VRHA News

VRHA is proud to have Board President Bryan Price Appointed to the Virginia LGBTQ+ Advisory Board!

View Governor Northam's Full Appointment Announcement Here

National News

USDA Invests $167 Million in High-Speed Broadband in 12 States
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing $167 million in 12 states to deploy broadband infrastructure (PDF, 360 KB) in rural areas without sufficient access to high-speed internet. These investments will benefit rural people in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Virginia. The investments are part of the $550 million Congress allocated to the second round of the ReConnect Program as well as other funds made available for the program since 2018. USDA expects to begin inviting applications for a third round of program funds in the coming weeks.

**Calendar**

**Webinar - Rural Health People - Where We've Been and Where We're Going**  
August 25, 2021    12:30 pm

Review key findings from Rural Healthy People 2010 & 2020, which studied the top 10 rural health priorities for the past two decades. Speakers will then look ahead to Rural Healthy People 2030 to discuss major changes to Healthy People and what they mean for rural America. The session will conclude by presenting early findings from the Rural Healthy People 2030 survey and discussing what comes next.

**SAMHSA: Meeting of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Advisory Council**  
August 30, 2021    1:00 - 5:00 pm

Agenda items include remarks and discussion with the new Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, updates on SAMHSA priorities, new grant opportunities and initiatives, and a council discussion on clinical trends and emerging national issues with SAMHSA NAC members.

**The Lupus Initiative: Eliminating Health Disparities in Lupus**  
August 24, 2021    6:00 pm

Join Dr. Beth Rubinstein (VCU) to learn about lupus, including populations most at risk, signs and symptoms of lupus, and when to refer.

**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.

**Behavioral Health Assessment Officers: Managing Care for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders in Rural Emergency Departments**  
September 2, 2021    2:00 pm

Focuses on the Behavioral Health Assessment Officer (BHAO) model to increase access to mental health & substance use disorder care in rural communities. BHAOs are licensed behavioral health providers who work in rural emergency depts. This provider evaluates &
manages care for patients identified at screening to have behavioral health concerns. Attentive to the needs of the unique rural community they serve, BHAOs listen to community voices, understand local strengths & barriers, & navigate resources with skill.

**2021 Virginia Cancer Conference**
**September 15, 22, & 29, 2021  9:30 am - 12:30 pm daily**

Provides education and training to key stakeholders in the Virginia cancer community. The conference will feature live presentations, breakout rooms, Q&A periods, and networking opportunities.

**Pathways to Prevention Workshop: Improving Rural Health Through Telehealth-Guided Provider-to-Provider Communication**
**October 12-14, 2021    11:00 am - 4:00 pm**

More research is needed to better understand how provider-to-provider telehealth affects rural patients, populations, health care providers, and payers. Workshop speakers will identify those research gaps, as well as explore barriers to and facilitators of successful, sustainable implementation of provider-to-provider telehealth in rural settings.

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**Resources**

**Factors Associated With Use of and Satisfaction With Telehealth by Adults in Rural Virginia During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Examines the use of and satisfaction with telehealth services since March 2020 among 253 survey participants, and explores the association between demographic and health characteristics, health literacy, internet access, and the odds of using telehealth. Features statistics with breakdowns including race or ethnicity, sex, rural or urban location, insurance status, and broadband access.

**How to Add and Share Pronouns on Zoom**

When you add pronouns to your profile, they are visible to your Zoom contacts as part of your Zoom profile card in the Zoom desktop client and mobile app. You can also choose when or if your pronouns are shown during a meeting that you host or join, or webinar that you are the host or panelist for. Webinar attendees’ pronouns are never visible.

**How to Address COVID-19 Vaccine Misinformation**

Strategies for sharing accurate information on COVID-19 and addressing misinformation using evidence-based messaging.

**Quality Time: Sharing PIE - Making Quality Improvement Fun**

Podcast episode discussing ways two Critical Access Hospital (CAH) leaders make quality improvement activities fun and engaging for hospital staff. Highlights engagement strategies that resulted in measurable improvements, staff recognition activities, and the impact these efforts have on staff morale and investment in quality improvement initiatives.
COVID-19: HHS's Collection of Hospital Capacity Data

Examines the Department of Health and Human Services's (HHS) implementation of the HHS Project, which was launched in April 2020 to collect national and state-level hospital capacity data. Discusses reporting requirements and challenges, use of the data collected, and lessons learned regarding the collection of hospital capacity data during a public health emergency.

Additional links: Full Report

CDC Update on COVID-19 Vaccination during Pregnancy

Flyer to share with patients/clients that contains key messages and talking points about increased recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant women.

Improving Access to Behavioral Health Crisis Services with Electronic Bed Registries

Report highlights the ways up-to-date electronic bed registries can improve crisis care treatment and access to behavioral healthcare. Features profiles of states that have received funding for electronic bed registries through the Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI). Outlines and evaluates each state-level program.

Virginia Walkability Action Institute 2022

The Virginia Walkability Action Institute (VWAI) provides training and support to professionals, college and university students, volunteers and advocates working to improve walking, biking, public transit and micro-mobility in their communities, and across the Commonwealth.

Funding Opportunities

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

Funding to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services to an underserved area or population (areas served with a project period start date of May 1, 2022).

Application Deadline: October 4, 2021

American Rescue Plan Act: Emergency Rural Health Care Grants *NEW*

Grants to provide emergency funding for eligible Community Facilities applicants to help rural hospitals and local communities increase access to COVID-19 vaccines, testing, healthcare services (including telehealth), and food assistance.

