



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



VA-SORH Updates



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:

- **FDA Innovation Award: Researching COVID-19 and Health Equity** - due 1/16/23

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Governor Glenn Youngkin Announces Transformational Behavioral Health Care Plan for Virginians

On December 14th, Youngkin "unveiled his three-year plan to transform Virginia's behavioral health system, entitled 'Right Help, Right Now.' This is a six-pillared approach to address our

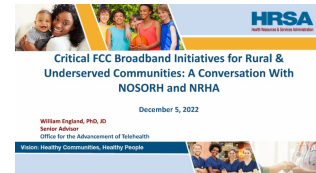


behavioral health challenges, encompassing crisis care, law enforcement burden, substance use disorder support, behavioral health workforce and service delivery innovation. The current behavioral health system is being overwhelmed and failing to meet the needs of Virginians in crisis with an outdated model of care that relies too heavily on hospitals. Year one of this three-year comprehensive plan invests over \$230 million in Virginia's behavioral health system, which will be proposed in the Governor's budget amendments on Thursday."

[For More Information](#)

Critical FCC Broadband Initiatives for Rural & Underserved Communities

About 15 million of an estimated 48 million eligible households are enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program. Rural Americans benefit the most from telehealth, yet enrollment in urban states appears to be doing better than in rural states. The Notice of Funding Opportunity for Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) outreach grants will fund community organizations to publicize the program and create ACP navigators to help with enrollment. This is very important for rural areas.



[For More Information](#)



"Rural Health Disparities" Topic Guide

This recently updated topic guide has information and resources on the current state of rural health disparities and shares strategies to reduce them. Features new FAQs on rural health status and the effect COVID-19 has had on chronic conditions.

[For More Information](#)

Region A 2023 Rural Hospital Virtual Performance Improvement Conference

Monday, January 30, 2023 at 9:00 AM ET

You're invited to attend the upcoming virtual "Performance Improvement Conference" hosted by Wintergreen and The Compliance Team specifically for small and rural hospitals. The three hour session will highlight via hospital and clinic case studies:

- The Future of Rural Healthcare including the REH Model
- Rural hospital Strategic and Operational Priorities
- Rural Health Clinic Best Practices and Future Direction

[For More Information](#)

Health, Work, and Care in Rural America

"People in rural America live an average of three to four times further from types of important hospital-based health care and skilled nursing facilities than people in urban communities. These long distances—combined demographic factors related to age,

income, employment, and less access to paid and unpaid leave than people in metropolitan areas—create unique challenges for people in America's rural communities. Without access to paid sick time and paid leave for serious family and medical needs, workers are often forced to manage taking care of themselves or loved ones without pay while struggling to make ends meet, potentially jeopardizing their health, job, or economic security."

[For More Information](#)

State Strategies to Support the Future of the Primary Care Physician and Nursing Workforce



Discusses primary care physician and nursing workforce challenges, including the shortage of these providers in rural and underserved areas. Describes policies and strategies implemented by states to address these challenges. Offers resources for states, health systems, and academic institutions exploring innovative strategies to address healthcare workforce challenges.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



NRHA's 34th Rural Health Policy Institute

February 7-9

[To Register](#)



2023 MATRC Telehealth Summit

March 15-17

[To Register](#)



2023 Investing in Rural America Conference

April 11-12

[To Register](#)

State & Regional Funding Opportunities

Federal Support for Financially Distressed Hospitals

Provides an overview of Medicare hospital payments and federal funding opportunities to assist financially distressed hospitals. Includes information on COVID-19 relief funding targeted to rural and safety net hospitals.

[For More Information](#)



Application Deadline: Monday, January 30, 2023

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will make \$64 million in awards for real-time, interactive distance learning and telemedicine services. The **USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants** allow students to participate in class remotely and also connect rural residents to medical professionals without leaving home.

[For More Information](#)



SAMHSA Minority Fellowship

Application Deadline: Friday, February 3, 2023

Supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship provides a one-year fellowship to psychiatry residents who are at the PG1 level or higher and are committed to addressing minority psychiatric mental health issues. Those who are interested in becoming a leader and are committed to a career providing culturally sensitive psychiatric services for minority underserved populations, are invited to apply.

[For More Information](#)

USDA Emergency Food Assistance Program- Reach and Resiliency

Application Deadline: Monday, March 6, 2023

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will make approximately 54 awards with total funding of more than \$60 million. The funding extends a \$1 billion investment in the country's food network made 18 months ago to **support community-level food banks during the pandemic**. Most of the 38 **states that received funds in round one** describe distribution to rural areas among their projects.

[For More Information](#)

New Funding Opportunity: Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Application Deadline: Wednesday, March 8, 2023



HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy will be making a \$20 million investment for approximately 40 grants to reduce the incidence and impact of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in rural communities. Over the course of a three-year period of performance, RCORP-NAS recipients will collaborate with local, state, and regional stakeholders to provide coordinated, trauma-informed, and family-centered behavioral and maternal health care services, including medication-assisted treatment, to rural pregnant and postpartum persons and their families. Applicant organizations may be located in an urban or rural area; however, all activities supported by the program must exclusively occur in **HRSA-designated rural areas**.

[For More Information](#)

FCC Rural Health Care Telecommunications Program

Application Deadline: Saturday, April 1, 2023

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) provides funding for telecommunications expenses related to health care in rural areas. To be eligible, applicants must be one of the following: post-secondary health professions training institution; community health center; local health department or agency, community mental health center; nonprofit hospital; rural health clinic, including mobile clinics and dedicated emergency departments in rural for-profit hospitals; skilled nursing facilities.

[For More Information](#)



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