Weekly Update
July 6th

Check out our newest podcast episode!

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VRHA News

This Saturday!

Pride of Rural Virginia -
Danville/Pittsylvania Co. Community Chat
July 10, 1-3 pm

Averett University Student Center
Multipurpose Room
420 West Main Street
Danville, VA 24541

Virtual participation will be available, please register to receive zoom link.

VRHA invites all LGBTQIA+ members, allies, & healthcare providers living or working in Danville/Pittsylvania County to join this interactive discussion on local healthcare needs & priorities.

Registration, more information, & links to the other community chats: www.vrha.org/pride

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Virginia News

**Ballad Health reopens Lee County Community Hospital after almost 8-year closure**

The hospital closed its doors in 2013 while under Wellmont Health Systems management, and county officials looked for partners to provide an alternative to county residents having to go to Wise County, the Tri Cities and Kentucky for hospital care. That partner arrived in early 2019 with Ballad, which began work with the county’s Hospital Authority for the critical care designation.

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National News

**Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Reporting Portal Open!**

The 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!

HRSA communicated with providers this morning and we want to share that message and these resources with you (email attached). There is extensive reporting guide, example excel data entry sheets, and a new edition of the FAQs.

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.

General Stakeholder information:

- [Stakeholder One-pager](#) (PDF)
- [Stakeholder Toolkit](#) (PDF)
• Provider Support Line at (866) 569-3522 for TTY dial 711. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT, Monday – Friday

HRSA will host a recorded webcast on July 8, 2021 at 3 PM ET to provide technical assistance on reporting requirements for PRF recipients and interested stakeholders. Interested parties can register to attend here.

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**AHRQ: National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality: Request for Nominations for Members**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is requesting nominations for the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality to serve 3-year terms beginning in the spring of 2022. At least one member of the committee must be familiar with rural health issues.

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**Calendar**

**Faith in Harm Reduction - Extending Hope, Extending Life Webinar**

*July 27, 2021  2:00 pm*

Extending hope and extending life to people who use drugs involves many strategies. This session provides an opportunity for people of faith to explore ways to serve that are comfortable for them and positively contribute to the mission of harm reduction.

**Telehealth in Obstetrics and Gynecology**

*July 29, 2021  12:15 pm*

Learning objectives include: understanding when and how to refer a pregnant patient to a maternal fetal specialist; familiarity with some of the common tools used to screen for Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMADs); understanding barriers to adequate screening and treatment for PMADs.

**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.
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**

**Covid-19 Dashboard for Rural America**
A collection of maps and charts providing data on rural COVID-19 vaccinations, cases, and deaths. Maps include county-level information on vaccination and identify rural hot spots.

**Rural Coronavirus Response with CDBG-CV**
Provides information on funding opportunities through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the CARES Act to support rural housing, food, broadband, and economic development. Discusses examples of programs using CDBG funds to respond to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and offers links to useful resources.

**Behavioral Health Care for LGBTQIA+ Patients during COVID-19**
A webinar discussing the ways mental health disparities effecting LGBTQIA+ people have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and how providers might meet the needs of those within this community. Eligible for CME credit.

**Health Disparities Report 2021**
Report examining health disparity trends based on data from America's Health Rankings reports. Offers reports by state and discusses disparities related to social and economic factors, physical environment, clinical care, behaviors, and health outcomes. Most state reports offer data comparisons by metro and non-metro residence.

**County Economic Status in Appalachia, FY 2022**
Map showing levels of economic distress in Appalachian counties based on unemployment rates, income, and poverty levels. Includes interactive map, downloadable maps and data files, and data report.

**Deserted: Access to Healthy, Fresh and Affordable Foods is Elusive for Millions who Live in Rural America**
Explores food insecurity in rural Appalachia and the Mississippi Delta. Describes the prevalence of food deserts in these areas and the changes in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program due to COVID-19.

**The Role of Rural Graduate Medical Education in Improving Rural Health and Health Care**
Describes ways in which family medicine graduate medical education will save lives while contributing to the economic basis of local healthcare, keeping patients and economic investment close to home. Examines effects of place-based training on recruitment and retention, resiliency, and increased satisfaction in rural practice.

**The Co-Occurrence of HIV and Opioid Mortality in Rural and Urban America from 1999-2018**

Policy brief evaluating trends in mortality from Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and opioid use in rural and urban areas, using data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiology Research (WONDER) mortality database. Features statistics on mortality by sex, race or ethnicity, and census region, with breakdowns by 6 levels of population density.

**Rural Emergency Medical Service Providers Perceptions on the Causes of and Solutions to the Opioid Crisis: A Qualitative Assessment**

Study examining the perspectives of rural emergency medical service (EMS) providers on key issues related to the opioid crisis, including prescription, ease of access to opioids, socioeconomic vulnerability, mental health, and lack of alternative treatment options. Discusses qualitative data taken from 123 surveys addressing perceived causes and solutions to the crisis.

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

Recording of a June 2021 webinar discussing financing sources available to rural health centers for capital projects, including the HRSA Loan Guarantee Program and New Markets Tax Credits, among others. Profiles El Dorado Community Health Center, a rural health center in California that completed a capital development project. Free registration is required to access the webinar recording.

Additional links: [Presentation Slides](#)

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**Funding Opportunities**

**Wellness for All Power of She Grant** *NEW*

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**

**MultiPlan Rural Health Grant** *NEW*

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**
EMS Leadership Academy and Rural Scholarships *NEW*

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

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

Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation

The Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation is dedicated to the fight against HIV and AIDS. Grant requests from throughout the United States are considered, with particular interest in smaller communities and rural areas. The Foundation supports community-based nonprofit organizations that focus on HIV/AIDS care and direct services, education, or research. Grants are provided to developing or established programs, with emphasis on those that provide direct benefit to clients or target audiences. Requests are reviewed two times per year.

Letter of Inquiry Due: August 6, 2021
Invited Grant Applications Due: September 3, 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

Rural Cooperative Development Grants

The Rural Cooperative Development Grant program awards up to $200,000 to improve the economic condition of rural areas through cooperative development.

Application Deadline: August 10, 2021

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**

**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**

**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**

**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.
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: September 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: January 7, 2023

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

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.**