



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

Community Photo Feature

The Healthy Harvest Community Garden (HHCG) established in South Boston, VA in 2017 was originally conceived as a way to introduce people to the importance of nutrition and healthy eating, and a way to provide healthy produce to individuals who otherwise may not have access to fresh food. Since its inception, the garden has become a way for community members to explore healthy eating while learning about growing and cooking nutritious produce.



Maria Traynham of HHCG submitted this photo to the 2021 VA-SORH Photo Contest.

VA-SORH Updates



Rural Health Policy Brief: Albemarle County's Housing Crisis

The Virginia State Office of Rural Health publishes a **monthly series of rural health briefs**. Checkout the July 2022 edition, "Albemarle County's Housing Crisis," which explores Albemarle County's new policy approach of addressing the need for available and affordable housing while preserving the surrounding rural natural environment.

[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:

- [Creating Rural Community Outreach Materials related to COVID-19 and Disability](#)

COVID-19 Resources

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Virginia Rural Hospital Coaching Collaborative, In-Person Workshop

The [Virginia Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility \(Flex\) Program](#) administers the annual Rural Hospital Coaching Collaborative (RHCC) in partnership with the [Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association](#) with the goal of enhancing the quality of care provided by rural hospitals. The RHCC offers rural hospitals an opportunity to peer share and learn, as well as take advantage of national subject matter expert coaching and resources. On Friday, July 8th, the first in-person RHCC workshop, since 2019, was hosted in Glen Allen, VA at the VHHA headquarters. With Cynosure Health leading the workshop, 27 rural hospital leaders, representing 11 hospital facilities, carried on knowledge sharing discussions about finding bright spots while caring for patients at the bedside and during the care transition journey, prioritization of healthcare workers psychological safety and reporting of adverse events. The workshop concluded with leaders sharing lessons learned throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, for the better and for the worse, and how as a workforce, do healthcare providers not just survive but thrive.



NextGen Nurses awarded \$306,000 in GO Virginia funds

"Shenandoah University, in partnership with Valley Health System and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, will address workforce shortages and other challenges within the health care sector that have been exacerbated by the pandemic by designing and implementing a training program wherein retiring nurses train the next generation of nurses before leaving the profession. This project will create a sustainable pipeline of nurses for the Shenandoah Valley region, increase regional opportunities to meet clinical training requirements and train 140 new nurses."

For More Information



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](#)

The Health Wagon's Move Mountains Medical Mission

August 15-24, 2022

The Health Wagon's Move Mountains Medical Mission provides no-cost dental, vision and medical services (by appointment only) at the Wise County Fairgrounds. For a complete list of services click on the "For More Information" button below.



[For More Information](#)



AgriStress Helpline: 24/7- Crisis Line Built for Farmers and Ranchers

Join AgriSafe for a 30-minute overview of this newly formed AgriStress Helpline for Farmers and Ranchers **TODAY, July 19, 2022 at 1:00 PM ET**

Farmers and ranchers in four states (Texas, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, and Virginia) can now access a crisis service helpline 24/7 staffed by trained professionals. The AgriStress Helpline is an evidence-based suicide prevention lifeline designed for agricultural communities.

[For More Information](#)

Status Update: Mapping where Broadband is- and is not- Available in the U.S.



Describes efforts on the part of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to implement Congress's Broadband DATA Act of 2020, including creating a system to collect information from providers about where they provide services, utilizing geocoded data to identify fixed broadband deployment, providing technical assistance and information services, and building maps that will be accessible to states, tribal, and local entities.

[For More Information](#)



Maternal and Infant Health Mapping Tool

Health Resources & Services Administration

This tool is intended to serve as a key resource for exploring data on maternal and infant health in communities. This resource is not intended to be comprehensive; only publicly-available data sources at a county or location-specific level are included. States, localities, and programs may have state-level or more specific data or other sources available to them that are not included here. Users are able to upload their own data sources for their own use.

[For More Information](#)

UC Davis Creates New Pathway to Medical School that Starts in Community College

Describes a new pre-med pathway program developed at UC Davis that will support community college students interested in health sciences in order to grow the primary care workforce in rural and underserved areas of northern California. Discusses the need for rural physicians in the state and other pathway programs through the UC Davis School of Medicine, as well as the program's aims to increase student diversity and provide career support for students.

