



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

Community Photo Feature

This photo taken by LeeAnn Brooks in Russell County, VA. It captures the area's gorgeous scenery, two cows, and blue skies as far as the eye can see.

LeeAnn submitted this photo to the 2022 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.

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

Updates from CMS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released the following proposed rules that are currently open for comment.



Medicare Program; FY 2024 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update, Hospice Conditions of Participation Updates, Hospice Quality Reporting Program Requirements, and Hospice Certifying Physician Provider Enrollment Requirements

- Proposed Rule: [linked here](#)
- Fact Sheet: [linked here](#)
- Comments due by: **Tuesday, May 30, 2023**

Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 and Updates to the IRF Quality Reporting Program

- Proposed Rule: [linked here](#)
- Fact Sheet: [linked here](#)
- Comments due by: **Friday, June 2, 2023**

Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities; Updates to the Quality Reporting Program and Value-Based Purchasing Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2024

- Proposed Rule: [linked here](#)
- Fact Sheet: [linked here](#)
- Comments due by: **Monday, June 5, 2023**

Medicare Program; FY 2024 Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System-Rate Update

- Proposed Rule: [linked here](#)
- Fact Sheet: [linked here](#)
- Comments due by: **Monday, June 5, 2023**

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Investing in Rural America

At the annual Richmond Federal Reserve, Investing in Rural America conference, President Tom Barkin shared how small towns in our District are putting their best foot forward to attract talent. President Barkin's speech mentioned the Crooked Road heritage music trail in Southwest Virginia, which has attracted visitors who want to experience the region's traditional music. Learn more about the trail's economic impact, below.



[For More Information](#)

2023 Rural Summit

THIS WAY FORWARD

October 26 & 27

Save the date for the **United Way of Southwest Virginia 2023 Rural Summit!**

October 26 & 27, 2023

The Rural Summit brings together leaders, practitioners, educators, and community members to explore proven strategies for building resilient and prosperous communities. The 2022 Rural Summit saw more than 300 attendees engaged in interactive sessions and keynotes that explored how school readiness, mental wellness, and workforce development are central to our region's success. This year's summit will build on those learnings, with a focus on data-informed strategies that can lift rural communities and move our region forward.

UVA Launches Ambitious Effort to Reduce Health Disparities

"The School of Medicine has launched a new Center for Health Equity and Precision Public Health to improve the health and well-being of rural residents, the economically challenged and minority groups across Virginia and beyond."



[For More Information](#)

New mobile medical clinic opens in Franklin and Southampton counties

"The City of Franklin and Southampton County have partnered with Old Dominion University to launch a mobile health care clinic that will serve people who, otherwise, would have to travel great lengths to see a doctor."

[For More Information](#)



The CDC Lacks a Rural Focus. Researchers Hope a Newly Funded Office Will Help

"The omnibus appropriations bill signed in December 2022 gave the CDC \$5 million for the 2023 fiscal year to create the Office of Rural Health inside the agency. Congress directed the CDC to sharpen its focus on public health in rural areas with the new office, after COVID-19 had an outsize impact on rural America."

[For More Information](#)

"Hidden Crisis: Pediatric Oral Health in Rural America"

Highlights barriers to rural pediatric oral health and proposes actions to be undertaken by advocates for children. Examines Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas, oral health literacy, and needed Medicaid reforms. Features model oral health programs in Washington, Montana, North Dakota, Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, Louisiana, North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland, and includes profiles of several rural providers.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



UWSWVA Impact Awards

May 9

[To Register](#)



NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference

May 16-19

[To Register](#)



2023 Virginia Health Care Conference

June 8

[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](#)

National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program



Application Deadline: Thursday, April 27, 2023

Scholarships for students pursuing eligible primary care health professions training in exchange for a service commitment in an approved site in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

[For More Information](#)



Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Planning, Development, and Implementation Grant

Application Deadline: Monday, May 22, 2023

The purpose of this program is to transform community behavioral health systems and provide comprehensive, coordinated behavioral health care by: assisting organizations in the planning for and development and implementation of a new CCBHC, providing a comprehensive range of outreach, screening, assessment, treatment, care coordination, and recovery supports based on a needs assessment, and supporting recovery from mental illness and/or substance use disorders (SUD) by providing access to high-quality mental health and SUD services, regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

[For More Information](#)



HRSA Integrated Maternal Health Services

Application Deadline: Friday, May 24, 2023

HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau will make five awards, each up to \$1.8 million

per year for a 5-year project. The program aims to develop/demonstrate an integrated maternal health services model to support comprehensive care for pregnant and postpartum people with limited access to basic social and health care services.

[For More Information](#)



USDA Rural Housing Preservation Grants

Application Deadline: Monday, June 5, 2023

Grants to organizations that work to rehabilitate and preserve affordable housing for rural, low-income homeowners and renters. USDA will award a total of \$18,500,000 in Housing Preservation Grant Program funding for the repair and rehabilitation of rural housing units. \$2,500,000 of this funding is for organizations to help people repair homes they own or rent that were damaged in a calendar year 2022 Presidentially declared disaster areas (\$50,000 maximum award).

[For More Information](#)

Screening and Treatment for Maternal Mental Health and Substance Disorders



Application Deadline: Friday, June 2, 2023

The purpose of this program is to expand health care providers' capacity to screen, assess, treat, and refer pregnant and postpartum people for maternal mental health and substance use disorders by establishing, improving, and/or maintaining statewide or regional networks that provide real-time psychiatric consultation, care coordination support services, and culturally and linguistically appropriate training to maternity care providers and clinical practices.

[For More Information](#)

Mine Health and Safety Grants

Application Deadline: Monday, June 12, 2023



Grants to prevent fatalities, disease, and injury from mining and secure safe and healthy working conditions for miners through laws, regulations, safety improvements, education, and training.

[For More Information](#)



USDA Community Connect Grant Program

Application Deadline: Tuesday, June 20, 2023

The Community Connect provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide broadband service in rural, economically-challenged communities where service does not exist.

Rural areas that lack any existing broadband speed of at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream are eligible.

[For More Information](#)

USDA Summer Food Service Program

Application Deadline: Ongoing

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers funding on a per-meal basis to organizations providing meals to lower-income children when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast.

[For More Information](#)



"Like" us on Facebook to receive live updates on Virginia rural health issues and important messages from our community partners on your Facebook News Feed.

[Visit the VA-SORH Facebook Page](#)

