VRHA News

Executive Director Beth O'Connor & VRHA member Wendy Welch Appointed to the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority

The mission of the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority (VHWDA) is to facilitate the development of a statewide health professions pipeline that identifies, educates, recruits and retains a diverse, geographically distributed and culturally competent quality workforce for all Virginians. Learn more at https://www.vhwda.org

Job Announcement!
The SUD Project Coordinator will be responsible for assisting One Care of Southwest Virginia and Uplift Appalachia in the implementation of activities related to addressing SUD. Position will be located Southwest Virginia, with a preference for Smyth County.

Job Announcement

Position Description

Virginia News

Virginia to Outfit all EMS Agencies in the Commonwealth with Nationally Renowned Handtevy System

After an extensive evaluation process, the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has chosen to offer the Handtevy suite of lifesaving tools to EMS agencies in the state. Handtevy is a national leader in pediatric emergency technology, and their partnership with the Virginia Office of EMS will provide the groundbreaking Handtevy resuscitation system to all EMS agencies in the Commonwealth. The Handtevy resuscitation system will empower Virginia EMS agencies to consistently deliver the highest quality emergency care to approximately 8.6 million residents. In order to get the most out of the system and the latest in lifesaving techniques, the rollout will be paired with Handtevy’s signature educational offerings, which include the highly acclaimed nationally accredited Handtevy Course that has received great feedback from municipal agencies that have already launched the system with positive results.

National News
Expanded Eligibility Allows More Rural Clinicians to Qualify for Loan Repayment

Are you a rural clinician that needs help paying off your student loans? There’s help. For qualified healthcare clinicians you could receive student loan repayment in return for serving at National Health Services Corps (NHSC) approved sites. Successful NHSC applicants can either receive loan repayment funding while working at a HPSA site, or receive funding while in school in exchange for service in a HPSA after their graduation, depending on the NHSC program. In FY 2020, approximately 14,000 primary, dental, and mental healthcare providers served in National Health Service Corps programs, receiving federal funding in exchange for providing care in a health professional shortage area.

Learn more about each of the three loan repayment programs:

• **NHSC Loan Repayment Program** – awards up to $50,000 in exchange for a two-year commitment to provide primary medical, dental or mental/behavioral healthcare at approved sites in high-need, underserved areas. HRSA has removed the two-tier scoring, allowing all applicants to receive up to $50,000 in awards regardless of HPSA score. NHSC LRP recipients are eligible to extend their service and potentially pay off all of their educational debt with continuation contracts.

• **NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program** – provides up to $75,000 in exchange for a three-year commitment to healthcare professionals who provide substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services at NHSC-approved SUD treatment facilities. Clinicians with DATA 2000 Waivers can receive award preference.

• **NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program** – Providers in rural communities may apply to the NHSC Rural Community LRP, which awards up to $100,000 for three years of service. You are eligible for preference if you work at an NHSC-approved Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) Consortium member facility.

For help with your application, attend one of the NHSC Loan Repayment Program Q&A Sessions or watch the NHSC LRP Webinar recording.

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**NRHA will host 2022 Rural Health Policy Institute virtually**

As an organization of public health leaders, NRHA feels responsible for abiding by and serving as a model for proper health precautions. Omicron has emerged as a much more transmissible COVID-19 variant than we’ve previously seen, causing cases to spike sharply. Rural facilities and providers are again being stressed to their limits while daily cases have risen 800 percent in Washington, D.C., with House and Senate offices eliminating in-person meetings. For these reasons, we have made the difficult decision to shift our 2022 Rural Health Policy Institute to an all-virtual environment. Current attendees have been notified by email of their current status and options regarding registration and hotel rooms, while new attendees can register today at our discounted virtual rate of $260 or $130 for students. No matter where you live, our voices have the power to enact change with federal policymakers at the nation’s largest rural advocacy event. We look forward to seeing you virtually in February.
Calendar

**Recovery Ally Training**
*January 26, 2022  1:00 - 4:00 pm (Virtual)*

Northwestern Prevention Collaborative is offering a free, virtual Recovery Ally training. This training, developed at Virginia Commonwealth University, is designed to increase a community’s recovery capital, decrease stigma and grow intervention skills. It offers a basic overview of the science of addiction and addresses what an ally does.

**Creating Safer Spaces**
*January 28, 2022  9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Virtual)*

Workshop that helps mental health practitioners offer more affirming, and safe, peer support services. Discuss history of the LGBTQ+ community in the US, share current research, define terminology, share general tips on language, answer participants’ questions, and strategize tangible ways to apply what we learn in the future implementations.

