



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

Community Photo Feature

Denise Smith took this photo of a path leading down to the river at Chippokes State Park in Surry, VA.

Denise submitted this photo to the 2022 VA-SORH Photo Contest.



VA-SORH Updates



Rural Health Policy Brief: Strengthening Mental Health Care in Southwest Virginia

The Virginia State Office of Rural Health publishes a **monthly series of rural health briefs**. Checkout the January 2023 edition, "Strengthening Mental Health Care in Southwest Virginia," which explores mental health access in Southwest Virginia and the benefits of integrated primary care as well as provide insight on how to strengthen the mental health care system.

[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:

- **Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition Roadmap** - Announces that the Department of Health and Human Services plans for the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 to expire on May 11, 2023. Specifies what will and will not be affected by the expiration of the PHE.

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

2023 Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit

Deadline to Submit Proposals: Thursday, March 23, 2023 from 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM ET

Registration is now open for the 2023 Virginia Healthcare Workforce Summit, which will be held as a virtual event. The Summit theme is “A Path Forward: Strategies for Supporting the Workforce of Today and Tomorrow” and its offerings will focus on opportunities to invest in, realign, and refocus efforts to grow and support the hospital workforce of today and tomorrow. Registration is FREE for Virginia hospital employees and clinical providers.

[For More Information](#)



Call for Speaker Proposals!

Deadline to Submit Proposals: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health invites you to bring meaningful education to the five State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) Regional Partnership Meetings in 2023. In partnership with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), these meetings are an opportunity to focus on regional rural health needs and opportunities.

[For More Information](#)

Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital Recognized in the Top 20 Rural and Community Hospitals in the U.S.



Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital (RSMH) was recognized as a top 20 rural and community hospital by The Chartis Center for Rural Health and the National Rural Health Association (NHRA). RSMH has been nationally recognized three years in a row for their hard work in providing safe, quality care to those on the eastern shore. The NRHA names the Top 20 Rural & Community Hospitals annually based on an evaluation conducted by The Chartis Center for Rural Health. The selected hospitals are identified through the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX™, the most comprehensive and objective assessment of approximately 800 U.S. rural Prospective Payment System (PPS) hospital performance based upon market, value-based and financial measures.

[For More Information](#)

What You Need to Know: CMS Guidance for REH

On January 26, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published guidance for Rural Emergency Hospitals (REH) with provisions, conversion process and conditions of participation. During this webinar hosted by the American Hospital Association, CMS and HRSA experts will share what you need to know regarding the REH enrollment and conversion process for eligible facilities, Frequently Asked Questions, and a newly developed State Operations Manual Appendix (Appendix O) with survey procedures and CoP regulatory text.

[For More Information](#)



2023 - 2027 Cancer Plan

The 2023-2027 Virginia Cancer Plan (VCP) provides a roadmap to help Virginia residents address the burden of cancer. The plan provides data, guidance, information, and links to resources for all Virginians. The goals of the plan can be addressed throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and require the engagement and collaboration of individuals and organizations involved in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and post treatment care for Virginia residents.

The plan is based on an evaluation of cancer incidence, mortality, and burden in Virginia including the disparate impact cancer has on Virginia's low-income, uninsured, and minority populations.

[For More Information](#)

\$200,000 planning grant approved for Southwest Virginia lab school focused on health care careers

"With approval of a \$200,000 planning grant by the Virginia Department of Education, those working to establish a lab school along the Interstate 81 corridor in Southwest Virginia are forging ahead with plans to open this fall.

If it receives final approval later this year, the Southwest Virginia Healthcare Excellence Academy Laboratory School – or SWVA-HEALS – will focus on health care careers and will be open to students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades. The school will serve as a "pipeline" for preparing future health care professionals to meet the workforce shortages in Southwest Virginia."

[For More Information](#)

Northampton receives \$1 million grant from the USDA Emergency Rural Health Care Grant

"The Northampton County Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing Tuesday to increase a budget appropriation of \$1,000,000 due to the receipt of a grant from the USDA Emergency Rural Health Care Grant. The money will provide for equipment and facility improvements to the County's EMS to implement a training center that will be used to train future generations in Emergency Services."

