Weekly Update

October 4th, 2021

Check out our newest episode!

VRHA News

2021 Rural Health Voice Conference
Plenary Speaker Spotlight
Diane M. Hall, Ph.D., MSEd.
Senior Scientist for Policy and Strategy, Center for Disease Control and Prevention
"Rural Health and the CDC"
November 16th, 2021  3:00 pm

For agenda and more information on our 2021 speakers & discussions,
[visit the conference webpage](#)

**Register for the Conference Here!**

**Rural Health Voice Conference Sponsorship Opportunities**

VRHA is now seeking sponsors for the 2021 Virtual Rural Health Voice Conference. This conference brings a wide variety of rural health stakeholders together to hold in-depth conversations about sustainability of rural Virginia through policy, access, economics, education and more.

To learn more about promotional opportunities and submit an application, [click here](#)

**New Student Representatives on the VRHA Board of Directors**

**VRHA is pleased to announce two new student representatives on the Board of Directors:**

**Jasmine Johnson**
PhD Student in Translational Biology, Medicine, & Health at Virginia Tech

**Taylor Meier**
Members in the News

Mount Rogers Community Services Awarded $5,000,000 from the Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) Grant Program

SAMHSA awarded a record-setting $825 million in grants to strengthen Community Mental Health Centers. (CMHCs) are community-based facilities or groups of facilities that provide prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation mental health services. This grant program will enable 231 CMHCs to more effectively address the needs of individuals who have a serious emotional disturbance (SED) or serious mental illness (SMI), as well as individuals with SED or SMI and substance use disorders, referred to as a co-occurring disorder (COD). Mount Rogers Community Services is one of 3 award recipients in the state of Virginia.

National News

New Rural Designations for Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Funding

HRSA has updated the following localities to be entirely rural and therefore eligible for funding under the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy:

Amelia - Appomattox - Charles City - Clarke - Craig - Culpeper - Fluvanna - Franklin - Giles - Greene - King and Queen - King William - Madison - Mathews - Nelson - New Kent - Rappahannock - Southampton - Sussex - Warren - Franklin City

Rural Health Safety Net Survey: The pandemic's impact on rural hospital staffing

NRHA has teamed up with the Chartis Center for Rural Health on a survey to examine staffing challenges within rural hospitals. Take a few minutes to share your perspective as we continue our efforts to better understand how the pandemic is impacting both short- and long-term hospital operations. The survey should take less than five minutes to complete.
Calendar

Unite Virginia Information Sessions
Every Friday, October 2021  10:00 am

Learn about Unite Virginia, a coordinated care network of health and social care providers working to address Social Determinants of Health and advance health equity in the Commonwealth. Includes software demonstration. Watch this quick video to learn more about this initiative.

NARMH Virtual Conference 2021
October 6, 13, 20, 27, 2021

The 2021 National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH) Conference - "Emerging from COVID-19 – Lessons Learned and Future Directions for Rural Mental Health" will feature online sessions every Wednesday in October.

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.

Resources

Identifying Allowable Expenses for COVID-19 Programs

Recording of a September 23, 2021, webinar on the Rural Health Clinic (RHC) COVID-19 Testing Program and RHC COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation Program. Discusses allowable and unallowable expenses for these programs, as well as reimbursable and unreimbursable expenses.

Restoring Access to Maternity Care in Rural America

Examines regional partnerships to build rural access to maternity care through hub-and-spoke models of education and support from urban healthcare organizations to rural maternity providers, investments in telehealth, and remote monitoring systems. Discusses barriers to maternity care access in rural areas and highlights local examples of maternal health provider networks, investments in the rural maternity workforce, and policy implications of developing rural maternity care.

COVID-19 Funding Sources Impacting Rural Providers

Reference guide to help rural healthcare providers navigate federal COVID-19 response and recovery funding. Includes tables identifying eligibility by provider type and how funds can be spent. Provides an overview of each funding opportunity and reporting requirements.
COVIDVaxView: COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Vaccine Confidence

An interactive tool for exploring data on COVID-19 vaccination coverage, uptake, and intention by a variety of different factors, including geography, date of data collection, demographics, and more. Includes data by urban, suburban, and rural location in the Characteristics section under MSA status.

