Weekly Update
July 12th

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VRHA News

Pride of Rural Virginia Community Chat #1 - Danville
A Huge Success!
This past Saturday, over 30 people joined together for our first Pride of Rural Virginia Community Chat in Danville! We are inspired by all the wonderful discussions and resources that were shared and look forward to our next community chat in Martinsville on July 31st. For more information about our next four chats, visit www.vrha.org/pride.

- Martinsville/Henry County: July 31st, 1-3 pm
- Farmville/Prince Edward County: August 21st, 1-3 pm
- Pulaski County: August 28th, 1-3 pm
- Shenandoah County: September 18th, 1-3 pm

Special thanks to our amazing panelists:

**Karen Cotta** - Outreach Counselor & Supervisor at Family Insight, P.C.

**Danielle Montague** - Health & Wellness Program Coordinator City of Danville, and Health Equity Co-Chair at The Health Collaborative

**John Kent** - Chief Operating Officer at SOVAH Health-Danville

**Dr. Sheranda Gunn-Nolan** - Chief Medical Officer of SOVAH Health

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**National News**

**HHS Opens Provider Relief Fund Reporting Portal**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) long-awaited Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Reporting Portal is now open for providers who need to report on the use of funds in Reporting Period 1. Providers who are required to report during Reporting Period
I have until September 30, 2021, to enter the Portal and submit their information. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has provided an extensive reporting guide, example excel data entry sheets, and a new edition of the FAQs. **Register to attend** the technical assistance webinar on July 8, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. ET. NRHA is working through these documents in order to help members with any issues or concerns you encounter and will be in touch with more information shortly. In the meantime, we are sharing resources HRSA sent to assist folks through this process via [NRHA Connect](#).

**HHS Releases Surprise Billing Interim Final Rule**

The Biden Administration, through the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and Treasury, and the Office of Personnel Management, issued "Requirements Related to Surprise Billing; Part I," an interim final rule that will restrict excessive out of pocket costs to consumers from surprise billing and balance billing. The interim final rule with request for comments implements the first of several requirements passed with bipartisan support in title I (the "No Surprises Act") of division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. The regulations issued today will take effect for health care providers and facilities January 1, 2022. Fact sheets on this interim final rule can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

**Calendar**

**National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality Meeting**

**July 14, 2021  10:00 am - 2:30 pm**

This meeting will begin with an update on AHRQ's recent accomplishments in Health Systems Research, Practice Improvement, and Data and Analytics. The agenda will also include discussions on Strategic Opportunities for FY22, Opportunities to Advance Telehealth and Advancing Patient Safety.

**Healthcare Discovery Symposium**

**July 20-22, 2021  8:30 am - 3:30 pm**

This free virtual event is an exciting and informative multi-day series that provides insight into various healthcare services, featuring special interest presentations, a non-clinical corporate panel, and career development opportunities including mock interviews, and resume building.

**US Hepatitis Academic Mentorship Program Virtual Summit**

**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.

**Center for Substance Abuse Treatment National Advisory Council Meeting**

**August 12, 2021  1:00 pm - 4:30 pm**
Agenda items will include an update on CSAT activities; a discussion with SAMHSA leadership; and a discussion of recovery and recovery support. Registration required.

## Resources

**Lists of Designated Primary Medical Care, Mental Health, and Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces the availability of the complete lists of all geographic areas, population groups, and facilities designated as primary care, mental health, and/or dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Lists are available on the Shortage Areas website and are current as of April 30, 2021.

**U. S. Department of Labor - Wage and Hour Resources**

"How to Achieve Compliance with the Department of Labor" – *Wage and Hour Division*. Tools for employers such as [Wage & Hour Compliance Assistance Toolkits](#) and for employees, an [Interactive Digital Reference Guide](#) to the FLSA.

Additional links and posters are available on the Wage & Hour Division [website](#).

**Invest in Trust: A Guide for Building COVID-19 Vaccine Trust and Increasing Vaccination Rates Among CNAs**

A guide to help nursing home leaders build confidence in COVID-19 vaccination among certified nursing assistants. Includes a conversation guide, posters, information cards, and more.

**Healthiest Communities 2021**

Presents data and comparative rankings for urban and rural counties describing population health, health equity, education, housing, food and nutrition, and environment, among other indicators. Includes peer group rankings for rural high-performing and up-and-coming counties. Offers searchable county data at the bottom of the page by county name or zip code.


Provides an overview of the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that relate to public health; behavioral health; medical supply chain; and health-related workforce, services, and support. Includes information related to funding for the National Health Service Corps and Nurse Corps, funding for graduate medical education, and emergency rural development grants for rural healthcare providers.

**Virginia Hepatitis C Education & Patient Connection Provider & Support Staff Training**

This series will enable MD, PA, NP, PharmD, or DO, along with their support staff to assist their patients through the cascade of care for hepatitis C from screening to cure. The LIPs
will learn about the disease process, medications for treatment and when a referral to a specialist is needed. The support staff will learn to support patients through attending appointments, obtaining medication and while on treatment. The collaboration of providers and support staff will help to ensure that the implementation of these new skills in your practice is successful. Series will be seven one hour weekly sessions on Wednesdays from 12-1 PM from June 2 through July 14.


Evaluates the quality measures used across 26 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) quality reporting programs. Summarizes these measures' impacts on quality of care, cost efficiency, and burden reduction. Provides statistics concerning participation and performance within Medicare quality reporting programs, including statistics specific to rural populations and facilities.

