Weekly Update
June 28th

Check out our newest podcast episode!

VRHA News

Pride of Rural Virginia Community
Chat #1: Danville/Pittsylvania
County
July 10, 2021 from 1-3 pm

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

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.

www.vrha.org/pride

Virginia News

Honoring the People Making a Rural Difference: Nominate a 2021 Community Star!

If you know of a person, coalition, or organization that meets any or all of the following criteria, we invite you to honor them by nominating them to be a 2021 Community Star!

1. Innovative - Cultivates a vital, innovative rural health landscape and infrastructure
2. Demonstrates Leadership - Develops leadership capacity to grow rural population health and health equity
3. Grows Rural Programs - Builds capacity for rural data-driven program planning and decision making
4. Mission-driven - Contributes to rural health innovation, education, collaboration, and communication

Nominations open through August 2nd, 2021.

National News

NRHA Partners with All of Us Research Program

The All of Us Research Program aims to speed up health research breakthroughs by gathering health information from one million or more people. The All of Us Research Program wants people from all walks of life to take part. That means young and old people, men and women, and people from cities and rural areas. It means sick and healthy people. And it means people of different races, ethnicities, and sexual orientations. Researchers will collect information such as height, weight, health conditions, and medicines and use this data to better understand and improve health for everyone. Learn more about why diversity is important to the All of Us Research Program.
Post-COVID Rural Healthcare Outlook with Alan Morgan, CEO of NRHA
(Part 1)

NRHA CEO Alan Morgan says the federal government has done an excellent job stepping in for rural providers affected by the pandemic due to the advocacy of NRHA and its members. But even with relief, many hurdles remain, including how that money can be spent or repaid – and when. In a two-part blog series with NRHA Partner Medhost, Morgan weighs in on an overview of the four biggest challenges facing rural hospitals in the post COVID-19 era, including strengthening workforce and revising payment models. “Finding ways to attract and sustain a skilled rural health care workforce is dominant issue that has only been amplified by COVID-19,” Morgan says.

NRHA Advocacy Campaigns

NRHA connects you and hundreds of rural health stakeholders with local, state, and federal lawmakers, ensuring our message to support or oppose legislation is heard by those with the power to enact change at every level.

Our advocacy platform means that you can reach your members of Congress with one click, while customizing content as needed, to allow you to maintain your unique voice.

Through activities such as the annual Rural Health Policy Institute and ongoing grassroots campaigns, NRHA members actively participate in advocacy efforts to bring about needed rural health policy and legislation.

Current List of Campaigns

Calendar

**CDC Vaccine Equity Event: Spotlight on Community-Based Organizations**
**June 30, 2021  11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

This virtual event will bring together community organizations and leaders across the nation to hear about one another’s efforts to increase vaccine confidence and access in racial and ethnic minority communities, learn about CDC’s support and vision for vaccine equity, and recognize the impact of these collective efforts at the grassroots level.

**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

COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Adults — United States, December 14, 2020–May 22, 2021

Reports on COVID-19 vaccinations administered from December 14, 2020–May 22, 2021, by age, sex, and community-level characteristics. Includes vaccine coverage data by age group (18-29, 30-49, 50-64, 65+) for metropolitan, micropolitan, and noncore areas.

Exploring the Role of Health Centers in Providing Medication-assisted Treatment

Examines the geographic areas that are most dependent on health centers for medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder. Compares statistics on DATA-waived providers and health centers with MAT patients across metropolitan, non-metropolitan, and rural health centers.

Need for Contraceptive Services Among Women of Reproductive Age — 45 Jurisdictions, United States, 2017–2019

Reports on the ongoing or potential need for contraceptive services among women age 18-49 by state, age group, race/ethnicity, and urban-rural status.

Exploring Health Center Capacity in Rural Maternity Care Deserts

Examines the capacity for health centers to provide maternal healthcare in rural maternity care deserts. Compares the performance of priority health centers (PHC) and non-PHCs and national benchmarks on the prenatal patients, the number of patients who delivered with a health center provider, the percent low birth weight babies, and the percent prenatal patients who received prenatal care in the first trimester.


Examines trends in HIV testing for people with commercial insurance or Medicaid from 2014 through 2019. Includes data by sex, age group, urban-rural residence, and U.S.
Census region. Also includes data by race/ethnicity for those covered by Medicaid.

**An Evaluation of Firearm Injuries among Rural versus Urban Veterans: Data Validity and Early Findings**

Webinar recording discussing rural and urban differences in rates of firearm injuries among veterans. Breaks down data pertaining to injuries, suicide, homicide, and unintentional fatalities related to firearms.

Additional links: [PDF Handout](#)

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**Funding Opportunities**

**Personal Responsibility Education Program Innovative Strategies (PREIS) *NEW***

Grants to pilot, implement, and test innovative adolescent pregnancy prevention strategies for the Personal Responsibility Education Program Innovative Strategies (PREIS) program. The program targets services to high-risk, vulnerable, and culturally underrepresented youth populations including rural youth and youth living in high teen birth rate areas.

**Application Deadline: July 26, 2021**

**Board Certified Telemental Health Provider Training Award *NEW***

Grant awards for nationally credentialed counselors to complete CCE-approved telemental health training.

**Application Deadline: July 31, 2021**

**NEXT for AUTISM: Color the Spectrum Community Grants *NEW***

The mission of NEXT for AUTISM is to transform the national landscape of services for people with autism by strategically designing, launching, and supporting innovative programs. NEXT for AUTISM’s Color the Spectrum Community Grants support nonprofit organizations throughout the United States that address the transition from school to adulthood in the following three areas: home, work, and social. Applying organizations must have started innovative programs, services, systems, or models of service delivery that make improved outcomes likely. This year grants of $25,000 will be provided, with preference given to programs for the underserved, as well as autistic-led organizations and initiatives.

**Letter of Intent Due: August 1, 2021**

**Road Runners Club of America: Kids Run the Nation Grant Fund *NEW***

The Road Runners Club of America (RRCA) is dedicated to supporting the growth of grassroots running clubs, training programs, and running events while promoting the common interests of runners throughout the United States. The Kids Run the Nation Grant Fund, an initiative of the RRCA, supports nonprofit organizations and schools in the U.S. that are interested in implementing or currently have a youth running program.
Grants of $500 to $1,000 are provided to running clubs and other nonprofit organizations such as parent booster clubs, PTAs, etc. Elementary and middle schools that provide organized after-school running programs are also eligible to apply. Since the goal of the grant program is to have kids running at least once a week for multiple weeks, funded programs should offer more than just one-time events.

**Application Deadline: August 1, 2021**

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

*NEW*

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**

**APhA Foundation Incentive Grants**

*NEW*

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**

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

*NEW*

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.**

**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.
Board Certified Telemental Health Provider Training Award

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.

Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service

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

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.

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.

Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grants

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.

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**

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**

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.

**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**

**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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