United Way of Southwest Virginia's Birth to 5 Hub



Early childhood experiences, ages birth to 5, provide children with what they need to be ready for school and ready for life. Across Southwest Virginia and in your community, there are many opportunities for your child to be part of a rich learning environment where they can grow to their optimal potential. Early child care and education services are provided across a diverse array of settings, including Child Care Centers, Family Day Homes, Head Starts, and School Systems (VPI). Navigating your choices can be difficult, but United Way of Southwest Virginia has one way to help. While we cannot enroll your child in a program or make recommendations about the best choice, we can connect you to programs in your area.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



2023 MATRC Telehealth Summit

March 15-17

[To Register](#)



2023 Investing in Rural America Conference

April 11-12

[To Register](#)



National Rural EMS & Care Conference

April 18-20

[To Register](#)

State & Regional Funding Opportunities



Health Workforce Incentive Programs

Virginia Department of Health Workforce Incentive Programs

The Commonwealth of Virginia offers several incentive programs to attract health professionals to Virginia's underserved areas. These programs not only assist with paying down outstanding medical education debt but also afford individuals an opportunity to become part of a community and provide care to deserving populations.

[For More Information](#)

FORHP Preview

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 from 1:30 - 2:30 PM ET



With a new federal budget in hand, the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) is moving forward with the award of grant funds across their programs. They are continuing an annual effort that they began last year by holding an “FORHP Preview” webinar. During this event, they’ll run through their major grant programs for rural communities and focus on the awards they expect to make by the end of the year. There will also be time for questions. The hope is that this annual event helps stakeholders better understand FORHP programs and what to expect between now and September 30th.

[For More Information](#)

Hear Her Campaign: Maternal Health Promotion for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities

Application Deadline: Thursday, March 2, 2023

Funding to increase the awareness of key actions to support positive maternal health outcomes using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Hear Her campaign materials.

[For More Information](#)



SAMHSA Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking

Application Deadline: Friday, March 3, 2023

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) anticipates 50 awards with total funding of \$3 million to prevent and reduce alcohol use among youth and young adults ages 12-20. A recent study indicates high-intensity drinking (≥ 10 drinks in a row) begins in late high school. Slightly earlier research found high school students living in rural areas tending to **report the highest rates of binge drinking**.

[For More Information](#)

Virginia Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) Grant Program

Application Deadline: Wednesday, March 15, 2023



Matching grants for Virginia EMS agencies and organizations for equipment, vehicles, training, education, recruitment, and retention projects.

[For More Information](#)

WIC Community Innovation and Outreach

Application Deadline: Thursday, March 23, 2023

The WIC Community Innovation and Outreach (CIAO) Project Team is pleased to make up to \$10 million in funding available, through a WIC CIAO Subgrant Request for Application (RFA). The purpose of the WIC CIAO Subgrant RFA is to assist WIC State and local agencies, including Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs), and nonprofit entities and organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate innovative outreach strategies to increase WIC awareness, participation, benefit redemption, and reduce disparities in program delivery.

[For More Information](#)

SAMHSA National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative- Community Treatment/Service Centers



Application Deadline: Monday, March 27, 2023

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) anticipates 28 awards, each up to \$600,000 per year. The purpose of the program is to increase access to effective trauma- and grief-focused treatment and service systems for children, adolescents, and their families, who experience traumatic events.

[For More Information](#)

Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) Program

Application Deadline: Friday, April 7, 2023

Grants to support innovative academic-practice partnerships to prepare primary care advanced practice registered nursing students to practice in rural and underserved settings through academic and clinical training.

[For More Information](#)



HHS Advancing Equity Through Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 18, 2023

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) will make 70 awards, each ranging between \$350,000 and \$2 million, for projects that use evidence-based interventions to teenaged pregnancy. Funds will be targeted to communities and populations with greatest need. Federal research has shown an overall decline in birth rates for teenagers, but these **rates are consistently highest in rural areas**.

[For More Information](#)



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Visit the VA-SORH Facebook Page

