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

Community Photo Feature

Anne Powell took this adorable photo of a sanderling as it scurried along the shoreline of the Atlantic Ocean.

Anne submitted this photo to the 2021 VA-SORH Photo Contest.

EASTERN SHORE, VA

VA-SORH Updates

Health Workforce Coordinator

We're hiring!

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:
- PHCC Updated Messaging + Toolkit: Second Booster Doses
- Adolescent & Childhood Vaccination Recovery
- Policy Brief: COVID-19 and the Rural Health Workforce: The Impact of Federal Pandemic Funding to Address Workforce Needs
- Long COVID ECHO Webinar Series- Thursday, April 14 at 3:00 PM ET
- CBERS 2022 Mental Health & The Rippling Effects of COVID-19

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

How to Apply to Become a National Health Service Corps Site

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET

Are you interested in becoming a National Health Services Corps (NHSC) Site? There's help. Facilities that meet the NHSC eligibility requirements can now apply to become a NHSC site. NHSC-approved sites provide outpatient, primary health care services to people in Health Professional Shortages Areas. Becoming an NHSC-approved site will help you to recruit, hire, and retain clinicians. In FY 2020, approximately 14,000 primary, dental, and mental healthcare providers served in National Health Service Corps programs, receiving federal funding in exchange for providing care in a Health Professional Shortage Area.

For More Information & To Register

VRHA is now accepting applications for Student Representatives to the Board of Directors

Thursday, May 5, 2022

VRHA is accepting applications from students who wish to serve as a representative on the VRHA Board of Directors for the 2022/2023 academic year. Up to five students will be selected for a one year appointment.

For More Information & To Apply

Uplift Appalachia Survey

Uplift Appalachia provides education and training on to churches and faith-based organizations to motivate and equip them to serve those living with addiction and mental health challenges. Uplift is doing some additional data collection with a survey to learn how people who live with addictions perceive the church and employers and how well the church understands addiction. It asks about what people know about addiction, what they think the church's role in addressing it is, their views of how employers feel about employing people who struggle with addiction, their own religious commitment, and their own substance use. It's anonymous.

To Take the Survey

Virtual Webinar: "Rural Community Engagement Strategies for the Public Sector"

Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 12:00 PM ET

This presentation will discuss actionable ways government agencies and nonprofit organizations can improve rural community engagement initiatives. We'll discuss modern rural populations, the uniqueness of rural life, technology's utilization in rural communities, and outline effective strategies to engage rural audiences.

The webinar is free but pre-registration is required.

To Register

Center for Connected Health Policy

Billing for Telehealth Encounters- An Introductory Guide on Medicare Fee-For-Service

The Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP) is providing this informational billing guide to assist those who have questions regarding telehealth billing. The guide is primarily about Medicare fee-for-service billing as policies vary from state-to-state for Medicaid and commercial payers.

The purpose of the guide is to clarify:
- telehealth billing and reimbursement
- current legislation dictating billing requirements
- requirements applicable during calendar year 2022 (in a non-PHE environment)
- the requirements relevant only during the periods of PHE extensions

For More Information

"Introduction to RHCs" Course Launched by NARHC

The National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) recently launched the "Introduction to RHCs" course - an orientation tool that offers new employees of RHCs the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of RHCs as well as a brief history of the RHC program.

NARHC

NARHC Members can take the Course for free! Not a member? Pay $50 for access to this short orientation tool.

For More Information

Commentary: To Seize "Unique Moment," Rural Areas Need Help Building Capacity

Perspective piece adapted from the opening remarks of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Investing in Rural America conference describing the opportunities and challenges facing rural communities related to grant writing capacity, particularly as federal funding for rural broadband, healthcare, and transportation has increased. Notes rural barriers related to the time and effort required of grant processes, fundraising requirements, and the need for experienced grant writers. Highlights examples of successful rural approaches and collaboration.

To Read the Full Article

Mapping the Mental Health Of Our Communities

Mental Health America's County and State Data Map is a dashboard that geographically visualizes data from over 2.6 million mental health screens taken at MHAScreening.org in 2020 and 2021. The interactive maps are able to identify the current need for mental health resources at a pace and scale that was not possible before

For More Information

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars

MATRC Telehealth Summit	**NOSORH Rural Health Data Institute**	**Rural LISC "Rural Talks Series"** Broadband & Infrastructure	**NRHA's Annual Rural Health Conference**
April 24-26	**May 3-June 28**	**May 10-11**	**May 10-13**
To Register	To Register	To Register	To Register

State & Regional Funding Opportunities

National Center for American Indian Health Professions Pre-Admissions Workshop

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 20, 2022

The workshop will be held virtually on **May 5-6** to help American Indian and Alaska Native students navigate the application process for medical or other health profession schools. Selected students, who are high school seniors or currently enrolled or recently graduated college-level students, will get free access to workshops to prepare for the application process.

For More Information

How to Perform a Dental Exam for Primary and Acute Healthcare Providers

Friday, April 29, 2022 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM ET

Dental CME opportunity by Southwest Virginia AHEC and Graduate Medical Education Consortium. This online event, participants will learn the components of an oral exam, how to identify infections, and how to document patient encounters effectively.

For More Information

VDH Office of Drinking Water Financial Assistance - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Application Deadline: Friday, May 6, 2022

The Virginia General Assembly allocated the Office of Drinking Water (ODW) $100 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to improve drinking water infrastructure over the next four years. ODW is leading the Drinking Water Infrastructure Initiative to manage the use of these funds.

The Drinking Water Infrastructure Initiative aims to:
- Improve drinking water infrastructure across the state
- **Assist small and disadvantaged communities**
- Conduct research on consumer confidence reports and having tap water as a trusted drink of choice instead of sugary beverages

ARPA funding is **ONLY available to waterworks that have a population below 10,000 persons**, or that are disadvantaged, abandoned, or have acute or chronic violations of the Waterworks Regulations.

For More Information & To Apply

Elder Justice Innovation Grants - Enhancing APS Approaches to Cases Involving Opioids and Substance Use Disorders

Application Deadline: Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Supports the development and advancement of new and emerging issues related to elder justice. Funded projects will contribute to the improvement of the field of elder abuse prevention and intervention at large, such as by developing materials, programs, etc. that can be widely disseminated and/or replicated, or by establishing and/or contributing to the evidence-base of knowledge. For this opportunity, projects will be sought which seek to identify effective strategies and solutions that are expected to maximize the impact of direct home-and community-based social, health, and mental/behavioral health services for APS clients impacted by the opioid epidemic and other substance use disorders.

For More Information & To Apply

ACT on Health Equity: Community Solutions Challenge

AstraZeneca

Application Deadline: Friday, May 13, 2022

AstraZeneca recognizes health starts in our homes, schools and communities. The ACT on Health Equity: Community Solutions Challenge supports community-based, nonprofit organizations that are advancing health equity among underserved US communities through innovative health, wellbeing, and STEM programs at the local and regional level.

AstraZeneca hosts an annual open call for applications to support eligible 501(c) nonprofit organizations across the US for local and regional community-based programs. In 2022, the ACT on Health Equity: Community Solutions Challenge will provide up to $1 million in funding. Organizations may apply for $25,000 for each eligible program.

For More Information & To Apply

HRSA Public Health Scholarship Program

Application Deadline: Wednesday, June 1, 2022

HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce will invest $39 million for 26 awards. Awarded recipients will provide scholarships to individuals for public health training in professional, graduate, and/or certificate programs. Eligible applicants are government entities, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions with an existing public health training program and partnerships that can transition students into employment.

Visit our website

"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