Weekly Update
June 14th

Check out our newest podcast episode!

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VRHA News

Members in the News

PATHS, VCU tackle racial disparities in cancer screening

VRHA member PATHS Piedmont Access To Health Services, Inc. is partnering with VCU Massey Cancer Center to address racial disparities systemic in screening of
preventable cancers. Project COALESCE, a two-year collaborative effort funded by Pfizer and the American Cancer Society will address race-related barriers to colorectal and cervical cancer screening in Danville, Martinsville, Brunswick and Richmond.

**Board Member featured on With Good Reason NPR Show**

VRHA Vice President Laura Trull was an interviewee on the episode "Front Porch Healthcare", where she shared a segment on the Rural Pandemic Response.

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**National News**

**NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference - Call for Presentations**

NRHA's Annual Rural Health Conference is an interactive experience designed for all rural health professionals, with 7 tracks covering clinical issues, statewide public health issues, clinic management, rural communities, education, policy and learning tools for leaders. NRHA is willing to consider any new and innovative session proposals.

Any person with an interest in rural health is invited to submit session proposals by **Aug. 19** or original research by **Jan. 13** for presentation during the 2022 conferences.

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**Calendar**

**2021 Annual Prevention of Youth Substance Abuse Conference Series**

**June 16, 2021   11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

"Prevention Works: Youth Behavioral Health Lessons from the Field". Provided by Coalition for Healthy Youth

**Capital Project Financing Sources for Rural Health Centers**

**June 24, 2021   2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

Webinar session specifically designed for rural health centers looking to learn more about the various avenues of financing available for capital projects, including USDA, New Markets Tax Credits, and the HRSA Loan Guarantee Program.

**Leveraging Telemedicine to Fully Staff Rural Hospitals – Models that Work**

**June 29, 2021   1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

Rural telehealth adoption is growing significantly – particularly by connecting patients in their homes to a provider. While the growth is compelling, there is still untapped potential for rural hospitals to utilize telemedicine to drive down costs and improve the delivery of care within the acute care setting. In this webinar, you’ll hear from Dr. Brian Carpenter and Dr. Steve Ward about ways to leverage tele-hospitalists to stabilize staffing, reduce recruiting costs, support advanced practice providers, and positively impact sub-specialist care.
Motivational Interviewing: Evidence-Based Strategies & Principles for Guiding Conversations With Your Patients
June 30, 2021    12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Attendees will learn how to uncover what motivates patients to change and review active listening & productive communication strategies. This high level overview will be the first in a series of Motivational Interviewing sessions that will be presented over the next year.

Capital AHEC Presents Series - Lupus Education
June 28, 2021    6:00 pm

Come hear our keynote speaker, rheumatologist Dr. Beth Rubinstein (VCU), to learn about lupus, including populations most at risk, signs and symptoms of lupus, and when to refer.

US Hepatitis Academic Mentorship Program Virtual Summit
Monday, July 27, 2021    9:45 am - 1:30 pm

The US-HAMP (United States Hepatitis Academic Mentorship Program), a program of the Kentucky Rural Health Association would like to invite you to the US-HAMP Summit on July 27, 2021. This will be a virtual event for Key State Leaders. Please refer to HAMP attachment for agenda/program about US-HAMP.

Resources

Social Determinants of Health Database

Provides data files reflecting social determinants of health (SDOH) variables, including social context, economic context, education, physical infrastructure, and healthcare context that is linkable by county or zip code. Data are curated from federal and other public datasets.

Rural Resource Toolkit: COVID-19 Vaccines

Identifies messaging principles to communicate about COVID-19 vaccination to rural residents. Includes customizable public service announcements, graphics, and other media for sharing facts about vaccination. Part of the It's Up to You public education campaign.

State Strategies for Engaging and Leveraging Primary Care Providers as COVID-19 Vaccinators

Summarizes the results of interviews with a sample of state-level stakeholders and findings from research identifying strategies for state officials to engage and support primary care providers and pediatricians as COVID-19 vaccinators. Provides examples of state strategies and discusses future considerations for governors and state officials.

Rural and Minority Health Research Center: Annual Report 2020

Highlights research projects in areas including healthcare access, maternal and child health, health economics and policy, cancer prevention and control, and social determinants of health. Features statistics on hospital-based obstetric units from 2002-
2013 with breakdowns by metropolitan, micropolitan, and noncore locations, social determinants of health in rural areas with breakdowns by race or ethnicity, adverse child experiences exposure with breakdowns by urban or rural location, and colorectal cancer incidence trends from 2000-2016 with breakdowns by urban and rural location.

Declines in Infant Mortality in Appalachia and the Delta: 
1995-1996 Through 2017-2018

Compares infant mortality nationwide to rates in the Delta and Appalachia, examining maternal demographic changes including age, race, and ethnicity. Draws data from the National Vital Statistics System.

