VRHA News

Sense of community: Organizations come together with Inman residents to improve food access

With a $20,000, 50-50 matching grant, GMEC joined Feeding Southwest Virginia, the Virginia Rural Health Association, UVA-Wise’s Pre-Professional Club for health sciences students and the Inman Baptist Church to start a range of community activities. Jordan Laney, an educator and community organizer with the Virginia Rural Health Association, said Inman Baptist Church has made its building available during the market for shoppers to get out of the weather, while town officials have made the Inman Park pavilion available for a community cookout earlier this fall. Laney said VRHA hopes to offer health education
services and sessions in the community, including mental health first aid training, to improve access to medical services in the area.

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**2021 Rural Health Voice Conference is Happening Now!**

Plenary Speakers + Sponsor Spotlight:

Sarah O'Connor  
State Office of Rural Health Program Coordinator

Heather Anderson  
Director, Division of Primary Care & Rural Health - VDH

Introducing the State Rural Health Plan 2022-2026

November 18th, 2021  
10:00 am

Clarissa Noble  
Rural Health Manager - VDH

Tim Perkins  
Director, Division of Community Health & Technical Resources at Virginia Office of EMS

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**Virginia News**

Apply to Sorensen Institute's 2022 Political Leaders Program

The Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) is proud to partner with the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia and to help health care leaders become civic and political leaders! The Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership's application window is now open for its 2022 program, but the **November 8 deadline is quickly approaching**. The Political Leadership Program (PLP) will run between March and December 2022. The program curriculum will focus on effective leadership through trust-building and collaboration, public policy development,
engagement with political and government influencers, ethical conduct, insight about Virginia’s economy, and experiential learning related to the challenges and opportunities in the Commonwealth’s distinctive regions. Detailed information on the 2022 program can be found at [https://sorenseninstitute.org/plp](https://sorenseninstitute.org/plp).

Prospective program applicants from VHHA hospitals or health systems are encouraged to contact VHHA President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton at sconnaughton@vhha.com to discuss this opportunity and the ways in which VHHA can support applicants.

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**National News**

**RUS: Rural eConnectivity Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will begin to accept applications for the Rural eConnectivity (ReConnect) Program on November 24, 2021. The ReConnect Program provides loans and grants to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Applications that will assist rural communities to recover economically from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensure rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development programs and benefits from Rural Development funded projects, and reduce climate pollution and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities are encouraged.

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**Calendar**

**The State of Oral Health: Increasing Access & Reducing Disparities**

**November 9, 2021  1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

At this webinar, speakers will discuss federal initiatives to reduce health disparities and advance oral health equity, while furthering oral health in pediatric populations, as well as interprofessional approaches to integrate oral health into education and care delivery models.

**2021 NIH Rural Health Day Seminar: Structural-Level Determinants of Rural Health Disparities**

**November 18, 2021  11:00 am - 5:30 pm**

Attendees will come away from this virtual seminar with an understanding of the impact of structural determinants on rural populations and the need for multi-level interventions to reduce rural health disparities.

**3rd Annual Rural Oral Health Virtual Conference**

**November 19, 2021  9:00 am - 3:30 pm**

This year’s topic - Diversity and Inclusion: Addressing the Needs of Marginalized Populations in Rural Communities.

**3rd Annual Rural Health Clinical Congress**

**November 20, 2021**
Free multi-topic CME/CE event held in conjunction with National Rural Health Day. Led by a rural health expert moderator. Designed specifically for primary care clinicians serving patients from rural & underserved areas.

**Peer Providers in Various Work Environments Webinar**
**November 23, 2021   2:00 pm**

Peer providers are viable, evidence based, stand alone or additions to comprehensive teams that approach struggle interventions. Peer providers can be appropriate for any environment that have people with challenges ranging from substance use, gun violence, domestic violence to mental health experiences.

**Resources**

**Whole-Person Care for People Experiencing Homelessness and Opioid Use Disorder: A Toolkit**

Provides information on whole-person care for housing stability and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), offering an overview of factors impacting homelessness and OUD, recovery models, and best practices to reduce stigma and develop trauma-informed care.

**Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Toolkit**

Created in collaboration with NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, this newly released toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support programs implementing Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in rural communities.

**COVID-19 Vaccination Program Operational Guidance**

Provides guidance to federal, state, and local jurisdictions and those enrolled in the federal pharmacy program on COVID-19 vaccine eligibility.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Equity for Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups**

Resources and guidance for national, state, tribal, territorial, local, and community partners to support vaccine equity efforts and ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines for racial and ethnic minority groups.

**Results from the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables**

Presents data on use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, trends in substance use disorder and mental health, and access to treatment for youth and adults. Features statistics for a variety of demographic and geographic characteristics, including rural versus urban status. Includes information on substance use and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Overdose Prevention Strategy**
Examines trends in overdose deaths between 1999 and 2019. Describes the development and four priority areas of the new Overdose Prevention Strategy, as well as objectives for each priority area. Highlights examples of programs that address substance use disorder prevention and treatment in rural areas.

**Strategies for Reaching People with Limited Access to COVID-19 Vaccines**

Identifies approaches to help those who may need assistance accessing COVID-19 vaccination. Addresses strategies related to appointment scheduling, transportation, help for caregivers, help for those who are homebound or isolated, and more.

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**Funding Opportunities**

**Grants and Technical Assistance for Coal Communities Applying for Federal Funding *NEW***

Funding and technical assistance to help coal communities submit competitive federal applications for community-led transition projects. Priority will be given to projects that are led by and serve low-income and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities most impacted by the transition.

**Application Deadline: November 15, 2021**

**Health Center Controlled Networks *NEW***

Grants to support Health Center Controlled Networks to advance the adoption and meaningful use of health information technology strategies and to leverage technology to deliver high-quality, culturally competent, equitable, and comprehensive primary healthcare.

**Application Deadline: January 4, 2022**

**Primary Care Development Corporation Financing and Technical Assistance *NEW***

Primary Care Development Corporation is a Community Development Financial Institution that provides loan products, training, resources, and technical assistance/business development services for healthcare providers in under-resourced communities with the goal of transforming and expanding primary care. **Rural providers are encouraged to apply.**

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.**

**Affordable Housing Loans for Low-Income Rural Communities *NEW***

Short-term loans at below market interest rates to local nonprofits, for-profits, and government entities that are working to develop affordable housing for low-income, **rural communities.**

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.**

**Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Grant Program *NEW***
Grants to eligible organizations to cover all or part of the costs associated with purchasing an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.

**National Emergency Tele-Critical Care Network Project** *NEW*

National network of clinical care teams that can provide expert medical advice and COVID surge support using network enabled mobile devices. Critical care experts from around the country can assist with e-consults, remote home monitoring, relief coverage, tiered staffing, and specialty services.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.

**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

**America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative: Targeted Small Grants Program**

Grants ranging from $20,000 to $200,000 and technical assistance to eligible healthy food retail projects that seek to improve access to healthy food in underserved areas. Projects must 1) plan to expand or preserve the availability of staple & perishable foods in underserved areas with low & moderate-income populations, and 2) if the project involves retail sales, accept or plan to accept benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP). Eligible applicants include nonprofits, for-profit business enterprises, cooperatively-owned businesses, institutions of higher education, and state & local governmental agencies.

Letter of Interest Due: December 7, 2021

**Healthy Behaviors Grants for Partnerships, Planning, or Implementation**

Grants to support capacity building, planning, and implementation activities for projects that improve health and well-being in communities in the Western Tidewater region of Virginia and North Carolina. Focuses on populations experiencing the greatest health disparities based on income, race/ethnicity, and geographic location.

Application Deadline: December 7, 2021

**Primary Care Training and Enhancement: Physician Assistant Rural Training Program**

Grants to increase the number of primary care physician assistants in rural and underserved settings by implementing longitudinal clinical rotations in primary care and supporting the training and development of preceptors in rural areas.