Hyperlocal Covid-19 Testing and Vaccination Strategies to Reach Communities with Low Vaccine Uptake

Describes promising state and local strategies to promote equitable and accessible COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs among communities with low vaccination rates. Presents examples of how states and communities use existing infrastructure and modify strategies to meet community needs. Includes rural examples and highlights rural-focused strategies for vaccinations.

Funding Opportunities

American Hospital Association Equity of Care Awards *NEW*

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 *NEW*

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

Graduate Psychology Education Program *NEW*

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

CDC Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) *NEW*

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.
Rural Business Development Grants *NEW*

Supports targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than $1,000,000 in gross revenues.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Community Health Center Capital Fund LoanPLUS Program *NEW*

A Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) program that provides loan capital and technical assistance designed to meet the needs of smaller health centers and/or those with limited financial resources. Health centers that have not been able to access financing through conventional lenders are encouraged to apply.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

MAT Waiver Eligibility Training *NEW*

A free online and computer-based training series for physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants that satisfies some of the requirements to obtain a waiver for prescribing buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program

Loan repayment assistance for medical, nursing, physician assistant, and dental students who agree to provide services in eligible Health Professional Shortage Areas of greatest need.

Application Deadline: November 4, 2021

Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellows

A fellowship program designed to develop the capacity of mid-career health professionals and behavioral and social scientists with an interest in health and healthcare policy. Individuals with diverse and unique perspectives are strongly encouraged to apply, and the foundation has an interest in rural.

Letter of Intent Due (Required): November 12, 2021
Application Deadline: February 11, 2022

New Models of Integrated HIV/AIDS, Addiction, and Primary Care Services (R01 and R34 Clinical Trial Optional)

Grants for research projects that develop or test innovative models of care which integrate HIV, substance use disorder (SUD) prevention and treatment with primary care services. Research in states and counties identified in the federal Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative, including areas with the highest rural HIV burden, are specifically encouraged.

Application Deadline: November 18, 2021

NIH Extramural Loan Repayment Program
Loan repayment assistance for researchers that are not employed by the NIH. Loan repayment awards are based on an applicant's potential to build and sustain a research career, not to support specific research.

**Application Deadline: November 18, 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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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.

**HRSA Look-Alike Initial Designation Technical Assistance**

Resources to assist organizations in the application for Look-Alike Initial Designation under the Health Center Program.

**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**

**Quality Payment Program Support for Small, Underserved, and Rural Practices**

Customized technical assistance for clinicians in small practices, including those in rural locations, Health Professional Shortage Areas, and Medically Underserved Areas to help them participate and succeed in the Quality Payment Program.
Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

**The Oak Hill Fund: Women's Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice**

The Oak Hill Fund was established to promote the well-being of mankind through effective and inspiring grantmaking. The Fund's Women's Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice program area invests in nonprofit organizations in the southeastern United States (including Virginia) that support the reproductive health and rights of women. The Fund supports efforts to provide, promote, or defend access to safe, affordable reproductive healthcare and services, and to educate policymakers and the public on the importance of reproductive health, rights, and justice to women and families. Letters of inquiry may be submitted throughout the year.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

**American Rescue Plan Provider Relief Fund New Distributions**

Relief funds for hospitals and other healthcare providers to support expenses and lost revenue due to COVID-19. The application portal will open on September 29, 2021. $17 billion is available for a broad range of providers who can document revenue loss and expenses associated with the pandemic. **An additional $8.5 billion in relief funds is available for providers who serve rural patients.**

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

**National Center for Farmworker Health Learning Collaboratives**

Virtual learning collaboratives that allow health centers to study and apply quality improvement methodology to a focused topic, such as increasing access to care, emergency preparedness, and social determinants of health.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

**VA Office of Rural Health Funding Programs**

Funding, technical assistance, and mentoring for rural VA facilities to implement promising practices and/or enterprise-wide initiatives.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

**Dispensary of Hope Dispensing Site Network**

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**

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
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.

Zero Suicide Academy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**

**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.

**Applications 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.

**Applications 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**

**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.