



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

Community Photo Feature

This photo taken by Linda Scarborough is just missing the pot of gold at the end of the beautiful double rainbow!

Linda 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.

- [Telehealth and the Expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#), with Kathy Wibberly

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Virginia Mental Health Access Program

The Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP) is a statewide initiative that helps health care providers take better care of children and adolescents with mental health conditions through provider education and increasing access to child

psychiatrist, psychologists, social workers, and care navigators.



VMAP Services are for PCPs Only:

- [Call the VMAP Line](#) and get access to free pediatric behavioral health consultations with child psychiatrists and other licensed mental health professionals (like psychologists and LCSWs), plus care navigation services to help with resources and referrals for your patients!
- Sign up for a VMAP pediatric mental health education opportunity including the VMAP REACH PPP, where you can earn up to 28.25 CME Credits through both virtual and in-person trainings! See upcoming dates and learn more [here!](#)

[For More Information](#)



The National Broadband Map- Getting Better All the Time

In November the Federal Communications Commission released new broadband maps providing a snapshot of the state of broadband deployment in the United States. The maps are designed to be constantly and consistently refined through an iterative process, and public maps are updated every 2 weeks.

[For More Information](#)



Overdose Treatment Now Available Without a Prescription

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that the makers of Narcan, an opioid overdose treatment, have the agency's approval to make the drug widely available over the counter (OTC). Narcan is the brand name of the drug naloxone, a fast-acting overdose reversal. Until now, availability varied by state – typically restricted to licensed health care providers, approved opioid overdose programs, and first responders. This is an important consideration for rural counties given that research shows that these areas are [nearly three times more likely](#) than metropolitan counties to be a low-dispensing county for naloxone.

[For More Information](#)

2023 County Health Rankings National Findings Report

The 2023 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps have been released! This year, the focus is on the connection between civic health and thriving people and places. Civic health reflects the opportunities people have to participate in their communities. It starts in our local communities and is the cornerstone of our democracy, representing promise, opportunity, belonging and shared responsibility. Explore your county's data and learn how civic infrastructure and participation influence health.



[For More Information](#)

Accepting applications for Student Representatives to the VRHA Board of Directors



Application Deadline: Friday, May 5, 2023

The VRHA is accepting applications from students who wish to serve as a representative on the VRHA Board of Directors. Up to five students will be selected for a one-year appointment.

The VRHA Student Representatives to the Board of Directors are expected to serve as a communication link between the current leaders of VRHA and the future ones.

Nominations must be submitted via e-mail to: boconnor@vrha.org

[For More Information](#)



National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services

New Recommendations for Elder Care

The National Advisory Committee for Rural Health & Human Services, which advises the HHS Secretary on rural issues, has released a new policy brief and recommendations on how to expand the Programs of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly in rural areas.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



National Rural EMS & Care Conference

April 18-20

[To Register](#)



UWSWVA Impact Awards

May 9

[To Register](#)



NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference

May 16-19

[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](#)



USDA Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program

Application Deadline: Friday, April 28, 2023

The RHSE program proposals are expected to be community-based outreach education programs, such as those conducted through Human Science extension outreach that provide individuals and families with: information as to the value of good health at any age; information to increase individual or family's motivation to take more responsibility for their own health; information regarding rural environmental health issues that directly impact human health; information about and access to health promotion and educational activities; and training for volunteers and health services providers concerning health promotion and health care services for individuals and families in cooperation with state, local, and community partners.

[For More Information](#)

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program- Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health

Application Deadline: Friday, May 24, 2023

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is a multi-year Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) initiative aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in high-risk rural communities. This notice announces the opportunity to apply for funding

under the RCORP-Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health (RCORP-CABH) program. The purpose of RCORP-CABH is to establish and expand sustainable behavioral health care services for children and adolescents aged 5-17 years who live in rural communities, and to prevent substance misuse

[For More Information](#)

HRSA Health Careers Opportunity Program



Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Rural communities can develop a homegrown health care workforce through this funding that targets people from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. Approximately \$13.5 million will fund up to 21 grants for five years. Eligible applicants include accredited schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, allied health, chiropractic; as well as public or nonprofit private schools that offer graduate programs in behavioral and mental health; and public or private nonprofit health or educational entities such as a community college, technical college, or tribal college.

[For More Information](#)

Integrated Maternal Health Services

Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 24, 2023

The purpose of this program is to foster the development and demonstration of integrated health services models. The models developed and demonstrated by this program will support comprehensive care for pregnant and postpartum people who experience health disparities and have limited access to basic social and health care services. The overarching goal of the IMHS initiative is to improve maternal health outcomes in the United States by increasing access to quality, equitable, comprehensive care for pregnant and postpartum people who experience health disparities and have limited access to basic social and health care services.

[For More Information](#)



Rural Health Care Coordination Program

Application Deadline: Monday, May 26, 2023

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) has announced a funding opportunity that promotes rural health care services outreach by improving and expanding delivery of health care services through comprehensive care coordination strategies in rural areas.

Ten successful award recipients will receive up to \$300,000 per year over the four-year project period to:

- Expand access to and quality of equitable health care services through care coordination strategies exclusively in rural areas;
- Utilize an innovative evidence-based, promising practice, and/or value-based care model(s) known or demonstrate strong evidence to improve patient health outcomes, and the planning and delivery of patient-centered health care services;
- Increase collaboration among multi-sector and multidisciplinary network

- partnerships to address the underlying factors related to social determinants of health; and
- Develop and implement deliberate and sustainable strategies of care coordination into policies, procedures, staffing, services, and communication systems.

[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](#)



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](#)



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