



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

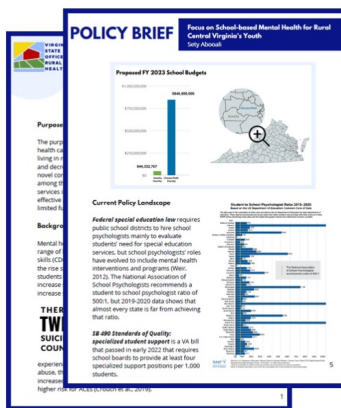
Community Photo Feature

This photo of a pair of old barns off of the New River Trail near Fries, Virginia in Grayson County was taken by Justin Crow.

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



VA-SORH Updates



Rural Health Policy Brief: Focus on School-based Mental Health for Rural Central Virginia's Youth

The Virginia State Office of Rural Health will be publishing a **monthly series of rural health briefs**. This month's brief will highlight the rising need for accessible mental health care among the rural youth population residing in central Virginia (VA). Those living in rural areas have historically been more susceptible to poor mental health days and decreased access to healthcare care services. The school shutdowns caused by the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic only heightened the mental health issues among the adolescent population. Expanding School-based Mental Health (SBMH) services is an opportunity to

focus on the youth population's mental health needs in an effective and convenient way, but legislation is needed to address rural school boards' limited funding resources in order for SBMH to be implemented.

[For More Information](#)

HPSA 101 Video

The VDH Office of Health Equity has created the **HPSA 101 video**. This video is intended to describe and explain the

process of placing shortage areas in Virginia. The full-length video is 15 minutes long, for your convenience we have broken the video into 5 shorter sections, listed below.

- Intro 101
- Designations 101
- Scoring 101
- Nuances 101
- Role of the PCO 101



[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:

- **One Stop Online for COVID Prevention and Treatment in Every County**
- **Telehealth Before and During the Pandemic** Wednesday, June 22 at 2:00 PM ET

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities



Nominate a Virginia Community Star!

Deadline to Submit a Nomination: Monday, August 1, 2022

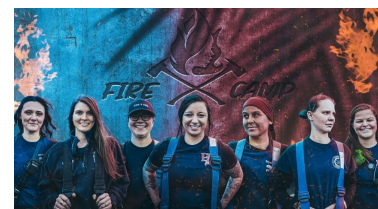
The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) is thrilled to announce that Community Star nominations are now open through August 1, 2022! The annual

Community Stars Recognition Program, in conjunction with National Rural Health Day (November 17), honors those making a difference in rural health through collaboration, education, innovation, and communication.

[For More Information](#)

Botetourt County Girls' Fire Camp

Botetourt County held its first Girls Fire Camp over the weekend. The camp, held at Lord Botetourt High School, was intended to inform kids about the option of a future career in fire-rescue, and possibly to get parents interested in volunteering or becoming career employees. It's part of the agency's efforts to address the challenges of recruiting and retention that are faced by many departments in Virginia and across the U.S., especially when it comes to attracting women to the male-dominated profession.



[For More Information](#)

Telementoring Program Seeks to Support Miners in Rural Settings

Highlights Miners Health ECHO, a telementoring program offering learning experiences to healthcare professionals about specialized care for miners, noting that miners who need care are often in underserved and rural areas. Discusses the program's activities and the need for lung disease treatment programs in rural and Western areas.

[For More Information](#)

The Racial and Ethnic Diversity of the Family Physician Workforce in Non-Metropolitan and Metropolitan Counties



Policy brief exploring distribution of family physicians (FPs) in rural areas by race/ethnicity and whether rural minority physicians were more likely to work in underserved rural areas. Features statistics on characteristics of early career FPs practicing outpatient care from 2017-2019, with breakdowns by metropolitan, micropolitan, and non-core non-metropolitan location, and race of FPs practicing in persistent poverty or primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas, by stage in career.

[For More Information](#)

A Rural Community's Perspective on the Causes of and Solutions to the Opioid Crisis in Southern Virginia: A Qualitative Study

Results of a study to gain insight into the perceptions, knowledge, and experiences of members of a southern Virginia rural community affected by the opioid crisis, to inform the development of local strategies to address the problem. Examines barriers and facilitators to treatment programs and offers recommendations for targeting populations at risk.

[For More Information](#)



Rural Resilience

Provides resources for rural areas recovering from various disasters such as tornadoes, floods, pandemics, and more. Focuses on readiness, response, and recovery. Includes a U.S. map that shows the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) risk index by county.

[For More Information](#)

Psychostimulant Misuse- including two Virginia organizations



U.S. Department of
Health and Human
Services

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services announced nearly \$15 million awarded to rural communities to continue addressing misuse of illegal and prescription drugs known as psychostimulants. One Care of Southwest Virginia, Inc and Piedmont Regional Community Services Board each received \$500,000 awards. These awards are part of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), a multi-year initiative with \$400 million invested since its start in 2018.

[For More Information](#)



Report Assesses RMOMS for Maternal Health

The Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) program uses a networking model to improve outcomes for mothers and infants. The first grantee cohort, funded in 2019, included networks in Missouri, New Mexico, and Texas that provided prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care to 3,101 rural mothers. Grantees say that hiring patient navigators emerged as an early success strategy, and each of the networks laid the groundwork for expanded telehealth.

[For More Information](#)

Effectiveness of Telemedicine in Rural Appalachia

Researchers studied more than 100,000 patient visits at a primary care clinic in West Virginia between January 2019 and November 2020. The sample included 13,013 telemedicine visits to compare patient use and completion rates with in-person visits.