Increasing Access to Vaccination Opportunities: COVID-19 Vaccination upon Discharge from Hospitals, Emergency Departments, and Urgent Care Facilities

Provides information on how jurisdictions can help hospitals, emergency departments, and urgent care facilities provide COVID-19 vaccinations to patients being discharged. Includes a list of best practices for facilities, information on billing, and more.

Medicare Payment for COVID-19 Vaccination Administration in the Home

Provides an overview of Medicare payment policies for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines in the home for Medicare patients that have difficulties leaving their homes or are hard to reach. Includes examples of situations in which an additional payment amount applies and information on billing for the additional payment amount.

Partnership Forum: The Role of Research in the Transformation of Veterans Affairs Community Care

 Discusses how research has shaped the Veterans Affairs' Office of Community Care since its inception in 2015. Highlights the effect research has had on care coordination, quality of care, and network adequacy, among other measures, for all veterans including those in rural areas.

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Behaviors among Rural and Urban Community-Dwelling Older Adults in Summer, 2020

 Study examining trends in hand washing, face touching, mask wearing, limited gatherings, and other COVID-19 risk mitigation behaviors that compares urban and rural populations over age 65. Discusses rates of specific mitigation behaviors and breaks down rural population demographics.

Telehealth for the Treatment of Serious Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders

 Evidence-based resource guide examining telehealth initiatives to treat serious mental illness (SMI) and substance use disorders (SUD) based on published research. Topics cover effectiveness of telehealth modalities, implementation of evidence-based practices, examples of telehealth treatment programs, and evaluation resources. Discusses rural-specific concerns throughout the guide.
Funding Opportunities

**Community Economic Development Projects** *NEW*

Grants to Community Development Corporations (CDCs) for projects designed to address the economic needs of low-income individuals and families through the creation of employment and business opportunities, including expansion or construction of clinics and health centers. Priority points will be given to projects that create jobs in rural communities and counties of persistent poverty.

**Application Deadline: July 12, 2021**

**Optimizing Virtual Care (OVC) ** *NEW*

Funding for current Health Center grantees to develop, implement, and evaluate innovative, evidence-based strategies that optimize the use of virtual care to increase access and improve clinical quality for underserved communities and vulnerable populations.

**Application Deadline: July 16, 2021**

**Virginia Health Safety Net Grants** *NEW*

Funding for projects to grow and strengthen Virginia's healthcare safety net by developing or expanding patient capacity, establishing a broader scope of services, creating local systems of care, and strengthening infrastructure.

**Letter of Intent: July 16, 2021**
**Application Deadline: September 1, 2021**

**Substance Use Disorder Treatment & Recovery Loan Repayment Program** *NEW*

Loan repayment assistance for substance use disorder (SUD) professionals to provide direct treatment and recovery support services in an approved SUD treatment facility.

**Application Deadline: July 22, 2021**

**Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program Site Application** *NEW*

Apply to be an approved Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program site to receive assistance with recruitment and retention of qualified SUD clinicians and paraprofessionals.

**Application Deadline: July 22, 2021**

**Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative - Grants to States and Communities** *NEW*

Grants to support the development and expansion of dementia-capable home and community-based service systems in states and communities.

**Application Deadline: August 2, 2021**
American Electric Power Foundation Grants *NEW*

Supports nonprofits working in the areas of hunger, housing, health and safety, human services, education, and the environment in American Electric Power's eleven state service area.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) J-1 Visa Waiver Program *NEW*

Offers a J-1 Visa waiver to foreign physicians who commit to serving for 3 years in rural Appalachian areas, allowing them to remain in the United States.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Appalachian Community Fund Technical Assistance Grants *NEW*

Funding for technical assistance needs for community-based organizations that address underlying causes of economic and social distress in the Appalachian region.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Scholarship *NEW*

Scholarships for nurse practitioners working in safety-net settings to pursue a post-master's certificate as a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Loan Fund Program *NEW*

Community development loans to local governments, public service authorities, user associations, nonprofit organizations, and other community entities for the development and/or construction of large-scale community projects.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Virginia AHEC Scholars Program *NEW*

A multidisciplinary certificate program for health professions students in Virginia that offers opportunities for hands-on training, experience in rural and underserved communities, and networking with other students and professionals.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Virginia EMS Scholarship *NEW*

Scholarships to support qualified applicants seeking to earn an initial or advanced EMS credential within Virginia.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

AAFP Foundation: Family Medicine Cares USA

Family Medicine Cares USA, an initiative of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation, helps new and existing free health clinics to care for the uninsured in
areas of need across the United States. These grants of up to $25,000 should be used for the purchase of durable, sustainable equipment and instruments necessary for diagnosis and treatment related to primary care. Applicant clinics must have opened or be open within six months of the application deadline date, have completed or be in the process of completing the Volunteers in Medicine America new clinic development process, and have an AAFP member who maintains active, ongoing involvement with patient care at the clinic.

