



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

Community Photo Feature

This photo, taken by Lori McClure, features overalls hung out to dry on a clothes lines in Glade Hill, Virginia of Franklin County.

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



VA-SORH Updates

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](#)

HPSA Re-designation Process

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is working through a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) re-designation process. As of April 2021, HRSA announced a large number of HPSAs as "proposed for withdrawal", meaning that these HPSAs could lose their status. On or around July 1, 2022, HRSA must publish an updated list of HPSAs in the Federal Register, which means those proposed for withdrawal will

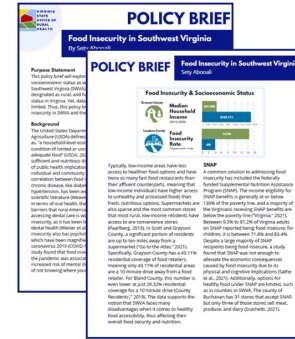
learn whether or not they will retain their designation.

In March of this year, the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) wrote to HRSA expressing concern about the HPSAs proposed for withdrawal and requested that HPSAs have adequate time to apply for redetermination and retain their status before the July 1, 2022 deadline. NRHA is now elevating these concerns to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the July 1 deadline grows closer and HPSAs are in danger of losing their designation.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Alexa McKinley at amckinley@ruralhealth.us.

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**. Checkout the May 2022 edition, "Food Security in Southwest Virginia," which explores the intersectionality between food insecurity and socioeconomic status as well as the COVID-19 impacts, specifically focusing on Southwest Virginia (SWVA).



[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:

- [CDC Updated Guidance COVID-19 Booster Shots](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Virginia State Assessment Survey



Attention Virginians! We would like to hear your thoughts on the overall health of our State. Please consider taking the Virginia State Health Assessment survey, linked below. It should take approximately 5 minutes to complete the survey.

[To Take the Survey](#)

3RNET Annual Report

The National Rural Recruitment & Retention Network, 3RNET, connects professionals to health care jobs in rural and underserved areas. For the fiscal year that ended in September 2021, the non-profit reports it added 31,000 jobs for an economic impact of nearly \$2 billion.

[For More Information](#)

National Rural Health Association Journal of Rural Health



The National Rural Health Association's Journal of Rural Health is soliciting articles on the impact of the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program on critical access hospitals (CAHs) and systems of care in rural communities for a special section of an upcoming issue.

Authors should state in their cover letters that they are submitting in response to this call for papers on the 25th anniversary of the Flex Program and CAHs to be considered for this special section. [Author guidelines on required format](#) may be found on the JRH website. The submission deadline is October 1, 2022.

[For More Information](#)

Community Characteristics and Financial and Operational Performance of Rural Health Clinics in the United States: A Chartbook

This chartbook provides an overview of Rural Health Clinic (RHC) characteristics and issues using data from CMS's Provider of Services file, Medicare Cost Reports, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Ranking and will be useful to policymakers and others interested in the performance of RHCs nationally. It can also be useful to RHC administrators to benchmark staffing patterns, productivity, and efficiency. Finally, it provides a discussion of the challenges related to collection and reporting of RHC quality data.

[For More Information](#)



HRSA Criteria for Determining Maternity Care Health Professional Target Areas

Notice from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) presenting the final criteria that will be used to identify and score Maternity Care Target Areas (MCTA), geographic areas within health professional shortage areas that have a shortage of maternity care health professionals, for the purpose of providing maternity healthcare assistance to such health professional shortage areas. This notice also summarizes and responds to comments received on the proposed criteria.

[For More Information](#)

Provides information for healthcare organizations looking to collaborate with local community and economic stakeholders to improve the health of their citizens. Includes case studies of multisector partnerships in rural areas that focus on upstream interventions, such as strengthening economic support, supporting local control, strengthening infrastructure to support healthcare access, and increasing resources.

