



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

Community Photo Feature

Beth Almond Ford took this photo of Concord Road, which heads almost right to the Blue Ridge Parkway in Patrick County, VA.

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



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:

- **Virginia Healthcare Community Offers Safety Tips Amid Surge in Flu, Respiratory Virus Cases and Hospitalizations**
- **HHS Announces \$350 Million Initiative to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations**
- **NOFO- COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccine Uptake Initiative for Older Adults and People with Disabilities**
- **NORC Rural Health Mapping Tool**

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities



Clinch Valley Health Genetic Testing-Hereditary Cancer Coordinator Program testimonial featured nationally

“When Katelyn Bartley learned of her mother's life-changing breast cancer diagnosis, she counted on us for genetic testing to assess her own risk for developing breast cancer. Katelyn worked with our hereditary cancer coordinator to receive genetic testing based on her family's history with cancer. She believes the best way to *beat* cancer is to *prevent* it.”

[For More Information](#)

Rite Aid pilots small-format stores to serve "pharmacy deserts"



"Rite Aid Corporation has launched a pilot program to plant a series of small-format stores in 'pharmacy deserts,' opening its first location in Craigsville, Virginia [in November]. The new stores will occupy approximately 3,000 square feet, compared to the standard Rite Aid Pharmacy footprint of 11,000 to 15,000 square feet. The company said the smaller format stores will still feature a full-service pharmacy and a retail assortment of health and wellness products."

[For More Information](#)



FCC Releases New National Broadband Maps

Announces the launch of a pre-production draft of its new National Broadband Map, which offers location-specific information on internet service availability across the country. Describes efforts to improve data on broadband availability and the map's features.

[For More Information](#)

Low Health Literacy Is Associated With Energy-Balance-Related Behaviors, Quality of Life, and BMI Among Rural Appalachian Middle School Students: A Cross-Sectional Study

Results of a study of 854 7th-grade students in rural Appalachian Virginia, exploring relationships between health literacy and energy-balance-related health behaviors, body mass index (BMI), and quality of life. Features demographics and statistics on health-promoting and risky health behaviors, and self-rated health status.

[For More Information](#)

Hero's Bridge- Remembering a Hero this Holiday Season

Did you know that each December on National Wreaths Across America Day only half of the veteran headstones at the Culpeper National Cemetery have a wreath laid at their graves? This year, Hero's Bridge would like to close that gap by encouraging our supporters to not only sponsor a wreath but to also spread the word to their friends and family about sponsoring a wreath.



Help honor the memory of those veterans who have passed by sponsoring a wreath and

joining Hero's Bridge at Culpeper National Cemetery at noon on December 17th to lay that wreath during Wreaths Across America Day.

[For More Information](#)

Improving the Oral Health of Rural Veterans

The purpose of this report is to highlight data collected from the 2021 Veteran Oral Health Survey comparing rural and urban veterans. Key objectives include:

1. Explore differences in access to dental care between rural and urban veterans.
2. Highlight oral health and overall health outcomes for rural veterans.
3. Compare the costs of care for rural and urban veterans.
4. Offer data-driven recommendations for improving the oral health and overall health of rural veterans.

[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

Integrated Rural Strategies Group

Neighborhood Funders Group (NFG)'s Integrated Rural Strategies Group (IRSG) is developing a shared understanding among funders at a national scale of what it takes to build community-led capacity to advance justice and equity for rural communities. Using a place-based approach, IRSG is bringing funders together to address local needs and gaps in rural organizing infrastructure and develop shared agendas to support rural organizing and justice-advancing efforts.

[For More Information](#)

Application Deadline: Monday, December 12, 2022

This is a unique opportunity to establish new primary care medical and dental residency programs in community-based ambulatory patient care centers in underserved and rural communities. Recent research has demonstrated that residents with rural exposure during residency training are associated with a 5 to 6-fold likelihood of practicing in rural. However, unlike hospital-based residency programs that rely primarily on Medicare funding, many teaching health centers receive federal funding through HRSA's Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (GME) program.

This two-year grant will award 47 grants, up to \$500,000 each to eligible applicants, including Rural Health Clinics (RHC) or health centers operated by a tribal organization. Community-based ambulatory patient care centers (e.g., RHC) may also apply under a GME consortium model forming partnerships with stakeholders, such as Critical Access Hospital or medical schools to serve as an institutional sponsor for the residency program.

[For More Information](#)



CDC Foundation
Together our impact is greater

Increasing Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the US

Application Deadline: Monday, December 19, 2022

Funding to support the efforts of community-based organizations to improve water, sanitation and hygiene conditions and/or awareness of poor conditions in their respective communities. Priority will be given to specific communities, including rural and tribal areas.

[For More Information](#)

Pilot Projects to Advance Harm Reduction and Public Safety Partnerships to Prevent Overdose

Application Deadline: Friday, December 23, 2022

Funding, technical assistance, and training to implement evidence-based or promising strategies through collaborative partnerships with public safety agencies to reduce risk of overdose and other drug-related harms for people who use drugs and people with substance use disorders who are or may become justice-involved. Funding priorities include rural, frontier, and tribal communities.

[For More Information](#)

Bill Finerfrock Healthy Policy Fellowship

Application Deadline: Monday, January 2, 2023

This program is designed for mid-career rural health professionals with

experience in either the RHC setting or a rural health care system. The fellowship is a personal and professional commitment to making further impacts in rural health practice and policy. The fellowship requires a full-time, in-person, 4-week commitment in May, June, or July 2023. The selected candidate will reside in Alexandria, Virginia during the fellowship period and work within the NARHC DC Office.



[For More Information](#)

Maternal and Child Health Secondary Data Analysis Research (MCH SDAR)

Application Deadline: Monday, February 13, 2023

Funding to support applied research through analysis of existing databases and/or administrative records to improve the quality, efficiency, and accessibility of healthcare services and health outcomes for underserved maternal and child health populations. Underserved populations include indigenous and Native American persons, people in rural areas, persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality, among others.

[For More Information](#)



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