**Application Deadline: July 15, 2021**

**ACT on Health Equity: Community Solutions Challenge**

Grants to nonprofit organizations positively impacting underserved populations through regional and local community-based programs focused on community health and well-being, youth STEM education, and career readiness.

**Application Deadline: July 16, 2021**

**Service Area Competition Funding for Health Center Program (Areas Served with a Project Period Start Date of December 1, 2021)**

Funding to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services to an underserved area or population. Areas with a December 1, 2021 project period start date are eligible to apply.

**Application Deadline: July 19, 2021**

**Opioid Crisis Innovation Challenge 2021**

Grants for innovative, multi-disciplinary projects to address the opioid crisis reducing overdoses, increasing access to treatment, and supporting long-term recovery. Projects should focus on vulnerable populations, which includes rural communities.

**Application Deadline: July 19, 2021**

**Service Area Competition Funding for Health Centers Program (Areas Served with a Project Period Start Date of February 1, 2022)**

Funding to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services to an underserved area or population. Areas with a February 1, 2022 project period start date are eligible to apply.

**Application Deadline: July 19, 2021**

**Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts**

The Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts has issued a Request for Proposals aimed at specific projects that bring an innovative approach to long-standing, complex issues related to stemming the tide of the nation’s opioid crisis. This RFP will support projects that can explore and/or evaluate new “outside-the-box” ideas, bring together approaches from several diverse fields, and engage multi-disciplinary, cross-sector teams to solve some of the most intractable problems created by the crisis. The focus is on projects with solutions in the following areas: Professional Education & Training, Timely & Actionable Data, and Supporting the Transition from Treatment to Recovery. Nonprofits and universities, as well as state, local, and tribal government agencies, may apply.
CDC Health Science Fellowship

A research training opportunity with the Centers for Disease Control to conduct statistical analyses in the field of injury public health, including projects examining variations in fatal and nonfatal injury rates between rural and urban populations.

Application Deadline: July 19, 2021

Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC)

Grants for projects in the Appalachian region and Lower Mississippi Delta region that will provide career training and support services to eligible individuals in counties and parishes and/or areas currently underserved by other resources.

Application Deadline: July 21, 2021

Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge

Grants for organizations to provide planning and implementation technical assistance to rural communities to foster placemaking, which is the process of creating quality places where people want to live, work, and play. The program goal is to create greater social and cultural vitality in rural communities aimed at improving people's social, physical, and economic well-being.

Application Deadline: July 26, 2021

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Community Selection

As part of the Continuum of Care program, HUD will select up to 50 communities to participate in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program to develop and execute a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness. At least 8 of the selected communities will be rural.

Application Deadline: July 27, 2021

Technical Assistance for Small, Rural, Vulnerable Hospitals

Targeted technical assistance for rural hospitals to improve quality of care, maintain access to care, and address the challenges that are unique to small hospitals and the towns they serve.

Application Deadline: July 30, 2021

Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program

Grants to rehabilitate and modify the primary residence of veterans who are low-income and living with disabilities, with a focus on helping them regain and/or maintain their independence to alleviate critical health, life, and safety issues. Applicants from rural and other geographic areas that lack reliable internet access may request a waiver from the electronic submission requirement through HUD's Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development.

Application Deadline: July 30, 2021
Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service

Monetary awards that honor health delivery organizations that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to community service.

Application Deadline: July 31, 2021

NBCC Foundation Rural Scholarships

Scholarships for students residing in rural areas who are currently enrolled in a master's level counseling program and are committed to practicing in rural communities after graduation.

Application Deadline: July 31, 2021

Alcohol and Other Substance Use Research Education Programs for Health Professionals (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Grants to support research educational and outreach activities that complement other formal training programs in the mission areas of the NIH Institutes and Centers, especially the public health impact of alcohol, opioids, and other substances, their associated consequences, and the persistent stigma associated with them.

Application Deadline: August 10, 2021

Circle of Life Award: Celebrating Innovation in Palliative and End-of-Life Care

Award program that honors innovative programs and organizations that care for patients with serious or life-limiting illness and provide best practices and models for the field. Rural organizations have received the award in the past.

Application Deadline: August 16, 2021

Rural Health Fellows Program

A year-long, intensive fellowship program designed to develop a community of rural health leaders.

Application Deadline: September 3, 2021

Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project (RHPTP)

Technical assistance for rural healthcare providers to build capacity in value-based care (VBC), with emphasis on efficiency, quality, patient experience, and safety. The program's goal is to guide small rural hospitals and rural health clinics that are not currently participating in VBC to prepare for participation in a health system focused on value.