[For More Information](#)

Rural Libraries and Health Cooperative Agreement

The **Rural Libraries and Health Cooperative Agreement program** in South Carolina provides funding to participating libraries to bring in community health workers, social workers, and telehealth. The funded projects aim to increase access to a variety of services, including behavioral health, health screenings, and reproductive health with the ultimate goal of connecting community members to appropriate services for consistent and sustained preventive care and treatment. The program began with five pilot projects in October 2020 and added four more sites in March 2022.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars

			
2022 Virginia Rural Health Clinic Summit	2022 RHC Virtual Summit	2022 NOSORH Annual Meeting	National Rural Health Day
June 7-9	June 21-22	October 5-6 <i>register by 8/26/22</i>	November 17
To Register	To Register	To Register	For More Info

State & Regional Funding Opportunities

 **HRSA Community Health Worker Training Program**
Application Deadline: Tuesday, June 14 2022

HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) issued new information for applicants to this funding opportunity. Through the Community Health Worker Training Program, HRSA will

provide funding to health professions schools, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and community-based organizations to train 13,000 community health workers for underserved communities. See BHW's website for more help with applications due on June 14.

[For More Information](#)

2022 Call for Proposals: Research in Transforming Health and Healthcare Systems

Application Deadline: Friday, June 24, 2022

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has opened a call for proposals for projects to research and improve equity in health and health care systems. Proposals should focus on a historically marginalized racial or ethnic group; people with disabilities; immigrants; people from the LGBTQ+ community; or another community that has historically faced systemic and persistent barriers to good health. Funding will range from \$50,000 to \$350,000 per project.

[For More Information](#)



The BUILD Health Challenge

Application Deadline: Thursday, June 30, 2022 by 5:00 PM ET

The BUILD Health Challenge® (BUILD) invites communities with innovative ideas to address health disparities caused by systemic or social inequities to apply for its new fourth cohort (4.0). As a BUILD community, your team will be part of a special cohort leading the way to the creation of a new norm in the U.S.—one that advances health equity and racial justice by centering multi-sector and community-driven partnerships.

[For More Information](#)

Ron Nelson Award

Application Deadline: Thursday, June 30, 2022

NARHC has an Annual Award which recognizes and honors an outstanding leader and promoter of Rural Health Clinics. Nominate individuals who have dedicated their time and talent to advancing the health and well being of others through the RHC program.



[For More Information](#)

Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program (STAR LRP) Site Application

Application Deadline: Thursday, July 7, 2022

The purpose of the Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) is to recruit and retain medical, nursing, behavioral/mental health clinicians and paraprofessionals who provide direct treatment or recovery support

of patients with or in recovery from a substance use disorder. The STAR LRP participants must provide services in either a county where the mean drug overdose death rate per 100,000 people over the past three years for which official data is available from the state, is higher than the most recent available national average overdose death rate per 100,000 people, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designated for mental health.

[For More Information](#)



USDA Rural Housing Preservation Grants

Application Deadline: Monday, July 11, 2022

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides funds for grants or low-interest loan programs that allow low-income homeowners to rehabilitate houses and rental properties in rural areas. Organizations eligible to establish grant and loan programs with these funds are state and local governments, federally recognized tribes, and nonprofit corporations.

[For More Information](#)

Service Area Competition Funding for Health Centers Program

Application Deadline: Monday, July 18, 2022

Funding to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services to an underserved area or population. Areas with a February 1, 2023 project period start date are eligible to apply.

[For More Information](#)

Mine Health and Safety Grants

Application Deadline: Monday, July 25, 2022

Grants to prevent fatalities, disease, and injury from mining and secure safe and healthy working conditions for miners through laws, regulations, safety improvements, education, and training.



[For More Information](#)



Vulnerable Rural Hospital Assistance Program

Application Deadline: Sunday, July 31, 2022

The Center for Optimizing Rural Health (CORH) works with up to 30 hospitals per year through the year-long Vulnerable Rural Hospital Assistance Program (VRHAP). Selected hospitals receive free technical assistance – guidance, resources, and recommendations – from a team of rural hospital experts, interactive sessions with peer hospitals, and learning opportunities tailored to topics that can benefit your hospital. Each VRHAP hospital is assigned a CORH manager who becomes familiar with its unique situation. This manager taps into the full expertise of their CORH colleagues and acts as a sounding

board for hospital leadership. VRHAP hospitals also have exclusive access to a suite of educational and capacity-building resources.

[For More Information](#)



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