



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

## Community Photo Feature

This photo of a tower in the distance along the Chesapeake Bay was taken by Christine Brady Photography in Cape Charles, VA.

Caroline Williamson 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:

- **Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Distribution (RHCVD) Program**- Under the program, Medicare-certified Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) receive direct COVID-19 vaccines in addition to their normal jurisdictions' weekly allocation.

## Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

### Virginia RECOVER Project

The VCU School of Nursing is leading the RECOVER project, part of a nationwide initiative funded by the National Institutes of Health to understand long-term effects of viral illnesses such as COVID in young people. They welcome the opportunity to talk with you about engaging families in your community to be part of this project -- the team is committed to involving **rural families** who can help us understand their specific needs and experiences. Would you be able to **facilitate the sharing of information about this project and/or meet with the RECOVER team to discuss having the team recruit participants through your organization?**



What is the benefit to families?

1. Participants will be compensated for their time in answering surveys and having "check-ups" over the next few years;
2. Families will get copies of the "check-up" results for their records and to share with their healthcare providers;
3. If families need connections to healthcare providers, we can get them started in navigating the healthcare system;
4. The children/ young adults will be part of history-- helping us understand how to leave COVID behind!

For More Information

### H2Outlook: Virginia

A new report from **Virginia Health Catalyst** describes recommendations and implementation strategies to improve drinking water access across the Commonwealth. The first-of-its-kind report, H2Outlook: Virginia, was developed with the Water Equity Taskforce, a community of individuals dedicated to advancing drinking water equity. Read the H2Outlook: Virginia report to better understand today's drinking water challenges and the potential solutions.



For More Information



**UVA Health, Southwest Virginia Coalition Expand Virtual Access to Healthcare**

"UVA Health and a coalition of Southwest Virginia healthcare groups are partnering to

better combat health problems related to the COVID-19 pandemic, backed by a \$5.1 million federal grant that will expand the region's access to care. The Virginia Consortium to Advance Healthcare in Appalachia will bring together the UVA Center for Telehealth, the Healthy Appalachia Institute at the University of Virginia's College at Wise, the Southwest Virginia Health Authority, the Health Wagon, Tri-Area Health and Ballad Health to help more residents get care using innovative telehealth models."

[For More Information](#)

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### HRSA Regions V and VII Workforce Workshop

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 from 1:00 - 4:30 PM ET



- Learn about recruitment, retention, and training strategies for the health workforce.
- Engage with peers and colleagues to enhance coordination, collaboration, and communication in your region.
- Hear from HRSA leadership about the agency's initiatives focused on addressing your healthcare workforce needs.

[For More Information](#)



### FCC Improving Support for Digital Health in Rural America

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has approved several proposals for the Rural Health Care Program to make it easier for healthcare providers to receive support, reduce delays in funding commitments, and improve the efficiency of the program. Reliable high speed connectivity is important for rural healthcare providers to serve patients in rural areas that may have limited resources, fewer doctors, and higher costs for broadband and telecommunications services than urban areas.

[For More Information](#)

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### Virginia Community Service Boards Behavioral Health Services: 2022

Report on activities of Virginia's Community Services Boards (CSBs), the state's primary mechanism for providing publicly funded behavioral health services in local communities. Includes a section on CSBs' role in providing services to rural areas. Features statistics on numbers of substance use disorder and mental health consumers, with breakdowns by urban and rural CSBs.

[For More Information](#)

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### Orientation to Rural Emergency Hospital Conversion and Technical Assistance.

Here, you'll find a recording and [presentation slides](#) from the January 18 webinar that gives an overview of the new Rural Emergency Hospital designation, policy and regulatory requirements, and an introduction to technical assistance provided by the [Rural Health Redesign Center](#).

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

#### Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE)



**Deadline to Submit Letters of Intent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

**Application Deadline: Friday, March 17, 2023**

The grant program addresses the region's substance use disorder (SUD) crisis with investments up to \$13 million in the creation and expansion of a SUD recovery ecosystem that helps facilitate workforce entry and re-entry. Eligible applicants are organizations within the **ARC service area** that can help individuals in recovery obtain and maintain employment.

[For More Information](#)

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## Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship Program

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, February 28, 2023**

Scholarships for medical students approaching their final year of medical school. Scholarship awards are made under national and regional categories, including scholarships for students underrepresented in medicine (such as Native Americans/Native Hawaiians/Alaska Natives) and students committed to addressing health equity for underserved populations and economically disadvantaged areas.

[For More Information](#)

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## Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) in Coal Affected-Appalachia



**Deadline to Submit Letter of Intent (Required): Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 19, 2023**

Funding for workforce and economic revitalization activities in communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries. Priorities include strengthening the healthcare sector, educational attainment, and broadband access.

[For More Information](#)

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## 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](#)



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## Drug-Free Communities Support Program

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

Awards funding to coalitions working to reduce substance abuse among youth and to establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, organizations, and governmental entities.

[For More Information](#)

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## Integrated Substance Use Disorder Training Program

**Application Deadline: Thursday, March 23, 2023**

Funding to expand the number of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, health service psychologists, counselors, nurses, and/or social workers (including individuals completing clinical training requirements for licensure) trained to provide mental health and substance use disorder services in underserved community-based settings that integrate primary care, mental health, and substance use disorder services, including such settings that serve pediatric populations. Eligible Applicants Include: Teaching health centers; Federally qualified health centers; community mental health centers, rural health clinics, Health centers operated by Indian Health Services, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations; or Urban Indian organizations.

[For More Information](#)



## CDC State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, March 28, 2023**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will make 17 awards of up to \$1.3 million each for evidence-based nutrition and physical activity strategies that address health disparities related to poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and/or obesity. The CDC released data showing a low proportion of U.S. adults met physical activity guidelines, with the **lowest prevalence among adults living in the most rural counties**.

[For More Information](#)

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## National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) Diversity Scholarships

**Application Deadline: Friday, March 31, 2023**

Scholarships for students of color who do not hold an EMS certification but who intend to become an EMT or paramedic. The overall goal of the scholarship program is to promote the development of greater diversity in the EMS workforce so that the workforce reflects the communities they serve.

[For More Information](#)



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