Application Deadline: September 10, 2021

Foundation for Rural Service Community Grant Program

Grants to support a variety of local efforts to build and sustain a high quality of life in rural communities across America. Focus areas include business development, community development, education, and telecommunications.
The Home Depot Foundation: Community Impact Grants Program

The Home Depot Foundation’s Community Impact Grants Program provides support to nonprofit organizations and public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve their communities. The Program focuses on support for organizations that serve veterans in local communities, as well as organizations that serve vulnerable and underserved communities. Grants of up to $5,000 are made in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services.

Requests will be accepted on a rolling basis through Dec 31, 2021

Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (R01, R03, and R21)

Funding for research that seeks to identify, develop, test, evaluate, and/or refine strategies to disseminate and implement evidence-based practices into public health, clinical practice, and community settings. This program is featured in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences Selected List of Funding Opportunities Relevant to Rural Cancer Control.

Application Deadline: May 7, 2022

AHRQ Small Research Grant Program (R03)

Supports different types of health services research projects, including pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology. Rural and frontier areas are considered a priority population.

Application Deadline: July 6, 2022

AHRQ Health Services Research Demonstration and Dissemination Grants (R18)

Supports the dissemination and implementation of research projects related to AHRQ’s mission to produce evidence to make healthcare safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable. AHRQ’s priorities include an interest in rural and frontier healthcare delivery.

Application Deadline: September 30, 2022

Long-Term Effects of Disasters on Health Care Systems Serving Health Disparity Populations (R01-Clinical Trial Optional)

Grants for research focused on understanding the long-term effects of natural and/or human-made disasters on healthcare systems serving health disparity populations. Health disparity populations include, but are not limited to, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and underserved rural populations.

Application Deadline: September 7, 2023

Co-infection and Cancer (R01 and R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
Grants for research on the roles of co-infection and cancer to inform prevention and treatment strategies for infection-related cancers. Applicants are encouraged to investigate co-infection and its relation to causes of risk among racially/ethnically diverse populations and those from urban and rural areas who are poor and medically underserved, and populations who may have a disproportionate burden of infection-related cancers.

**Application Deadline: January 7, 2023**

**Comprehensive Care for Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus from Populations with Health Disparities (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Funding for research focused on developing and testing strategies that adapt/implement recommended guidelines of comprehensive clinical care for individuals with Type 2 diabetes from health disparity populations.

**Application Deadline: September 7, 2024**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Telehealth Strategies for Individuals with HIV and Substance Use Disorders**

Notice of Special Interest for research to explore and develop telehealth methods and strategies for diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and population analysis in individuals living with HIV and substance use disorder.

**Application Deadline: September 7, 2024**

**Evidence for Action: Investigator-Initiated Research to Build a Culture of Health**

Grants for research that expands the evidence needed to build a Culture of Health. A Culture of Health is broadly defined as one in which good health and well-being flourish across geographic, demographic, and social sectors; public and private decision making is guided by the goal of fostering equitable communities; and everyone has the opportunity to make choices that lead to healthy lifestyles.

**Application Deadline: Accepted on an ongoing basis**

**Virtual Living Room - Using Technology to Address the Critical Healthcare Needs of Veterans in Rural Areas**

A grant program that combines rural technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs resources, and local support to provide solutions to improve healthcare access for veterans in rural areas.

**Application Deadline: Accepted on an ongoing basis**

**COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund**

The US Department of Health and Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has announced a new program covering costs of administering COVID-19 vaccines to patients enrolled in health plans that either do not cover vaccination fees or cover them with patient cost-sharing. Since providers cannot bill patients for COVID-19 vaccination fees, this new program, the COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund (CAF), addresses an outstanding compensation need for providers on the
front lines vaccinating underinsured patients. The CAF is funded through the Provider Relief Fund Program and will accept eligible claims from providers dated on or after December 14, 2020.

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Pioneering Ideas Brief Proposals**

Grants for innovative projects that are working to build a culture of health, ensuring that everyone has access to the care they need and all families have the opportunity to make healthier choices.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**Angel Flight East COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment and Vaccine Transport**

A volunteer pilot network that transports personal protective equipment and COVID-19 vaccines for distribution to areas in need.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**HUD Section 242: Hospital Mortgage Insurance Program**

Loan and mortgage insurance program to help acute care hospital facilities with remodeling, expansion, modernization, equipment, refinancing, and acquisition. Small, **rural Critical Access Hospitals** are eligible to apply.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.**

**COVID Tech Connect Smart Device Donation Program**

A smart device donation program for hospitals, care facilities, and hospice centers to allow critically ill COVID-19 patients to connect with their loved ones. Priority is given to those in greatest need, including facilities in **rural areas**.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.**

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**Virginia Rural Health Association**
1872 Pratt Drive, Suite 1125
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 231-7923  staff@vrha.org

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