



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

### Community Photo Feature

It is officially fall! This photo was taken by Rebecca Lord while she was exploring the country roads of Southwest Virginia during peak foliage.

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



### VA-SORH Updates

The 2022 VA-SORH Photo Contest is now open!

**Submission Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2022**

The 2022 Virginia State Office of Rural Health (VA-SORH) Photo Contest is designed to showcase the beauty of rural Virginia. Photographers of all experience levels are encouraged to participate. You may submit as many photos as you'd like.



[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 on COVID-19 Booster Shots](#)
- AgriSafe- [Reaching Farm Communities for Vaccine Confidence](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

# Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

## Rural Health Literacy Toolkit

This toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations implementing programs to improve health literacy in rural communities across the United States.

[For More Information](#)



### Community pharmacies team up with UVA Health to help residents of rural Appalachia quit smoking

"Fourteen independent community pharmacies will team with UVA Health to help residents of rural Appalachia quit smoking and test the effectiveness of multiple smoking cessation programs, including one based on text messaging. The project ultimately aims to lower the region's cancer rates, which are among the highest in the country."

[For More Information](#)

## CDC opening applications for Monkeypox Vaccine Equity Pilot Program



"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed a program, called the **Monkeypox Vaccine Equity Pilot Program** to "support innovative, non-traditional ways to address disparities" with regards to monkeypox vaccinations. The CDC is accepting applications from local, state, and territorial health departments, as well tribal governments and local non-governmental organizations in an effort to increase vaccination access to populations most at risk for monkeypox virus.

Organizations interested in submitting a proposal should email [mpxquestions@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:mpxquestions@vdh.virginia.gov).

[For More Information](#)

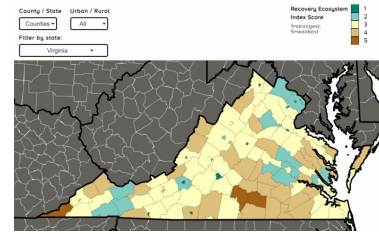


### 'We've been at the table': Tribes in Virginia join forces with Indian Health Service

Describes the joint efforts of 7 tribes that recently secured federal recognition with the Indian Health Service (IHS) to create 2 health centers and 3 mobile units that will increase tribal health services in various areas of Virginia. Discusses the close partnership between the tribal governments and IHS to provide culturally aware healthcare services and other tribal community developments through ongoing work with county and federal governments.

## Recovery Ecosystem Index (REI) Mapping Tool

The term “Recovery Ecosystem” is used to describe the community-level factors that are in place to support individuals in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). This tool, released by, NORC at the University of Chicago, East Tennessee State University, and the Fletcher Group, Inc., allows community organizations, policymakers, researchers, and the general public to create county-level maps to understand these factors in their communities and where additional resources are most needed to provide support to individuals in recovery. Insights derived from this tool can be used to target resources and interventions to enhance recovery ecosystems.

[For More Information](#)

## CMS Proposes Changes to Streamline Medicaid, CHIP, and Basic Health Program

**Deadline to Submit Comments: Monday, November 7, 2022**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a proposed rule that would make changes to simplify the processes for eligible individuals to enroll and retain eligibility in Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Basic Health Program.

Medicaid is an important source of health care coverage for rural America, **covering nearly a quarter of individuals under age 65 living in rural areas**. Of interest to rural stakeholders, CMS is seeking comment on whether States either should be permitted or required to update beneficiary contact information based on information obtained from specific groups including providers like Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics.

[For More Information](#)

## Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Consumer Outreach Toolkit

Toolkit providing outreach materials to raise awareness of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Includes consumer awareness content, back-to-school resources, social media, and web resources.

[For More Information](#)

## HHS Introduces Roadmap for Behavioral Health

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) introduced the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration. The paper explains policy and programs that will build three pillars of the national strategy: 1) *Strengthen System Capacity* by developing a diverse workforce; 2) *Connect Americans to Care* through health financing; and 3) *Support Americans by Creating Healthy Environments* with investments in behavioral health, upstream prevention, and recovery. The Roadmap includes rural

communities as part of its equity priority.