**32nd Annual National Leadership Forum & SAMHSA's 18th Prevention Day**
*January 31 - February 3, 2022  National Harbor, MD*

Conference packed with multiple adult & youth-oriented opportunities to learn the latest strategies to fight substance misuse & hear from nationally-known experts & policymakers. Brings together more than 2,700 participants representing anti-drug coalitions, government leaders, youth, addiction treatment professionals, researchers, educators, law enforcement professionals, youth & faith-based leaders.

**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  (Virtual)*

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.

**National Rural EMS & Care Conference**
*April 19-20, 2022  Columbus, OH*

The only national EMS conference dedicated solely to confronting and developing solutions for the challenges facing rural EMS and the provision of emergency care. Invited attendees include rural EMS directors, medical directors and officers, rural healthcare
providers, state EMS officials, state rural health officials, hospital administrators, elected officials, federal agency officials, and other EMS partners.

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**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 to 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.

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**Funding Opportunities**

**Emergency Medicine Foundation Health Disparities Research Grant *NEW***

Grants for research to improve healthcare access, delivery, utilization, quality, and outcomes of those affected by health disparities. Proposals are encouraged to propose or lay the groundwork for emergency department-based interventions that produce actionable evidence and/or reproducible findings to improve health outcomes for disparities groups.

**Application Deadline: February 4, 2022**

**VA-SORH 2022-2023 Innovative Rural Programming Awards *NEW***

Provides funding for a 12-month period to support a variety of types of projects that support any of the five VA-SORH target areas. The organization must have a program currently operating or impacting any of the following focus areas (may combine more than one focus area): Healthy Moms & Babies, Food Access & Nutrition, Workforce Development, Behavioral Health, and Telehealth.

**Application Deadline: February 4, 2022**

**CHS Seeds for Stewardship Grants *NEW***

Matching grants to cooperatives for programs to strengthen hometown communities, with priority given to projects that enhance agriculture safety, farmer well-being, agriculture education, and rural community vitality.

**Application Deadline: February 15, 2022**
Public Health Associate Program Host Site Application *NEW*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is seeking partnerships with public health agencies and tribal and nongovernmental organizations to serve as host sites for the Public Health Associate Program (PHAP). PHAP is a paid training program funded by the CDC where associates gain hands-on experience across a variety of public health settings. Applicants from rural areas are strongly encouraged.

Application Deadline: February 18, 2022

NCHC Awards Program *NEW*

Awards Program designed to honor outstanding individuals and organizations in the field of health networks.

Application Deadline: February 18, 2022

Weyerhaeuser Youth Initiative *NEW*

Funding for new direct service programs designed to promote resilience, stability, and psycho-social health for youth ages 14 to 21 who have been traumatized by Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Letter of Intent (Required): March 1, 2022
Application Deadline: August 1, 2022

Rural Health and Economic Development Analysis *NEW*

Funding for a single entity to quantify and describe the economic impacts of local healthcare sectors on rural economies to provide information to assist policy makers and other rural stakeholders in improving healthcare in rural areas. Topic areas may include sustainability of services and minimum population requirements as it relates to healthcare and the economic vitality of rural communities, including rural tribal communities.

Application Deadline: March 8, 2022

Technologies for Improving Minority Health and Eliminating Health Disparities (R41/R42- Clinical Trial Optional) *NEW*

Funding for small businesses to develop products, processes, and services that can be used to improve minority health and/or reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities in one or more NIH-defined health disparity population groups. Technologies should be effective, affordable, and culturally acceptable.

Application Deadline: April 4, 2022

Innovations for Healthy Living - Improving Minority Health and Eliminating Health Disparities (R43/R44) *NEW*

Funding for small business concerns to develop a product, process, or service with the aim of improving minority health and/or reducing and ultimately eliminating health disparities in one or more NIH-defined population groups.

Application Deadline: April 4, 2022
American Rescue Plan Act - Pediatric Mental Health Care Access - New Area Expansion *NEW*

Funding for the expansion of state and/or regional networks of pediatric mental healthcare teams into new states and geographic areas. Teams will provide tele-consultation, training, technical assistance, and care coordination for pediatric primary care providers to diagnose, treat, and refer children with behavioral health conditions. Projects should focus on achieving health equity related to racial, ethnic, and geographic disparities in access to care, especially in rural and other underserved areas.

Application Deadline: April 5, 2022

Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program (RMOMS) *NEW*

Funding to improve access to, and continuity of, maternal and obstetrics care in rural communities through regional aggregated care, coordination of a continuum of care, use of telehealth, and the implementation of financial sustainability strategies.

Application Deadline: April 5, 2022

Summer Food Service Program *NEW*

Funding to provide free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need during the summer months.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Dental Clinician Educator Career Development Program

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

SAMHSA Minority Fellowship

A 1-year fellowship for psychiatry residents who are interested in addressing minority psychiatric mental health issues and committed to a career providing culturally sensitive psychiatric services for minority underserved populations. African Americans, Alaska Natives, American Indians, Asian-Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are encouraged to apply.

