Weekly Update

August 9th, 2021

New Episode!
#61 Transgender Health

VRHA News

Upcoming Pride of Rural Virginia Community Chats
Virginia News

**Virginia Cancer Conference Scheduled for September**

The Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia (CACV) is excited to host the 2021 Virginia Cancer Conference: Joining Together for a Virginia Without Cancer. The virtual event will be held on three days in September - September 15, 22 and 29 - from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm each day.

The conference will provide 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.

**Speakers include VRHA Executive Director Beth O'Connor**, who will be speaking about health equity.

To view the program agenda and register, visit [Virginia Cancer Conference website](https://www.vrha.org/pride).

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**Governor Northam Announces COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement for State Workers**

Governor Northam’s action comes as the highly transmissible Delta variant is driving up cases across the Commonwealth and around the country, primarily among unvaccinated people. Nearly 73 percent of Virginia adults have had their first shot, and 54 percent of all Virginians are fully vaccinated against the virus, which is higher than most states.

“The only way to end this pandemic is to for everyone to get vaccinated against COVID-19,” said Governor Northam. “As head of state government, we have a responsibility to lead by example and ensure the safety of our employees and the people they serve. The three vaccines are safe, effective, free, and widely available, and I strongly urge every eligible Virginian to get their shot. The time for waiting is over.”
National News

Advocacy Alert

Urge Congress to Delay Provider Relief Fund Repayments

Last week, Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) and Representatives Cynthia Axne (D-Iowa) and Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa) introduced the Provider Relief Fund Deadline Extension Act (S. 2493/H.R. 4735) to delay Provider Relief Fund (PRF) repayment until the end of 2021 or the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency (PHE), whichever is later. NRHA is urging Members of Congress to cosponsor this legislation to help ensure rural hospitals and providers have enough time to use their PRF to provide their patients with exceptional care, as well as cover the costs of staff, critical projects, equipment, and other necessary expenses.

We encourage you to participate in our advocacy campaign to urge your Members of Congress to cosponsor the Provider Relief Fund Deadline Extension Act.

NRHA's Rural Health Fellows Program

NRHA’s Rural Health Fellows Program is a yearlong, intensive training that develops leaders who can articulate a clear and compelling vision for rural America. Each year, NRHA selects 10 to 15 highly motivated individuals who have proven their dedication to improving the health of rural Americans through their educational or professional experience.

The Rural Health Fellows program aims to educate, develop, and inspire a networked community of rural health leaders. NRHA is accepting applications for our 2022 cohort through Sept. 3.

Calendar

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.

Resources

The DRIVE Flu Vaccination Toolkit

Join one of the nation's leading health equity organizations along with vaccine & health system leaders Dr. Greg Poland and Saria Saccocio in a discussion & flu vaccine promotion program. The Program has effectively supported programs in 15 health systems, practices, & communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Free resources and support available along with recognition of your leadership in promoting health and health equity.

Rural Healthy People 2030 Survey

The Southwest Rural Health Research Center at Texas A&M University with funding support from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is conducting a survey as part of Rural Healthy People 2030 – a project designed to understand the most important health priorities for rural Americans. This once in a decade survey allows individuals who care about rural health to voice their opinions on important topics for the health of rural individuals in the United States.

Rural Hospice and Palliative Care

This recently updated topic guide now includes FAQs covering reimbursement issues and more detailed information on palliative care services in rural areas.
**CDC COVID Data Tracker**

Provides access to maps, charts, and data from the CDC on coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and issues related to COVID-19. Includes data on vaccinations, cases, deaths, and hospitalizations for each county and cases and deaths nationally for metropolitan compared to nonmetro counties. Includes rural, suburban, and urban data on vaccine confidence, nationally and by state. Also covers many other topics at the state and national level, including vaccination, testing, demographics, emergency department visits, and more.

*New as of August 2021: Trends in COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence in the U.S.*

**Turn to Telehealth Partner Toolkit**

Offers resources to support communication and information sharing regarding telehealth services with patients and providers. Includes newsletter templates, social media assets, sample emails, tip sheets, and more.

**Prescription Opioid Use Among Adults With Chronic Pain: United States, 2019**

Study examining prescription opioid use to treat chronic pain in adults, breaking down data from the 2019 National Health Interview Survey by pain measures and demographics, including race/ethnicity, sex, veteran status, rurality, and more. Discusses trends in the data to identify population characteristics among users of prescription opioids, and addresses risk of prescription opioid misuse.

**DATA 2000 Waiver Training Payment Program**

Recording of a July 29, 2021 webinar providing technical assistance for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) applying for the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) Waiver Training Payment Program. Identifies organizations' eligibility to apply for payments and discusses the application process and requirements. Part of the Rural Health Clinic Technical Assistance Series.

Additional links: [Slide Presentation](#)

**Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) Program: Highlights and Lessons Learned from the Planning Year (2019 – 2020)**

Webinar recording discusses the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) Program and evaluates its successes and challenges. Includes information on network models and planning year activities, as well as baseline characteristics of the maternal health population prior to program implementation. Features presentations from Mission Analytics and Insight Policy Research.

Additional links: [Audio Recording](#), [PowerPoint Handout](#), [Webinar Transcript](#)

**8th Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness & Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID–19**

Notice of amendment from the Department of Health and Human Services to expand the authority for certain qualified pharmacy technicians to prescribe, dispense, and administer childhood vaccinations and COVID-19 vaccinations. Also expands the
authorization for qualified pharmacy technicians and interns to administer seasonal influenza vaccines under the supervision of a pharmacist to people age 19 and older.

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### Funding Opportunities

**2021 Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation Grant** *NEW*

Awards grants to 501(c)(3) organizations that are working to advance positive oral health in Virginia communities. Award amounts range from $75,000 - $100,000. Grants are awarded annually in the fall. Eligibility & Letter of Intent form will be available August 17th through the Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation portal.

**Letter of Intent Due By: September 14, 2021**

**AAPD Foundation Access to Care Grants** *NEW*

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**

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

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**

**America's Farmers Grow Communities Project** *NEW*

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** *NEW*

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

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

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

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

Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant *NEW*

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 *NEW*

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 *NEW*

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.

National School Lunch Afterschool Snack Program *NEW*

Funding for schools and residential child care institutions to provide afterschool snacks to low-income children who participate in the National School Lunch program.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.

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**

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

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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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.
**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: May 7, 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: 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**

**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.**

**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.**

**Virginia Rural Health Association**
1872 Pratt Drive, Suite 1125
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 231-7993  staff@vrha.org

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