Application Deadline: October 12, 2021

National Rural Health Leadership Virtual Residency Program *NEW*
A one-year, fee-based virtual leadership training program designed to enhance the skills and ensure the success of new rural health leaders.

**Application Deadline: October 31, 2021**

**Dispensary of Hope Dispensing Site Network** *NEW*

A national collaborative lead by a nonprofit medication distributor that sources donated medications to assist nonprofit health systems, hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies in serving their patient population, especially individuals experiencing poverty and those that are uninsured.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program** *NEW*

Direct USDA loans and/or grants to purchase, construct, enlarge, or improve essential community facilities for healthcare, public safety, education, and public services in rural areas.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Training and Mentoring/DATA 2000 Waiver** *NEW*

Training to provide medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for clinicians in high-need communities. Clinicians who complete the training may be priority applicants for some NHSC loan repayment programs, and qualified disciplines can become eligible for the Loan Repayment Program Continuation Contract MAT Award Enhancement.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**3RNET Recruitment and Retention Assistance** *NEW*

Helps health professionals find jobs in rural and underserved areas and assists employers in recruiting and retaining health professionals in rural and underserved areas.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**CareQuest Executive Director's Fund** *NEW*

Supports convenings, events, and activities that promote oral health with a focus on reducing oral health disparities and advancing health equity.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**Zero Suicide Academy** *NEW*

A 2-day training for senior leaders of healthcare and behavioral healthcare organizations that seek to dramatically reduce suicides among patients in their care.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**Engaging and Empowering Vulnerable Families and Communities to Prevent Opioid Use Disorder and Overdose**
Grants for projects to develop, adapt, and/or evaluate promising evidence-based models of family and community based prevention for opioid use disorder (OUD) and overdose for children and families, especially those at highest risk.

**Application Deadline: September 20, 2021**

**Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program**

Funding to support the training of residents in new or expanded primary care residency training programs in community-based ambulatory patient care centers.

**Application Deadline: September 21, 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**

**AAPD Foundation Access to Care Grants**

Grants to support community-based initiatives that provide dental homes to children who are underserved and/or have limited access to oral healthcare.

**Application Deadline: October 1, 2021**

**Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award**

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**

**Economic Development Administration American Rescue Plan Funding Programs**

Funding to support community-led economic development and to accelerate economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic while building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks. Investments made under this program will have an emphasis on equity and will directly benefit previously underserved communities, including indigenous communities, rural areas, and regions with economies that have historically relied on coal mining. Past Economic Development Administration projects have included infrastructure to support healthcare facilities, health workforce development, and health and human services to assist people with getting jobs.

**Application Deadline: October 19, 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**

**Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grants and Guaranteed Loans**

Financing and grant funding for agriculture producers and rural small businesses to purchase, install, and construct renewable energy systems or complete energy efficiency improvements. An example of a potential project may be the installation of solar panels for hospitals or clinics to improve energy costs.

**Application Deadline: November 1, 2021**

**America's Farmers Grow Communities Project**

Farmers enroll for a chance to direct $5,000 to local nonprofit organizations that are important to them and their communities.

**Application Deadline: November 1, 2021**

**Bloomberg Fellows**

A fellowship for individuals who want to achieve a Master's or PhD degree in Public Health, as well as on-the-ground training and experience. The program is looking for leaders working in the areas of addiction and overdose, environmental challenges, obesity and the food system, risks to adolescent health, and violence.

**Application Deadline: December 1, 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**

**Clinical and Translational Science Award (UM1 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Funding for Clinical and Translational Program Hubs that are expected to develop, demonstrate, and then disseminate solutions to barriers that limit the efficiency and effectiveness of clinical and translational science research. A major interest of the program is improving rural health outcomes and eliminating health disparities.

**Application Deadline: January 26, 2022**

**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**

**Palliative Care in Home and Community Settings Research (R01 and R21 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Grants to support research aimed at determining needs and best practices for the integration of palliative care into home and community settings. Applications should consider approaches that may be implemented in **rural/remote areas**, as well as urban areas, and that are sensitive to ethnicities and cultures.

**Application Deadline: September 8, 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**

Effectiveness of Implementing Sustainable Evidence-Based Mental Health Practices in Low-Resource Settings to Achieve Mental Health Equity for Traditionally Underserved Populations (R01)

Grants for research to develop and test the effectiveness of strategies for implementation and sustainable delivery of evidence-based mental health treatments and services to improve mental health outcomes for underserved populations in under-resourced settings. Under-resourced settings and populations include members of minority groups, other individuals experiencing disparities in mental health outcomes, and people living in a geographic area with a shortage of healthcare services.

**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**

Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides $10,000 in funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns to start the Community Heart & Soul model. Grant funding requires a $10,000 cash match from the participating municipality or a partnering organization.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.**

Public Health Student Intern Program

A one-semester internship experience within one of HRSA's bureaus or offices for students enrolled in a public health program.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.**
**Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program**

Funding that provides communities with a source of financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and physical development projects, including improvements to increase resilience against natural disasters.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.

**Direct Relief Partnership Network**

A partnership program for healthcare facilities that extends medication access to patients who are unable to afford prescriptions, reduces procurement costs of medications and supplies, and leverages resources to foster healthier communities. Partner facilities order online from Direct Relief's pharmaceutical inventory.

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.

**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.

**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

**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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