Application Deadline: February 14, 2022

Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grant

Grants to recruit and train emergency medical services personnel in rural areas with a focus on addressing mental and substance use disorders.

Application Deadline: February 14, 2022
**Tobacco Regulatory Science (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Grants to support biomedical and behavioral research that will provide scientific data to inform regulation of tobacco products to protect public health. Projects may focus on one or more classes of tobacco products and on one or more vulnerable populations.

**Application Deadline: February 15, 2022**

**Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part C Capacity Development Grants**

Funding to assist eligible entities to strengthen their organizational infrastructure and to increase their capacity to develop, enhance, or expand access to high quality HIV primary healthcare services for low-income, uninsured, underinsured, and people in underserved and rural communities.

**Application Deadline: February 15, 2022**

**Rigorous Evaluation of Community-Level Substance Use and Overdose Prevention Frameworks that Incorporate ACEs-Related Prevention Strategies**

Funding to conduct rigorous evaluation of prevention approaches implemented within communities that incorporate efforts to mitigate the harms of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) exposure and prevent future ACEs, while also aiming to prevent substance use and overdose. Priority will be given to projects that consider the impacts of social determinants of health and populations that have been disproportionately impacted by ACEs and/or substance use and overdose.

**Application Deadline: February 21, 2022**

**NRHA Rural Health Awards**

Honors individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to rural health.

**Application Deadline: February 21, 2022**

**Home Visiting Research and Development Platform**

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**

**Rural eConnectivity Broadband Loan & Grant Program (ReConnect)**

Loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to expand broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access.

**Application Deadline: February 22, 2022**
**Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention-Mobile Health Training Program (NEPQR-MHTP)**

Funding to expand experiential training opportunities for nurses through nurse-led mobile health training sites, with the goal of strengthening nursing workforce to provide quality culturally aligned care in rural and underserved areas.

**Application Deadline: February 22, 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**

**Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program**

Funding to support rural health networks to address the need for more trained health professionals, which has been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. The overall program goal is to expand public health capacity by supporting healthcare job development, training, and placement in rural communities.

**Application Deadline: March 18, 2022**

**Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grant Program**

Grants to support rural primary care providers with the planning and implementation of quality improvement activities. Program objectives include increased care coordination, enhanced chronic disease management, and improved health outcomes for patients in rural areas.

**Application Deadline: March 21, 2022**

**Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program**

Funding to establish a dental faculty loan repayment program with a priority for faculty within the disciplines of general dentistry, pediatric dentistry, public health dentistry, and dental hygiene. Additional preference will be given to applicants providing loan repayment to pediatric dentistry faculty supervising dental students or residents and providing clinical services in dental clinics located in dental schools, hospitals, and community-based affiliated sites. Applicants are also encouraged to consider individual loan repayment recipients from rural and disadvantaged background and from underrepresented minorities.

**Application Deadline: March 22, 2022**

**Rural Health Care Program – Healthcare Connect Fund**

Provides assistance to healthcare providers for eligible expenses related to broadband connectivity at a flat discounted rate of 65%. Participants can apply as a member of a consortium or a stand-alone entity.
Rural Health Care Telecommunications (Telecom) Program

Assistance to healthcare providers for eligible expenses related to telecommunications and voice services for the use of telemedicine and telehealth.

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.

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.

Cancer Health Equity Research Centers at Minority-Serving Institutions

Funding to support the formation of Cancer Health Equity Research Centers (CHERCs) designed to target cancer health disparities that are unique to a local or regional community. Applicants must be from Minority-Serving Institutions and are required to demonstrate that 30% of the planned research participants will be racial and ethnic minorities or live in rural or medically underserved areas.

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.

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**

**Surgical Disparities Research (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Grants to support investigative and collaborative research focused on understanding and addressing disparities in surgical care and outcomes in minority and health disparity populations.

**Application Deadline: July 5, 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**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research to Address Vaccine Hesitancy, Uptake, and Implementation among Populations that Experience Health Disparities**

Notice of Special Interest for community-engaged research to evaluate strategies to facilitate vaccination uptake in clinical and community contexts and address the barriers to increasing reach, access, and uptake of vaccinations among health disparity populations at high risk and likely to experience vaccine hesitancy.

**Application Deadline: January 8, 2023**

**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**
Technology Development to Reduce Health Disparities (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

Funding to develop and translate medical technologies aimed at reducing disparities in healthcare access and health outcomes. Medical technologies should be effective, affordable, culturally acceptable, and deliverable to those who need them. Priority health disparity populations include racial and ethnic minorities, socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals, sexual and gender minorities, and medically underserved populations in rural and urban areas.

Application Deadline: May 2, 2024

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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