[For More Information](#)



Spread the Word About Maternal Mental Health

Promotional materials for the **National Maternal Mental Health Hotline** are available in English and Spanish for new mothers needing free, confidential support, and referrals to care.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



NOSORH Rural Primary Care Institute

July 13- Sept. 7
register by 6/30/22

[To Register](#)

Pride of Rural Virginia- Shenandoah Co.

August 6

[To Register](#)

2022 NOSORH Annual Meeting

October 5-6
register by 8/26/22

[To Register](#)

National Rural Health Day

November 17

[For More Info](#)

State & Regional Funding Opportunities

UNITEDHEALTH UnitedHealth to invest \$100M in diversifying the healthcare workforce

The United Health Foundation, the philanthropic foundation of UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH), is making a \$100 million commitment over 10 years to advance health equity, furthering its efforts to eliminate health disparities.

This new commitment, the largest single philanthropic commitment ever made by the United Health Foundation, will focus specifically on helping build a racially and ethnically diverse health workforce. Through philanthropic programs and partnerships, the funding will provide scholarships and support to 10,000 underrepresented future clinicians and upskilling health professionals to help in obtaining academic degrees or other professional credentials for clinical careers in medicine, nursing, midwifery, mental health and other specialties.

[**For More Information**](#)

Public Health AmeriCorps is Recruiting

In April, the federal AmeriCorps joined with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to announce a new and ongoing investment in recruitment and training for careers in public health at the local level. In its first year, the new initiative is expected to recruit 3,000 members who will learn from the expertise and best practices of existing CDC, AmeriCorps and other public health programs. Applications are being accepted for organizations in each state; many are directing efforts to rural areas that have been underserved.

[**For More Information**](#)

Healthy Behaviors Grants for Partnerships, Planning, or Implementation

Application Deadline: Wednesday, July 6, 2022



Grants to support capacity building, planning, and implementation activities for projects that improve health and well-being in communities in the Western Tidewater region of Virginia and North Carolina. Focuses on populations experiencing the greatest health disparities based on income, race/ethnicity, and geographic location.

[For More Information](#)



\$34.2 Million Available for Workforce in Rural Communities

Proposal Deadline: Friday, July 8, 2022

There is now \$34.2 million available in a fourth round of grant funding from the U.S. Department of Labor for the **Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities** initiative. WORC helps new and dislocated workers, as well as workers overcoming substance use disorder, access training and career opportunities. Grants will range from \$150,000 up to \$1.5 million.

[For More Information](#)

Virginia EMS Scholarship

Application Deadline: Applicants have 30-days from the official start date of the program in which they are enrolled to apply for a scholarship.



Scholarships to support qualified applicants seeking to earn an initial or advanced EMS credential within Virginia. The Virginia EMS Scholarship Program is managed by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services providing scholarship awards to current Virginia EMS Providers and those seeking to become EMS providers in the Commonwealth.

The scholarship program supports students who are accepted into an eligible Virginia approved initial certification program—EMR, EMT, Advanced EMT and Paramedic. The scholarship program is not designed to provide 100% funding for a training program.

[For More Information](#)

Alkermes Inspiration Grants

Application Deadline: Friday, July 15, 2022

Grant to nonprofit organizations working to address the needs of people living with addiction, serious mental illness, or cancer. Proposals serving historically under-resourced or underrepresented communities are given priority.

[For More Information](#)

Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) Technical Assistance Center

Application Deadline: Wednesday, July 27, 2022

Funding for a single entity to provide technical assistance for rural hospitals. The program purpose is to ensure that rural hospitals and the communities they serve have the information and resources needed to make informed decisions as to whether the REH model of care is best for their communities, and if so, facilitate a successful implementation of Rural Emergency Hospital requirements for those hospitals converting to this new provider type.

[For More Information](#)

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Medication-Assisted Treatment (RCORP-MAT) Access



Application Deadline: Friday, July 29, 2022

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is a multi-year HRSA initiative aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in rural communities. This notice announces the opportunity to apply for funding under the RCORP-Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Access Program. RCORP-MAT Access will advance RCORP's overall goal by improving access to and quality of MAT and supportive services in rural communities. The purpose of this program is to improve health care in rural areas by establishing new MAT access points and increasing the capacity for sustainable MAT service provision in rural areas.

[For More Information](#)

Technical Assistance for Small, Rural, Vulnerable Hospitals Assistance Program

Application Deadline: Sunday, July 31, 2022

Targeted technical assistance for rural hospitals to improve quality of care, maintain access to care, and address the challenges that are unique to small hospitals and the towns they serve.

[For More Information](#)

Building Bridges to Better Health: A Primary Health Care Challenge

Phase 1 Submission Deadline: Tuesday, August 2, 2022

This national competition with a total of \$1 million in cash prizes to encourage innovation through technical assistance to health centers.

Competition participants will accelerate the development of low-cost, scalable solutions to help HRSA-supported community health centers improve patient access to primary care and strengthen the link between health care and social services. It is part of an ongoing effort of the Biden-Harris Administration to address social determinants of health and advance health equity. Read the press release.

The competition is open to broad public participation, including individuals, groups, health care organizations, and other entities. Phase 1 (concept design) will include initial awards totaling \$300,000 for up to 30 winners.

For more information, join an [upcoming webinar on Wednesday, June 29 at 3:00 PM ET](#).

[For More Information](#)



Affordable Connectivity Program

A benefit that helps low-income households pay for broadband service and internet connected devices. The Affordable Connectivity Program replaces the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program.

[For More Information](#)



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