Seven Virginia hospitals join first-of-its-kind maternal and infant health collaborative

VRHA member Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital & other participating hospitals will gather data on over 150 measures that help identify racial, ethnic, and geographical health disparities in newborns and birthing people (“Birthing people” is a gender-neutral term which has been used in the Biden Administration’s discussion on Black maternal
mortality). Examples of these measures include hypertension, infection rates, and COVID-19-related information.

**Virginia News**

**Virginia ranks first on new national scorecard on patient safety in hospitals**

Virginia tops all states in the Fall 2021 Leapfrog Group Hospital Safety Grade state rankings that are based on the share of hospitals in each state that earned “A” grades. In the current rankings, 56.2 percent of Virginia hospitals graded received top marks. That reflects improvement from the Spring 2021 rankings when 50 percent of Virginia hospitals had “A” grades and the Commonwealth ranked fourth among states. Overall, 41 Virginia hospitals earned “A” grades in the current cycle.

**Congrats to our VRHA members who received an ”A” rating:**

- LewisGale Hospital Montgomery
- LewisGale Hospital Pulaski
- Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital
- Smyth County Community Hospital

**National News**

**USDA Begins Accepting Applications for $1.15 Billion in Loans and Grants to Help People Living in Rural Communities Get Access to High-Speed Internet**

Applicants must commit to building facilities capable of providing broadband service at speeds of 100 Mbps (download and upload) to every location in a proposed service area at the same time. In making funding decisions, USDA will also consider the economic needs of the community to be served; the extent to which a provider will offer affordable service options; a project’s commitment to strong labor standards; and whether a project is serving Tribal lands or is submitted by a local government, Tribal government, non-profit or cooperative.

Applications for funding must be submitted through USDA Rural Development’s online application system on the ReConnect webpage.

**Calendar**

**Grant Writing USA 2-Day Workshop**

December 1-2, 2021   Portsmouth, VA

How to write grant proposals start to finish and how to locate and track relevant grant opportunities. Program also offered online.
AHA Rural Health Care Leadership Conference  
February 6-9, 2022   Phoenix, AZ

The Rural Health Care Leadership Conference brings together top practitioners & thinkers to share strategies & resources for accelerating the shift to a more integrated & sustainable rural health system. Examine the most significant operational, financial & environmental challenges including the post-pandemic impact on rural hospitals & their communities, & present innovative approaches to transform your organization’s care delivery model & business practices.

Rural Health Policy Institute  
February 8-10, 2022   Washington, D.C.

NRHA’s 33rd Annual Rural Health Policy Institute is your chance to guide the future of rural health policy with NRHA leadership & advocate for issues you care about with new & returning members of Congress & the administration.

Resources

Applications for the Virginia Rural Center Inaugural Virginia Rural Leadership Institute (VRLI) are now OPEN!

The Rural Leadership Institute (RLI) is a rural leadership program that develops and supports highly-skilled, highly-motivated leaders who are committed revitalizing their communities across the Commonwealth. RLI addresses the need for high-quality, professional leadership and economic development training that equips community leaders with the skills they need to lead long-term economic advancement in their community and region. The program also seeks to increase cooperation, collaboration, and coordination across a broad array of organizations and sectors. Each training session will accept up to 30 applicants. Applications due March 15, 2022.

Digital Equity and the Health of Rural Americans

#RuralHealthChat discusses the role of digital equity in healthcare and the barriers to accessing digital tools faced by rural communities. Features experts from the National Rural Health Association, the American Telemedicine Association, and the USDA Rural Development Innovation Center, among others.

Rural Emergency Hospital: Policy Brief and Recommendations to the Secretary

Describes the development of the Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) designation in response to rural hospital closures and issues accessing emergency care. Lists statutory requirements for hospitals wishing to become an REH, and offers policy recommendations related to participation conditions, quality reporting, reimbursement, and emergency medical transfer agreement.
Funding Opportunities

**Strengthening Disability Inclusion Efforts within Local Health Departments Demonstration Projects** *NEW*

Funding to enhance local capacity to meet the needs of people with disabilities within local and tribal health department programs, policies, and services.

