



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

Community Photo Feature

Nita Starr captured this photo of the sun peeking over a mountain in the Shenandoah Valley.

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

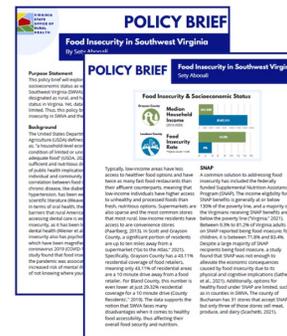


VA-SORH Updates

Rural Health Policy Brief: Food Insecurity in Southwest Virginia

The Virginia State Office of Rural Health will be publishing a **monthly series of rural health briefs**. Each brief will address different health-related topics and provide opportunities for improvement on how to build a healthier rural Virginia during, and following the pandemic.

This policy brief will explore the intersectionality between food insecurity and socioeconomic status as well as the COVID-19 impacts, specifically focusing on Southwest Virginia (SWVA). The majority of the Southwest Virginia region is federally designated as rural, and has the highest food insecurity and lowest socioeconomic status in Virginia. Yet, data on food insecurity and its consequences in the region is limited. Thus, this policy brief will also highlight the seriousness and complexity of food insecurity in SWVA and the need for future research.



[For More Information](#)



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:

- Strategies for Rural Health Leaders' Success in a Post-COVID-19 World
- Mapping the Intersections of Poverty, Race, and COVID-19 (April 2022)

COVID-19 Resources

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities



The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health is now accepting speaker proposals for the 2022 NOSORH Annual Meeting!

Deadline to Submit Proposals: Monday, June 6, 2022

You are invited to submit your proposal(s) to present rural innovations, research findings, model programs, resources, and projects to all 50 State Offices of Rural Health. This year's meeting will be in-person in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on October 5th-6th, 2022

For More Information

Dr. Karen Shelton was honored with the Woman of Distinction Award at this year's United Way of Southwest Virginia Impact Awards.



Shelton directed the Mount Rogers, Cumberland Plateau, and Lenowisco Health Districts during the COVID pandemic, leading those districts to have the fastest roll-outs of COVID testing and vaccinations in Virginia. Hear what Dr. Shelton's co-workers and family had to say about her and her work by clicking the link below!

Other honorees included:

- Elite Partners: Food City, Ballad Health, Universal Fibers, Utility Trailer: Atkins and Utility Trailer: Glade Spring
- Media Partners: Bristol Herald Courier, Business Journal of Tri-Cities TN/VA, Cardinal News, 93.9 WMEV and 101.1 WUKZ, WCYB, WEHC, WJHL, WSLS
- Top Fundraiser for Celebrity Bagging: Farris Funeral Service, Inc.
- Partner of the Year – Early Education: Kristi Snyder
- Partner of the Year – Resilience: Damascus Middle School
- Partner of the Year – Youth: Wythe County Public Schools
- Recognition of Service: Dr. Michael Robinson
- Unsung Heroes: Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Buchanan County Sheriff's Office, Knox Creek Volunteer Fire Department

For More Information



Virginia Rural Microtransit Project

Case study of a microtransit program in rural Virginia that aims to provide transportation to senior centers that require meal delivery, as well as fixed route and demand-response transportation to aging residents and residents with disabilities. Describes the cost of the project, coordination with community entities, and impacts of COVID-19.

[For More Information](#)

Rural Health and Accomack Schools Dedicate Nandua Dental Clinic

"Eastern Shore Rural Health and the Accomack County School System dedicated the third school based dental clinic in the county at Nandua Middle School on Friday. The clinic will serve the dental needs of both Nandua Middle and Nandua High Schools."

"Superintendent Chris Holland said " when students feel better they perform better." Holland said that often working parents often have difficulty getting students to the dentist and that can result in dental problems... Accomack County School Board Chairman Dr. Ronnie Holden said that two key factors in student performance are nutrition and medical care. Holden said that it's hard to learn when you are hungry or you feel bad."

