Weekly Update

October 25th, 2021

New Episode!
#65 Nursing While Black

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VRHA News

2021 Rural Health Voice Conference
Plenary Speaker Spotlight
Unite Us Care Coordination Software
November 4th, 2021  3:00 pm

For agenda and more information on our 2021 speakers & discussions, visit the conference webpage

Register for the Conference Here

Special Thanks to all of our 2021 conference sponsors:

Members in the News

VRHA Board President Bryan Price Nominated as 2021 Community Star

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health annual Community Star recognition program is one of the most popular features of National Rural Health Day. Each person, coalition, and organization nominated to be their state’s Community Star represents the faces and grassroots initiatives that are working to address the social determinants of health and improve the lives of those who call rural their home. For more information on the Community Stars program, click here.
Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance Wins $500,000 in Federal Funds for Rural Communities Opioid Response Program in the Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula

These funds are in addition to the previously announced federal award of grant funds of $1,000,000 over 3 years for the Community Bridges Collaborative to support Rural Communities Opioid Response Implementation in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. The federal funding comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA’s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy which exists to increase access to healthcare in rural areas.

Virginia News

Survey: Benchmarking Telehealth Usage in Virginia

Much has changed in health care since March 2020. With an explosion of telehealth usage across the Commonwealth, VRHA has partnered with the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Telehealth Network to understand the impact on patients and providers and to better understand Virginia’s current and future needs with virtual care. Your insights will be used to inform policymaking both locally and statewide.

This survey is funded by grant funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia. It has been reviewed by the Virginia Department of Health Institutional Review Board (IRB) (Study #50253) and has been determined approved for IRB exemption. It will take approximately 5 minutes to complete and will close on November 12, 2021.

For questions, please contact: admin@ehealthvirginia.org.

National News

The new look of NRHA Advocacy

To better serve the association’s members and promote rural health advocacy at every level, NRHA’s Government Affairs team recently revamped their online presence to clearly define NRHA’s policy goals and outline advocacy campaigns – as well as how you can participate. Using the association’s policy agenda, NRHA’s Washington, D.C.-based Government Affairs team advocates to Congress, the White House, and federal agencies. NRHA serves as the primary resource to elected officials, policy leaders, and other organizations on the challenges and opportunities facing rural patients and providers. NRHA’s advocacy platform makes it easy for grassroots advocates like you to reach your members of Congress with one click, while customizing content as needed to allow you to maintain your unique voice.
NRHA partners to promote vaccine confidence

Vaccine hesitancy among rural Americans is high, which means COVID-19 will linger in smaller communities for the foreseeable future — unless more is done to increase vaccination rates. Developed in partnership with Legato Healthcare Marketing, NRHA’s Rural Vaccine Confidence Initiative is a collection of rural-specific educational materials designed to be customized.

Health care leaders, community advocates, and local employers can communicate the real vaccine facts using their own brand or local photography to build trust and credibility. Learn more about the initiative in this video overview. New PSAs from the Ad Council and COVID Collaborative also speak to those still hesitant about vaccination.

Calendar

2021 Rural Resilience Summit  
October 28, 2021  9:00 am - 4:30 pm

The Rural Resilience Summit brings together leaders, practitioners, educators, & community members to provide strategies that can be employed in your community. In partnership with the Virginia State Office of Rural Health, this summit will provide subject matter expert-led sessions in school readiness, mental health, workforce readiness.

National Association for Addiction Professionals Annual Conference  
October 28-30, 2021

Virtual education, training, networking, and capacity-building with thought leaders in the addiction profession. The conference will feature six keynote sessions, over 50 breakout sessions in six different subject tracks, a live Q&A with NAADAC and NCC AP leadership, a panel discussion on the Peer Recovery Movement, a panel discussion on Trauma, Grief, and Resiliency, and virtual poster presentations.

Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Substance Use Disorder Webinar  
November 2, 2021  2:00 pm

This workshop will explore the link between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) of individuals with substance use concerns and its impact on their development.

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 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.

Resources

COVID-19 and Opioid Use Disorder - Expanding Treatment Access in Rural Settings

Details a study on substance use disorder treatment access in rural areas during the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlights barriers to treatment in rural areas, such as unemployment, social isolation, and psychological stressors, among others. Discusses methods for overcoming these barriers, such as the use of telehealth.

Apply Now for Rural TransECHO!

Aimed at increasing the availability of affirming health care for transgender and gender-diverse people of all ages, Rural TransECHO will be open to healthcare organizations of any type who are located in and/or serve a predominantly rural area of the US.

Participation is free to health centers, providers, and staff who will connect once a month through an online video conference link. First session begins January 2022. 20-25 applicants will be selected. CME credits available!

For more information or for questions please contact Nikk Selik, nselik@fenwayhealth.org

Funding Opportunities

Rural Residency Planning and Development Program *NEW*

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

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Implementation *NEW*

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) *NEW*

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**

**Strategic Economic and Community Development Program *NEW***

A program that allows USDA to give priority for projects that support the implementation of regional economic development plans through several USDA Rural Development funding programs.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**HRSA COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement for Uninsured Patients *NEW***

Electronic reimbursement, generally at Medicare rates, for healthcare providers for testing uninsured individuals for COVID-19 and treating uninsured individuals with a COVID-19 diagnosis on or after February 4, 2020.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**American Hospital Association Equity of Care Awards**

Honorary awards that recognize hospitals and health systems that have achieved a high level of success in advancing diversity and health equity through data, leadership, cultural awareness, and partnerships.

**Application Deadline: November 19, 2021**

**Innovation Award: COVID-19 and Health Equity (U01) Clinical Trials Optional**

Funding for innovative projects that will strengthen and advance COVID-19 health equity research. One area of interest includes proposals that support the evaluation of outcomes by demographic data including, but not limited to, ethnicity, race, age, disability, and geography.

**Application Deadline: November 29, 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**

**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

**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

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

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

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