Application Deadline: December 9, 2021

**Graduate Psychology Education Program**
Grants to support doctoral-level psychology education and training programs to prepare psychologists to address the behavioral health needs, including opioid use and substance use, in high-need underserved and rural populations.

**Application Deadline: December 9, 2021**

**Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part C Early Intervention Services Program: New Geographic Service Areas**

Funding to provide, on an ongoing outpatient basis, high quality early intervention services and comprehensive primary care services for individuals with HIV infection in new geographic service areas.

**Application Deadline: December 10, 2021**

**Rural Veterans Health Access Program**

Grants for current Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program award recipients in states with certified Critical Access Hospitals to work with providers and other partners to improve access to needed healthcare services and to improve the coordination of care for veterans living in rural areas.

**Application Deadline: December 10, 2021**

**RADx-UP CDCC Community Collaboration Mini-Grant Program**

Grants to support community partners working to advance capacity, training, support, and community experience with COVID-19 testing initiatives.

**Application Deadline: December 10, 2021**

**RADx-UP CDCC Rapid Research Pilot Program**

Grants to evaluate the feasibility of implementing emerging COVID-19 testing technologies in underserved communities.

**Application Deadline: December 10, 2021**

**Ending the HIV Epidemic Primary Care HIV Prevention**

Funding for HIV prevention to current Health Center Program operational (H80) grant award recipients located in Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America geographic locations.

**Application Deadline: December 14, 2021**

**NBCC Foundation Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors**

Fellowships for master's degree-level addictions counseling students from minority backgrounds. For the purpose of this program, minorities include racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, sexual orientation, rural, and military groups.

**Application Deadline: December 15, 2021**

**NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Mental Health Counselors**
Fellowships for master’s and doctoral degree-level mental health counseling students from minority backgrounds. For the purpose of this program, minorities include racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, sexual orientation, rural, and military groups.

**Application Deadline: December 15, 2021**

**Circle for Justice Innovations: Strategic Opportunities Support Fund**

Rapid response funding mechanism that issues micro-grants of up to $5K to organizations addressing crises with strategic organizing & advocacy to meet emergency needs in their community. Enables organizations to take advantage of unexpected opportunities for organizing & advocacy that may be prohibitive due to a small funding gap. Must have budgets under $750K and be led by & serve formerly incarcerated people & families of those impacted by excessive policing, the criminal legal system, and/or the immigration system.

**Application Deadline: December 17, 2021**

**Rural Residency Planning and Development Program**

Grants to develop newly accredited, sustainable rural residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine, public health, general preventive medicine, psychiatry, general surgery, and obstetrics/gynecology. The overall goal of the program is to support expansion of the **physician workforce in rural communities**.

**Application Deadline: December 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.

**Application Deadline: December 31, 2021**

**Family-to-Family Health Information Centers**

Funding for new and existing Family-to-Family Health Information Centers that provide information, education, technical assistance, and peer support to families of children and youth with special healthcare needs and the professionals who serve them. A focus of the program is to advance health equity by reaching territories, tribal regions, and other diverse, underserved communities, including rural areas.

**Application Deadline: January 5, 2022**

**AmeriCorps State and National Grants**

Funding for programs that are designed to strengthen communities and solve local problems, including those found in **rural and underserved areas**. Funding priorities include COVID-19 response and recovery, education, environmental health, and rural intermediary organizations.
**Application Deadline: January 5, 2022**

**Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Implementation**

Grants to strengthen and expand substance use disorder/opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery service delivery in **high-risk rural communities**.

**Application Deadline: January 13, 2022**

**Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP)**

Funding for accredited schools of nursing to establish and/or operate a student loan fund. Grantees will loan money to students, and up to 85% of each loan may be forgiven upon completion of up to 4 years of full-time employment as a faculty member in an accredited school of nursing.