[To Read the Full Article](#)

Improving Access to Virtual Care for Homebound Rural Veterans

Highlights the work of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Home Based Primary Care team (HBPC) to deliver in-home visits through virtual technology. Describes the process of connecting with patients through the VA's virtual platform and overcoming barriers for patients who had difficulty using the technology.



[For More Information](#)

"No Other Option": Telehealth Could be Rural Healthcare's Savior

Highlights a discussion of the future of telehealth at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Telehealth Conference. "Alan Morgan, CEO of the National Rural Health Association, says telehealth holds significant potential to save the future of rural healthcare. However, ongoing problems such as spotty broadband access, poor digital literacy and inadequate communication are preventing utilization from becoming widespread across rural communities."

[For More Information](#)

One Answer to the Comprehensive Healthcare Conundrum of Rural Settings

Highlights Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) as a key source of comprehensive healthcare in rural and underserved areas, noting that there are currently 1,358 FQHCs and over 14,000 when combined with counts of FQHC Service Sites and Look-Alikes. Describes the potential for collaboration between FQHCs and existing rural healthcare organizations as way to fill service gaps and solve financial problems.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



**2022 Virginia
Healthcare
Conference**

June 2

[To Register](#)



**2022 Virginia Rural
Health Clinic
Summit**

June 7-9

[To Register](#)



**2022 RHC Virtual
Summit**

June 21-22

[To Register](#)



**Grant Writing USA
Workshop
Roanoke, VA**

July 11-12

[To Register](#)

State & Regional Funding Opportunities



**Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center Summer
Funding Opportunities are Here!**

MATRC has compiled a list of federal and regional grant and other funding opportunities with either a focus or strong potential for telehealth applications that have summer (June through early September) proposal due dates.

[For More Information](#)

The application cycles for Virginia Nursing Scholarship Programs for RNs, LPNs, & CNAs are now open!

Application Cycles Deadline: Thursday June 30, 2022

Virginia offers several scholarship opportunities to help pay for nursing education in exchange for service in Virginia after graduation. Scholarships are available for students enrolled in an approved nurse education program in Virginia. The program must prepare them for examination for licensure as a: Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, and Certified Nursing Aides. Scholarships are for students enrolled at an accredited program in the state of Virginia.



[For More Information & To Apply](#)

Deadline Extended: NHSC New Site Application

Extended Application Deadline: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET



Eligible healthcare facilities can apply to become National Health Service Corps (NHSC)-approved sites. NHSC-approved sites provide outpatient, primary health care services to people in **Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)**.

[For More Information & To Apply](#)

Service Area Competition Funding for the Health Center Program

Application Deadline: Tuesday, July 5, 2022

The Health Center Program supports domestic public or private, nonprofit community-based and patient-directed organizations that provide primary health care services to the Nation's medically underserved populations. The purpose of the funding opportunity is to ensure continued access to comprehensive, culturally competent, high-quality primary health care services for communities and populations currently served by the Health Center Program.

[For More Information](#)



Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC): Grant Initiative for the Appalachian and Delta Regions

Application Deadline: Friday, July 8, 2022

Eligible applicants in the Appalachian region and Lower Mississippi Delta region with projects that will provide career, training, and support services to eligible individuals in counties and parishes and/or areas currently underserved by other resources can apply. Grants will support workforce development activities that prepare dislocated workers, new entrants to the workforce, and incumbent workers for good jobs in high-demand occupations aligned with a regional or community economic development strategy. High demand industries include manufacturing, IT, healthcare, and energy.

[For More Information](#)

Reducing Maternal Deaths Due to Substance Use Disorder

Application Deadline: Monday, July 11, 2022

Funding will support projects designed to strengthen perinatal (from conception to birth) and postnatal (up to 12 months after birth) support structures for patients with substance use disorder (SUD) and reduce deaths during the perinatal and postpartum time period.

[For More Information](#)



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[Visit the VA-SORH Facebook Page](#)