**Application Deadline: December 20, 2021**

**YouthBuild Grants** *NEW*

Grants to organizations providing pre-apprenticeship services that support education, occupational skills training, and employment services for at-risk youth, ages 16 to 24, while performing meaningful work and service to their communities. The YouthBuild program model contains wrap-around services such as mentoring, trauma-informed care, personal counseling, and employment.

**Application Deadline: January 21, 2022**

**Regional Public Health Training Centers Program** *NEW*

Grants to support Regional Public Health Training Centers designed to increase the number of individuals in the public health workforce; enhance the quality of the workforce; and improve the ability of the workforce to meet national, state, and local healthcare needs.

**Application Deadline: January 24, 2022**

**Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program** *NEW*

The program focuses on ending homelessness among veterans and seeks to support services equitably across geographic regions, including rural and tribal areas. Eligibility for Priority 1 and 2 is limited to existing grantees only. Applications for new funding will be accepted under Priority 3.

**Application Deadline: February 7, 2022**

**Dental Clinician Educator Career Development Program** *NEW*

Grants to strengthen the primary care workforce by supporting the academic career development of faculty who teach primary care dentistry or focus their teaching on the integration of oral health in family medicine, general internal medicine, or general pediatrics. Training for rural practices and addressing social determinants of health are two of the program's focus areas.

**Application Deadline: February 14, 2022**

**Home Visiting Research and Development Platform** *NEW*

The purpose of this program is to support a practice-based research network (PBRN) that engages in scientific collaboration and innovative research. Research conducted through this program should increase the evidence base for and strengthen the capacity of home
visiting programs to measurably improve family health and well-being outcomes and improve equity in access to services and in family and community outcomes.

**Application Deadline: February 22, 2022**

**Supporting Farmers' Mental Health: Understanding Farm Culture and Farm Family Dynamics** *NEW*

A self-paced, online training course designed to help behavioral health providers better understand and address the mental health needs and challenges of farmers and their family members.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.**

**Customized COVID-19 Contact Tracing Curriculum** *NEW*

The development of no-cost COVID-19 contact tracing curricula customized for local public health departments.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis.**

**Agricultural Safety and Health Achievement Awards**

Award program that honors individuals, organizations, and collaborations that have made significant contributions to agricultural safety and health.

**Application Deadline: December 30, 2021**

**NACCHO's Model Practices Award**

Recognizes and honors outstanding local health officials and practices in the United States.

**Application Deadline: December 31, 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**

**Health Center Controlled Networks**

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**
Grants to Support New Investigators in Conducting Research Related to Preventing Interpersonal Violence Impacting Children and Youth

Grants to develop new researchers in the field of violence prevention by providing intensive, supervised, research experiences related to violence/injury prevention for children and youth, especially those at higher risk for violence, including racial/ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, tribal populations, and sexual and gender minorities.

**Application Deadline: January 4, 2022**

**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**

**End-of-Life and Palliative Care Approaches to Advanced Signs and Symptoms (R01 and R21 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Grants for research to examine the multi-dimensional foundations, experiences, and management of complex, advanced signs and symptoms at the end of life. Projects that include under-studied populations including NIH-designated health disparity, socioeconomically disadvantaged, rural and/or remote, and sexual and gender minority populations with advanced, serious illness at the end of life are specifically encouraged.

**Application Deadline: January 8, 2022**

**Title X Family Planning Services Grants**

Supports comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services. The program seeks to ensure access to services for low-income or uninsured clients, including adolescent clients. Family planning services include a broad range of medically approved services, such as FDA-approved contraceptive products and natural family planning methods for clients who want to prevent pregnancy and space births, pregnancy testing and counseling, assistance to achieve pregnancy, basic infertility services, sexually transmitted infection services (such as HIV prevention education, counseling, testing, and referral), and other preconception health services.

**Application Deadline: January 11, 2022**
New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program

Tax incentives for investments in business and economic development projects in distressed rural and urban counties, including capital investments in healthcare facilities. Investors give to Community Development Entities who then offer low-interest financing to businesses; in return for their investment, investors receive a tax credit against their federal income tax.

**Application Deadline:** January 13, 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.

**Concept Paper Due (Required) January 24, 2022**
**Application Deadline: March 11, 2022**

**Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Resident Grants Program**

Grants to support pediatric residents in the planning of community-based child health initiatives that increase children’s access to optimal health and well-being and address unmet child health needs.

