

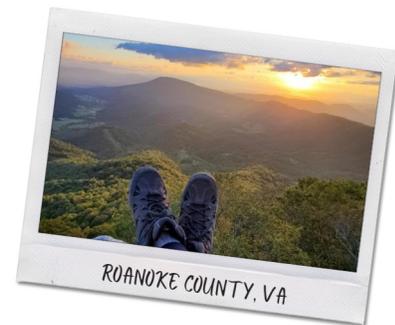


Greetings from the Virginia Primary Care Office & State Office of Rural Health

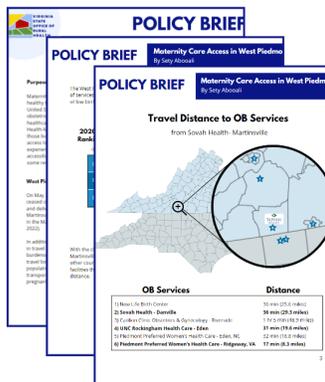
Community Photo Feature

This picture was taken by Rebecca Lord during a 6 AM summer sunrise at the top of McAfee Knob.

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



VA-SORH Updates



Rural Health Policy Brief: Maternity Care Access in West Piedmont

The Virginia State Office of Rural Health publishes a **monthly series of rural health briefs**. Checkout the August 2022 edition, "Maternity Care Access in West Piedmont," which explores the decreased accessibility to maternity care in the West Piedmont region and its effects, as well as some recommendations to eliminate maternity care deserts.

[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:

- COVID-19 Vaccines Available for Children Under Age 5- **Research Identifies the most effective messaging for parents**
- **The Advancing Telehealth Beyond COVID-19 Act of 2021**

- Services and Supports for Longer-Term Impacts of COVID-19
- Warner and Kaine Announce More than \$2.1 million in Funding to Address COVID-19 in Rural Virginia Communities

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities



2022 NOSORH Awards

Nomination Deadline: Friday, August 19, 2022 by 5:00 PM ET

The NOSORH Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2022 NOSORH Awards! These awards are a special way to recognize and celebrate the hard work and leadership of individuals and organizations dedicated to rural health.

[For More Information](#)

How Rural Residency Programs for Doctors Can Help Solve the Health Care Shortage

Features the impacts of a new residency program in Colquitt County, Georgia, including an increase in research and development, retention of graduates from the program, and training benefits for rural doctors. Notes challenges for rural physicians related to high patient to provider ratios and incentives for doctors to practice in rural areas.

[For More Information](#)

United Way and GO TEC collaborate for Workforce Development Program



"UWSWA has been named the coordinating entity for the Great Opportunities for Technology & Engineering Careers (GO TEC) program in the region. The announcement was made at the August GO Virginia Region 1 executive committee meeting at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon.

GO TEC, which was pioneered in Southside Virginia, is a talent pipeline development initiative that provides students career pathways in targeted industries at the middle school level, expands to dual enrollment in high school, moves to industry credentialing and college/career training programs offered at community colleges and higher education centers, eventually leading to employment in the regional industry targets."

[For More Information](#)

Northampton County awarded nearly \$1 million through USDA



Earlier this month, "Rep. Elaine Luria (D-VA) joined U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary of Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small to announce a \$988,300 investment on the Eastern Shore through the department's Emergency Rural Health Care Grant. The nearly \$1 million will be used to purchase emergency medical services vehicles in Northampton County and upgrade the HVAC system at Occohannock Elementary School."

[For More Information](#)

The newly established **Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia** presented its first contribution to the region this week with a grant to **Appalachian Highlands Community Dental Center (AHCDC)** of Abingdon. In addition to Wellspring's support, the **Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF)** donated \$100,000 and Jan Hurt of Abingdon provided \$50,000.

AHCDC provides oral healthcare to underserved and uninsured individuals and families in 11 counties throughout Southwest Virginia. Funding will allow AHCDC to acquire much-needed additional equipment and begin construction to expand its existing facility this fall. Once construction is completed in 2023, the clinic will be positioned to bring in additional dental residents and serve more patients throughout the region.

[For More Information](#)

Examining Peer-Based Services for OUD in Rural Emergency Departments

Researchers looked at what happens in rural and urban emergency departments (EDs) when peer-based services are used for patients arriving with opioid use disorder (OUD). The study aimed to find gaps in knowledge for rural EDs and found five key differences from urban counterparts that presented a challenge. Among these was difficulty identifying community partners.

[For More Information](#)



NRHA is now accepting session and research presentation proposals for their Annual Rural Health Conference next May

Submission Deadline for Session Proposals: Thursday, August 18, 2022
Submission Deadline for Original Research: Thursday, January 12, 2023

Any person with an interest in rural health is invited to submit session proposals for presentation during the National Rural Health Association's (NRHA) Annual Rural Health Conference and Rural Hospital Innovation Summit, which will be held May 16-19, 2023 in San Diego, Calif.

