VRHA News

"Rural Virginians and the importance of ending cancer as we know it"

NRHA president-elect Beth O'Connor of the Virginia Rural Health Association recently wrote about the importance of ending cancer as we know it. “In the United States, cancer mortality rates are higher in rural areas than in urban zones,” she says. “The reasons are manifold, but a lack of access to quality health care and distances to specialists are all factors.”

Reminder - Applications Now Open for 2021/2022 Student Board Reps
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

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Virginia News

Community Interviewees Needed:
"Building Resilience and Deconstructing Opioid Use Disorder Stigmas through Life Narratives in Central Appalachia"

Interviewees needed to gather life histories in the context of the opioid crisis. Our goal is to improve treatment programs and reduce addiction stigmas.

[Interviewee Recruit Flyer - PDF]
[Interviewee Recruit Flyer - PNG]

Participant requirements:

- Are 18 years old and older
- Live in Wise, Russell, Norton, Dickenson, and Buchanan counties
- You or a loved one has a history of opioid use OR you are a community member involved with responding to the opioid crisis (i.e. law enforcement, faith leaders, community advocates, counselors, etc.)

If you qualify, then you would be asked to:

- Participate in a 1.5 to 2 hour virtual interview that will be recorded with your consent and with the protection of your information and identity. All participants will remain anonymous.

For participating you will:

- Receive a $40.00 Gift Card to Walmart.
- Contribute to open the dialogue of the social issues in the opioid crisis.

For further information please contact Andrew Luskin
xqy9ms@virginia.edu  (540) 251-4592

This project is an Academic-Community Partnership between One Care of Southwest Virginia, UVA Wise, Healthy Appalachia Institute, UVA Psychiatry Department, VDH, & Radford University

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National News
NRHA Health Equity Council

The National Rural Health Association is pleased to announce the reformation of the Health Equity Council and Conference, formerly the Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health Council and Conference, to highlight issues related to rural and underserved LGBTQ, veteran and homeless populations in addition to the multiracial and multicultural populations the council has advocated on behalf of for years.

The Health Equity Council is currently seeking applications for individuals interested in serving on the council board. Terms for open positions of the Editorial Board will begin Jan. 1, 2022.

The council meets once annually in conjunction with NRHA’s Annual Health Equity Conference and via teleconference each month. Members pay their own travel and lodging expenses for the annual meeting. Potential candidates must have significant rural health experience and an established record of work. Council members must also be members of NRHA and active participation in council events is required for the duration of their term.

Online Application Deadline: August 25, 2021

CMS Proposes Rule to Increase Price Transparency, Access to Care, Safety & Health Equity

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed a new rule to address the health equity gap, including actions to promote price transparency, improve access to emergency care in rural areas, increase Medicare beneficiary safety, and use lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to improve patient experiences and outcomes.

Calendar

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.

COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force Meeting
July 30, 2021  2:00 - 6:00 pm

Addressing future pandemic preparedness, mitigation, and resilience needed to ensure equitable response and recovery in communities of color and other underserved populations. 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: www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/healthequitytaskforce/ prior to the meeting.
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) National Advisory Council (NAC) Meeting  
August 11, 2021  1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The meeting will be open to the public and will consist of discussions of substance use prevention priorities, including the prevailing Institute of Medicine model, as well as agency practices regarding innovation and evaluation of programs. The meeting will also include updates on CSAP program developments.

HRSA Maternal Health Webinar Series: Focus on Racial Equity  
August 12, 2021  3:00 pm

highlight innovations and promising practices as well as resources to promote and further maternal health and well-being across the lifespan.

Community Health Workers’ Role in Advancing Equity  
August 24, 2021  3:00 pm

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are taking a larger role in patient-centered care and community health. Yet, questions remain around the scope of their work, licensure requirements, and available funding sources to build a capable workforce. In this webinar, we will clarify their work and explore their role in advancing equity.

Radically Rural Summit 2021  
September 22-23, 2021

Experts in the arts, downtowns, entrepreneurship, land use, clean energy, healthcare and journalism gather to share thoughts on sustainable, thriving rural communities.

Resources

New Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit Resources

Dental coverage for adults in full-benefit Medicaid covered groups will focus on overall oral health, prevention, and restoration. This historic benefit expansion is response to the needs of our members and a recognition of the importance of oral health in achieving positive overall health outcome.

Smiles for Children Member Brochure (English)  
Smiles for Children Member Brochure (Spanish)

Smiles for Children Adult Dental Flyer (English)  
Smiles for Children Adult Dental Flyer (Spanish)

Farm Dinner Theater

Farm Dinner Theater (FDT) is a program currently active in Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia that brings farmers together to discuss health and safety issues in a fun, relaxed environment. Participants attend three 10-minute scripted plays and then hold a group discussion after each performance. Play topics are tailored to the community but can include:
HHS Announces $103 Million from American Rescue Plan to Strengthen Resiliency and Address Burnout in the Health Workforce

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced the availability of $103 million in American Rescue Plan funding to address burnout and promote mental health among the health workforce. Over a three-year period, funding will aid healthcare providers in addressing workplace stress and demands exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on the needs in rural and underserved communities.

