight East COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment and Vaccine Transport

Application Deadline: ongoing

A volunteer pilot network that transports personal protective equipment and COVID-19 vaccines for distribution to areas in need.

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

