



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

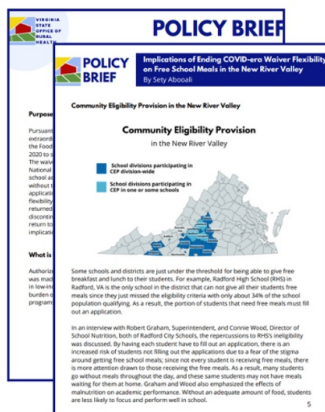
Community Photo Feature

Anne Powell took this photo as the summer sun set behind a corn field in Richmond County, VA.

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



VA-SORH Updates



Rural Health Policy Brief: Implications of Ending COVID-era Waiver Flexibility on Free School Meals in the New River Valley

The Virginia State Office of Rural Health publishes a **monthly series of rural health briefs**. Checkout the October 2022 edition, "Implications of Ending COVID-era Waiver Flexibility on Free School Meals in the New River Valley," which explores the return to pre-COVID-19 Community Eligibility Provision eligibility criteria and its implications for students in Virginia's rural New River Valley.

[For More Information](#)

We're hiring!

The Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity (VDH-OHE) is looking to hire a database manager for the 15 workforce programs managed by the VDH-OHE. A database manager will work with the current vendor to problem solve issues identified by users and communicate the OHE's needs to complete the build out of the database.



[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:

- [At-Home COVID-19 Testing Toolkit](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Fierce Healthcare's 2022 Women of Influence Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Teresa Tyson, DNP, MSN, FNP-BC, FAANP for receiving the Fierce Healthcare's 2022 Women of Influence Award! This award honors 10 women who are making a difference in pushing healthcare to the future. The [Health Wagon's](#) Dr. Tyson is on a mission to address disparities in the Appalachian region.



[For More Information](#)

Virginia's Silent Crisis: Student Mental Health

State study finds half of all middle school students and two-thirds of high school students are nervous, anxious, or on edge. Ten percent of middle school students and thirteen percent of high school students indicated that they had seriously considered suicide in the last twelve months.

[For More Information](#)

Rural Health Clinical Colorectal Cancer Screening Toolkit

The purpose of this toolkit is to provide guidance to Rural Health Clinics that want to implement evidence-based strategies to improve colorectal cancer screening among their patient population. As a key provider of primary care in rural communities, you have the opportunity to reduce the incidence and mortality of this cancer. This toolkit provides information on colorectal cancer screening recommendations, evidence-based strategies to increase screening, and practical tools to evaluate screening uptake in the clinic using your clinic's EHR and to develop standard operating procedures to help your clinic improve screening rates. Some of this information

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is applicable to all clinical settings, while some is tailored to the unique needs of Rural Health Clinics.

[For More Information](#)



New Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response Toolkit from RHIhub

The Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response Toolkit, developed in collaboration with the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis. This evidence-based toolkit provides practical guidance for planning for, responding to, and recovering from disasters and emergencies. It also includes guidance and resources for different types of emergencies and considerations for special populations.

[For More Information](#)

A mission of mercy- Abingdon woman works to feed, minister to inmates

"Linda Austin has been called to serve the underserved. For more than a decade, the Abingdon, Virginia, volunteer has directed the Hands and Feet Ministry, a jail and prison ministry based in Damascus that serves a group of people often forgotten and invisible in the community."



[For More Information](#)



Warner, Kaine announce more than \$500k for transportation to youth mental health programs in Rustburg

"The Harvest Outreach Center in Rustburg will soon see thousands of dollars in funding to help young Virginians have better access to mental health services. On Thursday, Kaine's office announced \$507,900 that will specifically be used to purchase 20 vehicles for youth transport to mental health programming...The funding was awarded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Emergency Rural Health Care program, officials said."

[For More Information](#)

Public Listening Sessions Regarding the Impact of the Opioid Epidemic on Communities in Virginia

The Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) and the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB) are jointly hosting a series of town hall style listening sessions around the state.

The OAA's Board of Directors will use these listening sessions to collect feedback that will be useful in determining funding priorities and decisions about grant applications that are being made available as a result of multiple legal settlements from opioid manufacturers, distributors and pharmaceutical companies. The sessions are open to the general public.

[For More Information](#)



Highlighting Fiscal Year 2022 Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Investments

In fiscal year 2022, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) – through the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) – provided approximately \$408 million in funding to increase health care access, strengthen health networks, and focus on care quality improvements for Critical Access Hospitals and small rural hospitals as detailed in this HRSA [Rural Health Fact Sheet](#). FORHP is also supporting HRSA's goal to achieve health equity by supporting efforts to strengthen health care delivery systems, reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorder, and provide COVID-19 pandemic relief in rural communities. See this [State-by-State summary](#) for grants to rural communities and states.

Caring For the Whole Rural Veteran

Highlights initiatives through the VA's Office of Rural Health (ORH) to support holistic health for rural veterans, including services to aid the transition to civilian life, TeleYoga, and healthy lifestyle coaching.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



**2022 Annual Rural LISC
Seminar: Workforce &
Small Business**

December 7-9

[To Register](#)



**National Rural
Health Association**

**NRHA's 34th Rural Health
Policy Institute**

February 7-9

[To Register](#)



**2023 Investing in Rural
America Conference**

April 11-12

[To Register](#)

State & Regional Funding Opportunities

Updates to the [Virginia Behavioral Health Student Loan Repayment Program \(BH-LRP\) Eligibility Guidelines](#) have expanded the types of practice sites and licensed professionals eligible for the BH-LRP to now include:

- Stand-alone inpatient psychiatric facilities serving uninsured or medically underserved populations and/or communities.
- Psychiatric Physician Assistants
- Psychiatric Pharmacists

[For More Information](#)

Reducing Overdose through Community Approaches (ROCA) Mentorship Program



Application Deadline: Monday, December 5, 2022

Funding opportunity that pairs mentor local health departments (LHDs) with experience in overdose prevention with mentee LHDs that are looking to build capacity.

[For More Information](#)



Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program

Application Deadline: Monday, January 9, 2023

Grants to support eligible governmental and non-governmental partners in conducting a wide range of innovative outreach activities to raise awareness of the Affordable Connectivity Program and increase enrollment among eligible households.

[For More Information](#)

Rural Telementoring Training Center Cooperative Agreement



Application Deadline: Monday, January 9, 2023

HRSA is investing \$750,000 to assist academic medical centers and other centers of excellence to create or expand technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building (telementoring) models to support health care providers in rural areas. The award recipient will provide technical assistance resources that are national in scope, freely accessible, and meet the needs of rural communities and health care providers.

[For More Information](#)

AmeriCorps Seniors Workforce Development Senior Demonstration Program

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Funding for demonstration projects that engage adults ages 55 and older, using service opportunities, certification, training, and mentoring as the avenue that will lead to employment in skilled, professional, and/or para-professional career employment. Public health is a focus area, and rural communities are a priority.

[For More Information](#)

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Nutrition Training Program

Application Deadline: Thursday, February 2, 2023

Funding to promote the healthy nutrition of mothers, children, and families by establishing and enhancing MCH Nutrition Training Programs to provide training for future and current MCH nutrition professionals and nutrition-focused technical assistance to state Title V and other MCH programs. There is also the opportunity to apply for additional funding for the optional Nutrition Workforce Equity enhancement. Programs should implement a curricula that provides nutrition-focused clinical preparation in multiple settings emphasizing integration of MCH nutrition services and expanding the reach of MCH nutrition services in rural and underserved areas.

[For More Information](#)



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