Opioid Treatment Programs: A Key Treatment System Component

Issue brief examining state and federal-level policies related to opioid treatment programs (OTPs). Offers policy recommendations to increase access to opioid treatment in rural communities and other hard-to-reach settings.

Leveraging Quality Measurement to Improve Rural Health, Telehealth, and Healthcare System Readiness: Final Environmental Scan Report

Presents the results of an environmental scan of literature related to barriers and facilitators of rural telehealth for healthcare system readiness, as well as a scan of quality measures relevant to rural telehealth during emergencies. Summarizes policies and practices related to telehealth and the healthcare system, with a focus on federal policy changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding Opportunities

OMH Funding Opportunities: Framework to Address Health Disparities through Collaborative Policy Efforts *NEW*

This initiative will demonstrate the effectiveness of a methodological framework, structured processes, and tools to assess and identify policies that may create or perpetuate health disparities. It seeks applications for two separate notices of funding opportunity (NOFO): Demonstration Projects and a Coordinating Center.

Application Deadline: August 23, 2021

Travel Allowances to Attend NRHA Rural Health Clinic & Critical Access Hospital Conferences in Kansas City, Missouri *NEW*

NRHA is now accepting applications for set-amount travel allowances to attend the association’s Rural Health Clinic and Critical Access Hospital Conferences in Kansas City, Missouri. The scholarships are awarded on a first come, first-served basis in the amount of $1,250 to students and community members with a critical need for financial support with
conference expenses. Funds will be granted to individuals who meet the eligibility criteria and who are unable to attend NRHA’s events without such support. If anyone in your association fits this criterion, please consider filling out the application or forwarding it along.

**Promoting Resilience and Mental Health Among Health Professional Workforce** *NEW*

Grant to healthcare organizations to establish, enhance, or expand evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or protocols to promote resilience, mental health, and wellness among their health professional workforce, including in rural and medically underserved communities.

**Application Deadline: August 30, 2021**

**Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Training Program** *NEW*

Funding to plan, develop, operate, and/or participate in health professions and nursing training activities using evidence-based or evidence-informed strategies designed to reduce and address burnout, suicide, mental health conditions, and substance use disorders and promote resiliency among healthcare professionals. Healthcare professionals may include students, residents, professionals, paraprofessionals, trainees, public safety officers, and employers of those professionals in rural and medically underserved communities.

**Application Deadline: August 30, 2021**

**Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation Grants** *NEW*

Grants to support community-based organizations providing direct services, education, or research in the areas of HIV and AIDS, with priority given to smaller communities and rural areas.

**Application Deadline: September 3, 2021**

**The Role of Work in Health Disparities in the U.S.** *NEW*

Grants for innovative population-based research in how work or occupation influences health outcomes and health status among health disparity populations and how work functions as a social determinant of health. (FBOs/CBOs eligible).

**Application Deadline: September 8, 2021**

**Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency Service Coordinator Program** *NEW*

Grants to fund service coordinators to assist residents of public and Indian housing in making progress towards economic self-sufficiency, including the provision of job training, employment, adult education, housing, and health resources.

**Application Deadline: September 17, 2021**

**Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award** *NEW*

Monetary awards to recognize extraordinary volunteer service in areas with 25,000 people or less, with a goal of raising awareness of the need for citizens to fill critical civic roles...
including local government boards and councils, volunteer firefighters, EMTs, and advisory committees that support other key local government functions in small localities.

**Application Deadline: October 15, 2021**

**Medline Community Impact Grant Program**

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**

**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**

**Teaching Health Center Planning and Development Program**

Planning and development grants to establish new accredited or expanded community-based primary care residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine-pediatrics, psychiatry, obstetrics and gynecology, general dentistry, pediatric dentistry, and/or geriatrics. The program is designed to support the expansion of the primary care physician and dental workforce in rural and underserved communities.

**Application Deadline: August 30, 2021**

**Teaching Health Center Planning and Development -Technical Assistance**

A cooperative agreement with a single entity to provide technical assistance for HRSA’s Teaching Health Center Planning and Development Program (THCPD) award recipients to support the creation of new accredited community-based primary care residency programs in rural and underserved communities.

**Application Deadline: August 30, 2021**

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

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**

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

**Rural Health Fellows Program**

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

Application Deadline: September 3, 2021

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

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

Application Deadline: September 7, 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

**Wilderness and Austere Medicine Fellowship**

A year-long training experience for physicians to develop clinical skills and leadership capacity to provide high quality healthcare in resource limited settings and prepare for leadership positions in the field of wilderness and austere medicine.

Application Deadline: September 15, 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**

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

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**

**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.

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

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**

**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.**

**Intermediary Relending Program (IRP)**

Provides low interest loans to intermediaries that re-lend to businesses to improve economic conditions and create jobs in rural communities.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.**

**DATA 2000 Waiver Training Payment Program**

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**

**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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