Weekly Update
June 21st

New Episode! #60 Medical School

VRHA News

Now Accepting Applications for 2021/2022 Student Board Representatives!

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. In order to meet this expectation, the students selected will need to interact with both the VRHA
Board Members and students in a wide variety of health-related programs. Up to five students will be selected for a one year appointment.

Applications must be submitted no later than September 10, 2021.

Criteria & Application Form

Virginia News

Special Announcement for Providers/Clinicians

Virginia needs your help in the fight against COVID-19. As we celebrate approaching our goal of vaccinating 70% of eligible Virginians this summer, we must recognize that many people are still hesitant to receive the COVID-19 vaccine because they lack trusted sources of information.

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) wants to help facilitate crucial conversations with your patients through Teletown Halls. VDH is offering varied levels of support from just providing the zoom link to offering full administrative support and preparation sessions. In addition, VDH is now allowing physicians to order the COVID-19 vaccine in small quantities through their Small Shipment Redistribution Program (SSRP). I encourage you to utilize VDH’s resources to reach out to your community and strengthen confidence in the vaccine. With your expertise and community connections, we can protect Virginians from the spread of COVID-19.

More information about the Teletown Halls and the available resources can be found on the VDH website. To learn more about SSRP and ordering the vaccine, click here. The Virginia Department of Health stands ready to help you so that you can help your community.

Daniel Carey, MD, MHCM
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Calendar

HHS: Meeting of the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force
June 25th, 2021  2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The purpose of this meeting is to consider interim recommendations addressing the inequities and the impact of long-COVID or Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC), and access to personal protection equipment, testing, and therapeutics that are related to this pandemic. This meeting is open to the public and will be live-streamed at www.hhs.gov/live. Information about the meeting will be posted on the HHS Office of Minority Health website prior to the meeting.

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.

**COVID-19 Update: Kids, Vaccine Hesitancy, and Access to Health Care**
**June 28, 2021  6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

Join the Virginia NAACP Health Committee for an informative Facebook LIVE discussion on COVID-19. This insightful discussion will feature healthcare experts who will share timely information about COVID in younger populations, vaccine hesitancy in minority populations, and access to health care in communities with physician shortages.

**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.

**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**
**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

NRHA Rural Vaccine Resource Library

Provides links to tools and resources for rural community leaders to use in COVID-19 confidence activities. Featured resources include communications tools, data and surveys, success stories and promising practices, and funding resources.

The Appalachian Region: A Data Overview from the 2015-2019 American Community Survey Chartbook

State- and county-level information on population, age, race and ethnicity, housing occupancy, education, labor force, employment, income, health insurance coverage, disability, and veteran status, for the 13 Appalachian states. Features statistics with breakdowns by 5 levels of population density.

COVID-19 Healthcare Resource Roadmap

Explains how federal funding may be used to address healthcare challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discusses public health capacity, care delivery, workforce, infrastructure, vaccination, and more. Covers ongoing annually funded federal programs, as well as resources provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Consolidated Appropriations Act, and American Rescue Plan Act. The decision framework tool includes a rural county public health department example.

Thrive 2020: Office of Rural Health Annual Report

Details a report on the objectives and outcomes of the VA’s Office of Rural Health’s (ORH) mission to improve the health and well being of rural veterans. Presents the ORH’s efforts to improve access and quality of care, as well as plans to address future challenges.

The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections From 2019 to 2034

Projects future supply of active physicians by examining trends in key determinants and the sensitivity of supply projections to changes in determinants. Features statistics including projected demand for primary care or non-primary care specialties by urban or rural location, with breakdowns by 6 levels of population density.

Funding Opportunities

Board Certified Telemental Health Provider Training Award *NEW*

The NBCC Foundation is providing grant awards for nationally credentialed counselors to complete CCE-approved telemental health training. The goal of the program is to increase the reach and professional development of counselors throughout the nation.
Priority consideration will be given to applicants who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic due to financial strains, unemployment, or underemployment.

**Application Deadline: July 31, 2021**

**Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grants** *NEW*

Offers grant assistance to create and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters and maximize the use of local productive assets in eligible low-income rural areas.

**Application Deadline: August 2, 2021**

**Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation** *NEW*

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**

**Rural Cooperative Development Grants** *NEW*

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**

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

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**

**Business and Industry CARES Act Loan Guarantee Program** *NEW*

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**

**Healthy Food Financing Initiative Technical Assistance** *NEW*

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

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

Substance Use Disorder Treatment & Recovery Loan Repayment Program

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

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 parapersonals.

Application Deadline: July 22, 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**

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

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

**Application Deadline: August 1, 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.
**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 3, 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 10, 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 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**

**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.
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.

**Virginia Rural Health Association**

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