**Application Deadline: January 24, 2022**

**Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Planning and Implementation Grants**

Funding to support pediatricians and fellowship trainees in the initial planning and/or pilot stage of implementing innovative, community-based projects to increase children’s access to optimal health and well-being and address unmet child health needs.

**Application Deadline: January 24, 2022**

**Emerging Strategies to Improve Health Outcomes for People Aging with HIV: Capacity-Building Provider, Demonstration Sites, & Evaluation Provider**

This initiative will fund 3 components: a capacity-building provider, demonstration sites, & evaluation provider. All will work together using HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) implementation science framework to: Implement emerging strategies that comprehensively screen & manage comorbidities, geriatric conditions, behavioral health, & psychosocial needs of people 50 years & older with HIV; Assess the uptake & integration of emerging strategies; Understand implementation processes including assessing specific implementation strategies; Understand & document broader contextual factors affecting implementation; Evaluate impact of the emerging strategies; document & disseminate the emerging strategies.

**Application Deadline: January 25, 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**

**Rural Health Network Development Planning Program**

Grants to promote the planning and development of integrated rural healthcare networks in order to achieve efficiencies; expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential healthcare services; and strengthen the rural healthcare system as a whole.
Application Deadline: January 28, 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

**Racial Equity in Postpartum Care Challenge: Innovative Methods to Improve Postpartum Care for Black or African American and American Indian/Alaska Native Women**

A prize competition to identify effective programs that can address equity of postpartum care for Black or African American and American Indian/Alaska Native beneficiaries enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP. An emphasis is on follow-up care for conditions associated with morbidity and mortality in the later postpartum period, including diabetes, postpartum depression, postpartum anxiety, hypertension, and substance use disorders.

Application Deadline: January 31, 2022

**Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH)**

Funding for public and nonprofit institutions of higher education to provide training to health professionals at the graduate and postgraduate levels in adolescent and young adult core health disciplines, including medicine, nursing, nutrition, psychology, and social work.

Application Deadline: February 1, 2022

**AmeriCorps Seniors - American Rescue Plan Senior Demonstration Program**

Funding for new AmeriCorps Seniors projects that engage adults age 55 and over to support communities as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Rural communities are a priority.

Application Deadline: February 3, 2022

**AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program & Senior Companion Program Replacement Opportunity**

Program that engages adults age 55 and over to provide mentorship for children and youth with special or exceptional needs, or who would benefit from the one-one-one attention. AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve an average of 20 hours per week in schools, hospitals, drug treatment centers, correctional institutions, and childcare centers. Rural communities are a priority. The current funding cycle is for replacement programs in specific geographic areas.

Application Deadline: February 3, 2022

**Research Grants to Prevent Firearm-Related Violence and Injuries (R01)**

Grants for research to understand and prevent firearm-related injuries, deaths, and crime, including firearm suicide and self-harm in rural areas.
Application Deadline: February 4, 2022

**Summer Health Professions Education Program**

A free summer enrichment program designed to improve access to information and resources for college students interested in the health professions. Eligible students include, but are not limited to, individuals who identify as African American/Black, American Indian and Alaska Native and Hispanic/Latino, and those who are from communities of socioeconomic and educational disadvantage.

Application Deadline: February 5, 2021

**Predoctoral Training in General, Pediatric, and Public Health Dentistry and Dental Hygiene**

Awards funding to plan, develop, and operate predoctoral training programs in dentistry and dental hygiene for dental and dental hygiene students that address enhancing pediatric training to support improved access to oral health care for vulnerable, underserved, or rural communities.

Application Deadline: February 7, 2022

**NIH HEAL Initiative: Preventing Opioid Misuse and Co-Occurring Conditions by Intervening on Social Determinants (R01 Clinical Trials Optional)**

Funding for research that will help to build an evidence base for multi-level interventions that affect social conditions and opioid misuse. Projects should seek to reduce health inequities in a population or population subgroup affected by the opioid crisis.

Application Deadline: March 2, 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
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**

**Getting To Zero: Understanding HIV Viral Suppression and Transmission in the United States (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**
Grants for projects designed to improve understanding of viral suppression and HIV transmission in the U.S. using population-level epidemiology, tools from data science approaches, and implementation science research.

**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