**Underscoring Disparities in Rural Health: Challenges, Solutions for a Long-Standing and Growing National Issue**

Summarizes a study that reported the rural-urban disparity in age-adjusted mortality rates grew substantially from 1999 to 2019. Identifies factors impacting this disparity and other challenges to healthcare access rural residents face, especially minority groups, that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Includes discussion on potential solutions to improve care.

**Urban-Rural Differences in Dental Care Use Among Adults Aged 18-64**

Reports on dental visits for rural and urban populations in 2019, providing data from the National Health Interview Survey based on gender, race and ethnicity, and income relative to the federal poverty level.

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**Funding Opportunities**

**SAARA National Recovery Month Grant Program** *NEW*

This mini-grant program will be awarded through a competitive application process to groups, organizations, or coalitions to new or existing events and activities that engage the community in celebrating Recovery Month and reducing the stigma of addiction.

**Application Deadline: July 23, 2021**

**Department of Agriculture Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant** *NEW*

The Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant seeks to provide technical assistance to socially-disadvantaged groups in rural areas. Examples of technical assistance include feasibility studies, business plans, strategic planning, and leadership training. Socially-disadvantaged groups include those whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.
**Application Deadline: August 9, 2021**

**Medline Community Impact Grant Program** *NEW*

The Medline Community Impact Grant Program supports nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and its territories that address prevalent health challenges, stimulate health equity, and improve population health in under-resourced areas. Health outcomes for people living in vulnerable communities, and already disproportionately impacted by social determinants of health (the economic and social conditions that influence health status), are at an even greater health risk. Medline will provide grants of up to $25,000 for community-centered solutions to health challenges that offer immediate impact on these vulnerable communities. (Healthcare providers are not eligible to apply.)

**Application Deadline: August 27, 2021**

**integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (iTHRIV) Pilot Translational and Clinical Studies Program** *NEW*

Designed to help researchers transition from early-stage seed grants and proof-of-concept studies to translational research and clinical applications. Successful applicants will receive funding for one year starting in February 2022. Proposals can include the full range of translation from the laboratory to the clinical area. Areas of particular interest include: Innovative uses of data science to improve health, research focused on health disparities, team science collaborations across two or more iTHRIV partner institutions.

**Application Deadline: August 30, 2021**

**integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (iTHRIV) Community Organization and Research Institution Partnership** *NEW*

This funding opportunity is specifically interested in applications that seek to reduce health disparities and improve health among communities that experience poorer health outcomes and have historically been excluded from opportunities to engage in research (e.g. racial/ethnic minorities, rural communities, women, low-income families). Projects may target direct health outcomes (e.g. improved screening rates, glycemic control, physical activity, diet, etc.) and/or social determinants of health. Projects should address needs that are identified through a community health prioritization process or targeted needs assessment that includes appropriate primary and/or secondary data.

**Application Deadline: August 30, 2021**

**Massachusetts General Hospital Fellowship Program in Rural Health Leadership** *NEW*

A full-time fellowship for early-career clinicians who have an interest in partnering with rural communities to improve health. The fellowship includes a Master's Degree in Public Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and focused clinical time in Rosebud, South Dakota at an Indian Health Service site.

**Application Deadline: September 30, 2021**

**DATA 2000 Waiver Training Payment Program** *NEW*
One-time direct payment of $3,000 to Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics for each eligible provider who possesses a DATA 2000 waiver to prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**Public Health Informatics and Technology Workforce Development Program**

Funding to increase the number of public health professionals trained in informatics and technology with an emphasis on improving public health reporting through modern standards and computing. Through an interdisciplinary approach to data science and managing public health information, the program is designed to build capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, other minority serving institutions, and other colleges and universities to educate and diversify the future public health workforce.

**Application Deadline: August 11, 2021**

**Wellness for All Power of She Grant**

Grants to support entrepreneurs and organizations committed to making wellness and fitness more accessible and inclusive to female Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities.

**Application Deadline: August 13, 2021**

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

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

**Application Deadline: August 13, 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**

**APhA Foundation Incentive Grants**

Offers pharmacists seed money to implement or support an innovative patient care service within their pharmacy practice. Pharmacists in rural areas have received funding in previous rounds.

**Application Deadline: August 23, 2021**

**MultiPlan Rural Health Grant**

Grants to help healthcare providers in rural areas introduce or expand services, education, screenings and other programs aimed at improving the health of people in their
communities.

Application Deadline: August 27, 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.

Application Deadline: September 15, 2021

Business and Industry CARES Act Loan Guarantee Program

A USDA program for lenders to guarantee their loans to rural businesses and agricultural producers to supplement their working capital to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Application Deadline: September 15, 2021

EMS Leadership Academy and Rural Scholarships

A two-part, 60-hour leadership program designed to prepare participants to lead and manage EMS agencies. Scholarships are available for rural EMS providers.

Application Deadline: October 20, 2021

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.
**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**

**The Role of Work in Health Disparities in the U.S. (R01 Clinical Trials Optional)**

Grants for innovative population-based research in how work or occupation influences health outcomes and health status among health care disparity populations and how work functions as a social determinant of health.

**Application Deadline: September 8, 2024**

**SEARCH - Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households**

Funding for financially distressed rural communities of less than 2,500 people to assist with feasibility studies, design assistance, and technical assistance on water and waste disposal projects.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.

**Healthy Food Financing Initiative Technical Assistance**

As part of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI), the Reinvestment Fund provides technical assistance for early stage healthy food access projects in underserved areas with a focus on management, financial health, and operations.

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

**American Electric Power Foundation Grants**

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**

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**
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**

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**

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**

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**

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

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

**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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