[For More Information](#)

BuchananCares Program: A Team-based Care Pilot Led by a Rural Community Hospital and Local Pharmacist

A team of clinical health professionals from the Appalachian College of Pharmacy (ACP), Buchanan General Hospital (BGH), and the Virginia Department of Health, developed BuchananCares to reduce patient readmissions and improve health outcomes.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



Missions of Mercy

WISE Mission Of Mercy Project

July 22-23

[For More Info](#)



Pride of Rural Virginia-Shenandoah Co.

August 6

[To Register](#)



National Rural Health Association

NRHA RHC Conference

September 20-21

[To Register](#)



2022 NOSORH Annual Meeting

October 5-6
register by 8/26/22

[To Register](#)

State & Regional Funding Opportunities



Lists of Designated Primary Medical Care, Mental Health, and Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces the availability of

the complete lists of all geographic areas, population groups, and facilities designated as primary care, mental health, and/or dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). HPSA designations that are currently proposed for withdrawal will remain in this status until they are re-evaluated in preparation for the publication of the 2023 HPSA Federal Register notice in July 2023. Lists are current as of April 29, 2022.

[For More Information](#)

Virginia Partners in Prayer & Prevention (VA P3) Disparities Grant

Application Deadline: Thursday, August 11, 2022

Virginia Partners in Prayer & Prevention will be awarding grants to faith-based institutions/organizations (places of worship) up to \$20,000. Working in collaboration to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID 19 health disparities among populations at higher risk that are underserved.



[For More Information](#)



Supporting Vulnerable Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care

Application Deadline: Monday, August 15, 2022

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) will give priority consideration to rural communities for pilot projects. Grantees will develop and implement models for residential care, treatment, and services.

[For More Information](#)



Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge

Application Deadline: Monday, August 15, 2022

USDA is making available up to \$4 million in cooperative agreement funds under the Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC) for eligible entities to help provide planning support, technical assistance and training to foster placemaking, which is the process of creating quality places where people want to live, work, learn, and play, in rural communities.

[For More Information](#)

Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP)

Proposal Deadline: Friday, September 16, 2022 by 11:59 PM ET



DHCD will allocate up to \$2.45 million in funding to aid localities, nonprofits, and Planning District Commissions in reducing evictions through systems changes that make eviction rare, brief and humane. Eligible applicants are local governments, planning district

commissions (PDCs), and nonprofits.

DHCD will virtually offer a **How-to-Apply Webinar** on **Tuesday, August 2nd at 10 AM** and **Wednesday, August 3rd at 3 PM**.

[For More Information](#)



2022 Rural Health Voice Conference- Student Scholarships

Application Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2022

VRHA is inviting students who are in any health or public policy program to submit essays on why they want to serve rural communities. 3 essays will be selected and the authors will receive free conference registration.

The author of the winning essay will have the honor of reading the essay at the conference and will receive 2 complimentary nights at a hotel and free conference registration.

Completed forms must be e-mailed to boconnor@vrha.org on or before October 14th. Winners will be announced on October 28th.

[To Apply](#)

Dental Trade Alliance (DTA) Foundation Grant

Application Deadline: ongoing through November 30, 2022

The DTA Foundation awards \$25,000 grants each year to organizations with innovative pilot projects that align with the DTA Foundation's mission to increase access to and utilization of oral health care by broadening literacy of oral health's impact on overall health.

[For More Information](#)



Appalachian Community Fund Technical Assistance Grants

Application Deadline: ongoing

ACF believes that building organizational capacity and skills is essential for carrying out effective social justice work. Designed to meet specific technical assistance needs of grassroots organizations working for social change in Appalachia, this program awards grants to help build organizational capacity and train board or staff members in key skills such as:

- Leadership development
- Fundraising and planned giving
- Board responsibilities and roles
- Long range planning
- Financial management
- Legal issues, e.g. non-profit incorporation
- Community organizing
- Informing community/media about work
- Training fees, materials, and travel

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