These educational events are curated for anyone with an interest in rural health care, including rural health practitioners, hospital administrators, clinic directors and lay health workers, social workers, state and federal health employees, academics, community members, and more.

[For More Information](#)

FORHP Releases Nearly \$60 Million to Improve Access to Care in Rural Communities

On August 8, 2022, the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) announced investments of nearly \$60 million to grow the health workforce and increase access to quality health care in rural communities, including nearly \$46 million in funding from President Biden’s American Rescue Plan.

Virginia received 4 awards totaling \$5,522,676 in funding. The four Virginia institutions receiving money to help strengthen the health care workforce are:

- Mountain Empire Community College (Big Stone Gap, VA)- \$887,676
- Rector & Visitors of The University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA)- \$1,545,000
- Virginia Rural Health Association (Luray, VA)- \$1,545,000
- Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance (Tappahannock, VA)- \$1,545,000

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



NRHA RHC Conference

September 20-21

[To Register](#)



2022 NOSORH Annual Meeting

October 5-6
register by 8/26/22

[To Register](#)



2022 Rural Health Voice Conference

November 16-17

[To Register](#)



National Rural Health Day

November 17

[For More Info](#)

State & Regional Funding Opportunities

3RNET Recruitment and Retention Assistance



Helps health professionals find jobs in rural and underserved areas and assists employers in recruiting and retaining health professionals in rural and underserved areas.

[For More Information](#)

Application Deadline: Thursday, September 15, 2022

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) will select 10-15 participants for a year-long, intensive fellowship program designed to develop rural health leaders. Applicants must be members of the NRHA and willing to attend three in-person training sessions and monthly conference calls. There is no fee, but participants must have a sponsor responsible for all travel and lodging costs.

For More Information

Delta Dental Loan Repayment Program- an extension of the Virginia State Loan Repayment Program (VA-SLRP).

Application Deadline: Friday, September 30, 2022

This one-year student loan repayment program is designed to help Virginia dentists and dental hygienists in exchange for 12 months of service with a safety-net clinic.

Who is eligible?

- A licensed dentist or dental hygienist in good standing;
- Working full-time (32 hours per week minimum);
- Have a valid and unrestricted license to practice in Virginia;
- Have worked in a free or hybrid clinic, or a federally-qualified health center, for at least 12 months;
- and Agree to serve at least one additional year in a free or hybrid clinic or a federally qualified health center in a Health Professional Shortage Area in Virginia (HPSA).



For More Information

Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions

Application Deadline: Friday, September 30, 2022

A 1-year training and technical assistance initiative designed to help public safety and public health practitioners and other community stakeholders collaborate more effectively to address substance use and misuse in rural communities.

For More Information

Family Self-Sufficiency Program

Application Deadline: Monday, October 3, 2022

Funding for public housing agencies and housing choice voucher programs to hire family self-sufficiency coordinators that will work with low-income people to increase their earned income and financial literacy, reduce or eliminate the need for welfare assistance, and make progress toward economic independence and self-sufficiency.



[For More Information](#)

USDA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)- Phase I

Application Deadline: Thursday October 6, 2022

Funding for research that focuses on the development of new technologies that address important problems affecting people, institutions, and communities in rural America, including health, agriculture, rural development, and the environment.

[For More Information](#)



VRHA Board of Directors

Application Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2022

The Virginia Rural Health Association (VRHA) Board of Directors will have six positions available at the end of this year. Anyone interested in serving on the Board must submit **this application** to boconnor@vrha.org no later than October 14, 2022. Voting will take place online with the results affirmed at the RHV Conference in November.

Board members should reflect the full geographic, professional, and demographic diversity of rural Virginia.

[To Apply](#)



America's Farmers Grow Communities Project

Application Deadline: Tuesday November 1, 2022

Farmers enroll for a chance to direct \$5,000 to local nonprofit organizations that are important to them and their communities. The Grant must be used by the selected organization to improve science, health and nutrition in communities and organizations within the county where the winning farmer farms or resides.

[For More Information](#)

Geriatrics Academic Career Awards

Application Deadline: Thursday November 3, 2022

Funding to support the career development of junior faculty in geriatrics as academic geriatricians or academic geriatrics specialists. The overall goals of the program are to develop the necessary skills to lead healthcare transformation in a variety of settings, including rural and/or medically underserved settings, to be age-friendly and to provide training in clinical geriatrics, including the training of interprofessional teams of healthcare professionals to provide healthcare for older adults.



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