**Application Deadline: January 13, 2022**

**CDC Public Health Associate Program (PHAP)**

Announces an experiential learning opportunity for early-career public health professionals through the Public Health Associate Program (PHAP). Provides information on the academic and work requirements for the associate program and application information. **The 2022 application cycle will be open January 17-24.**

**Social and Behavioral Intervention Research to Address Modifiable Risk Factors for Cancer in Rural Populations (R01 Clinical Trial Required)**

Funding to develop, adapt, and test interventions to address risk factors for **cancer in rural populations**. Applications should focus on primary prevention and assess and address one or more of the social and behavioral risk factors that contribute to cancer disparities in rural populations: tobacco use; diet, physical activity and weight; alcohol use; UV exposure; and HPV vaccination.

**Application Deadline: January 18, 2022**

**Truth Initiative Tobacco/Vape-Free College Program**

Grants and technical assistance for minority-serving institutions and community colleges to support the adoption and implementation of a 100% tobacco/vape-free college-wide policy by December, 2023. Colleges that were early adopters of 100% smoke or tobacco-free policies may also apply to include e-cigarettes.

**Application Deadline: January 20, 2022**

**Virginia Health Access Grants**

Funding for projects to increase access to healthcare for uninsured Virginians and those who live in areas with limited access to care.

**Letter of Intent Due (Required) January 21, 2022**

**Application Deadline: March 11, 2022**

**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**

**REAP Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Program**

Grants for intermediary organizations to assist rural small businesses (including healthcare facilities) and agricultural producers by conducting and promoting energy audits and providing renewable energy development assistance.

**Application Deadline: January 31, 2022**

**State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)**

Grants to states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories to assist them in operating their own state educational loan repayment programs for primary care providers working in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) within their state.

**Application Deadline: April 8, 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**

**Pilot Practice-based Research for Primary Care Suicide Prevention (R34 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Grants to support evaluations of factors that impact or account for the effectiveness of existing suicide prevention practices and/or pilot clinical trials that develop, optimize, and pilot test interventions and service delivery approaches at key intercepts in the chain of care. Research that seeks to reduce disparities for racial and ethnic minority groups, individuals limited by language or cultural barriers, sexual and gender minorities, individuals living in rural areas, socioeconomically disadvantaged persons, and other underserved groups is encouraged.

**Application Deadline: June 21, 2022**

**Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Well Being, Illness, and Recovery (R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)**

Grants for research projects that examine how social isolation and social connectedness affect outcomes in health, illness, recovery, and overall well being.

**Application Deadline: June 21, 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**

**Virginia Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program**

Offers a J-1 Visa waiver to foreign physicians who commit to serving for 3 years in an underserved area of Virginia, allowing them to remain in the United States.

**Application Deadline: August 31, 2022**

**Intervening with Cancer Caregivers to Improve Patient Health Outcomes and Optimize Health Care Utilization (R01 and R21)**

Funding for intervention research designed to support caregivers of adult cancer patients, with the goals of optimized patient healthcare utilization, improved caregiver well-being, and improved patient physical health and psychosocial outcomes. Special consideration is given to studies targeting medically underserved and underrepresented populations, including **patients-caregivers in rural areas**.

**Application Deadline: September 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: 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**
**Tobacco Control Policies to Promote Health Equity (R01 and R21 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Funding for observational or intervention research focused on reducing disparities in tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure. Populations of focus include older individuals, black Americans, Hispanics, people with low socioeconomic status, and people living outside metropolitan areas.

**Application Deadline: September 8, 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**

**Innovative Mental Health Services Research Not Involving Clinical Trials**
Funding for innovative research that will inform and support the delivery of high-quality, continuously improving mental health services to benefit individuals with, or at risk for developing, a mental illness. Research on innovative service delivery models that seek to reduce disparities in service access, quality, and outcomes for racial and ethnic minority groups, individuals limited by language or cultural barriers, sexual and gender minorities, individuals living in rural areas, socioeconomically disadvantaged persons, and other underserved groups is encouraged.

Application Deadline: September 7, 2024

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Social, Behavioral, and Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Underserved and Vulnerable Populations

Notice of Special Interest for research in understanding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic to help prepare more effectively for future public health emergencies. Populations that experience health disparities are a particular focus.

Application Deadline: September 8, 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

For ongoing funding opportunities, visit our website

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