[For More Information](#)

### Virginia Rural Health Association Awarded \$1M through the Rural Communities Opioid Response Implementation Grant

Funding will be used to create a complementary network of programs to address Substance Use Disorder (SUD) in Franklin, Martinsville/Henry, and Patrick counties. This initiative will be led by the Virginia Rural Health Association in cooperation with the Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition, Unite Us, the Graduate Medical Education Consortium of Southwest Virginia, and the New College Institute.



[For More Information](#)

## Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



### 2022 Catalyst Annual Summit

October 7

register by 9/30/22

[To Register](#)



### 2022 Rural Summit

October 27-28

[To Register](#)



### 2022 Virginia EMS Symposium

November 9-13

[To Register](#)



### 2022 Rural Health Voice Conference

November 16-17

[To Register](#)

## State & Regional Funding Opportunities

### Virginia Youth Tobacco Projects Small Grants Program

**Application Deadline: Friday, October 21, 2022**

The Virginia Youth Tobacco Projects (VYTP) is a statewide, multi-university effort to advance the prevention and treatment of youth tobacco use and nicotine dependence through research. The VYTP is implementing several initiatives to enhance Virginia's efforts to learn more about the causes and prevention of youth tobacco use. The purpose of this funding is to stimulate new research into the causes and prevention of youth tobacco use and nicotine dependence.

[For More Information](#)

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## Support for 988 Tribal Response Cooperative Agreements

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, October 25, 2022**

Resources to improve response to 988 crisis contacts (including calls, chats, and texts) originating in tribal communities and/or activated by American Indians/Alaskan Natives. Eligibility is limited to Federally recognized Indian Tribes and tribal organizations.



[For More Information](#)



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## ReConnect Loan and Grant Program

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, November 2, 2022**

The ReConnect Loan and Grant Program furnishes loans and grants to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas.

[For More Information](#)

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## Barclay-Giel Seed Grants

**Application Deadline: Thursday, November 3, 2022**

Grants for public health projects that have a strong disease and/or injury prevention component that impacts the health of a community by promoting wellness, early detection, and early interventions. Past awards have been given for projects in rural and tribal communities.

[For More Information](#)

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## Health Center Program's Service Area Competition (SAC)

**Application Deadline: Monday, November 14, 2022**

The Health Center Program supports organizations that provide primary health care services to the Nation's medically underserved populations. The purpose of the SAC notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) 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](#)

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**HEAL Initiative: Prevention and Management of Chronic Pain in Rural Populations**

**Application Deadline: Monday, November 21, 2022**

This funding is for UG3/UH3 phased cooperative research on non-opioid interventions for chronic pain management in rural and remote populations.

[For More Information](#)

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### Preventive Medicine Residency



**Application Deadline: Monday, November 21, 2022**

Purpose: To increase the number, quality, and diversity of preventive medicine residents and physicians to support access to preventive medicine and to integrate population health with primary care to improve the health of communities.

Eligible entities:

- (a) Accredited school of public health or school of medicine or osteopathic medicine;
- (b) An accredited public or private nonprofit hospital;
- (c) A State, local or tribal health department; or
- (d) A consortium of two or more eligible entities as described in items a, b, or c.

There will be a **technical assistance webinar** on **Monday, October 3, 2022 from 3- 4 PM ET**.

[For More Information](#)

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### 2023 Virginia Walkability Action Institute (VWAI)

**Application Deadline: Friday, October 28, 2022**

VWAI works with local and regional individuals and teams to develop and implement policy, system, and environmental (PSE) changes in local communities. Our goal is to increase access to opportunities for physical activity, employment, education, recreation and more by bringing together a diverse group of professionals, advocates, and champions to address local mobility and moveability issues. Participants consist of local/regional teams and individuals. Each receive training and technical assistance, both in-person and virtually. All participants develop a detailed action plan to pursue a PSE change to improve mobility and moveability in their community.

[For More Information](#)



### VA Office of Rural Health Funding Programs

**Application Deadline: ongoing**

Funding, technical assistance, and mentoring for rural U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to implement promising practices and/or enterprise-wide initiatives.

[For More Information](#)



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

