VRHA News

VRHA welcomes another Program Coordinator to our team!
Jody Teel, MPH
Jody is currently pursuing a Doctor of Public Health concentrated in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at East Tennessee State University and hold a master’s degree in Public Health from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. Her work has been centered around rural health disparities and comprehensive harm reduction. Jody will be working on the SAMHSA Partners in Prevention grant VRHA manages on behalf of One Care of Southwest Virginia.

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**Members in the News**

**Shenandoah Memorial Hospital named a top 100 Critical Access Hospital**

Valley Health Shenandoah Memorial Hospital announced it has been recognized as one of the nation’s Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals by The Chartis Center for Rural Health. Shenandoah Memorial Hospital (SMH) is the only hospital in Virginia, and one of just a few on the Eastern Seaboard, to earn this recognition for 2022.

“Two years ago, the way we care for patients, and in fact our entire way of life, changed dramatically,” said SMH President N. Travis Clark. “COVID-19 has brought challenges we could not have imagined, from supply chain disruptions and workforce shortages to a highly-polarized national debate on the best ways forward. To earn this distinction during such a transforming time is a testament to our entire team’s commitment, resiliency and extraordinary skill set.”

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**Virginia News**

**Virginia expected to receive $530 million in opioid settlement**

Five hundred and thirty million dollars will start rolling out to Virginia from a national settlement with opioid manufacturers. Funds given to fight the opioid crisis in the commonwealth will start being released in the coming months.

“The Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority is set up to this idea that we are going to use this money, send it to the localities and they know what is the best method, the best tools...
of prevention and recovery from addiction in their individual locality,” Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares said.

The money comes from a settlement with Johnson and Johnson and the three biggest U.S drug distribution companies. Cash without a formal admission of responsibility.

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**National News**

**Annual Rural Health Conference**

**May 10-13, 2022  Albuquerque, NM**

Join NRHA and colleagues from across the country in the Land of Enchantment for the nation’s largest gathering of rural health professionals. Reach your peak and return to your rural community with expertise from more than 80 innovative, practical, and cost-saving sessions and more, including:

- A closer look at COVID and pandemic lessons learned
- Turning the tide on rural workforce, workplace trends
- The intersection of health equity and social determinants
- Maintaining and expanding broadband and telehealth
- The future of rural hospitals, clinics, and other facilities
- Innovative payment models and financial strategies
- Mental health access and affordability solutions
- Regional disparities and the rural cancer experience
- Finding a path forward for the 340B program
- The most unique rural perspectives and much more

Don’t miss NRHA’s **Health Equity Conference** and **Rural Medical Education Conference** occurring immediately beforehand on May 10.

**Register Now!**

**#MATRC2022 Breaking Barriers Through Telehealth Award Nominations**

MATRC is seeking nominations that tell a compelling story of a telehealth program or project that has led to breaking down barriers to accessing quality care and/or addressing an unmet need that has led to improved health outcomes and/or quality of life. For more information and to submit a nomination, [click here](#).

Examples of applications of telehealth include live interactive videoconferencing, store-and-forward, remote patient monitoring, as well as the use of mobile health apps, games and wearables.
To be eligible, the story must be about a telehealth program or project within the MATRC Service Area. This includes DC, DE, KY, MD, NC, NJ, PA, WV and VA. Awards will be announced and presented at the #MATRC2022 Telehealth Summit Awards Dinner on Monday evening April 25.

Two awards will be given, one in each of two categories, as selected by a panel of judges. Each of the two winners will be awarded a $1,000 cash prize and free registration to the 2023 MATRC Telehealth Summit. Winners may also elect to donate the amount of their cash prize to the nonprofit of their choosing.

Nominations are due by midnight on Friday April 1, 2022.

NRHA Advocacy Campaigns on Appropriations

As Congress continues negotiating the fiscal year 2022 budget, the NRHA Government Affairs team is working to make sure Congress prioritizes lifting the rural health safety net.

In this campaign, we urge Congress to support the rural safety net by using the FY 2022 package to include the following provisions:

- Extend relief from Medicare sequestration for the remainder of 2022.
- Continue telehealth provisions beyond the duration of the public health emergency.
- Create a quality reporting system for provider-based rural health clinics in exchange for reinstating cost-based reimbursement.

It only takes a few minutes to fill out the form, and it will greatly help our advocacy! Congress relies on feedback from their constituents to know what issues need to support. Now is your chance to have your voice heard.

Calendar

**Virginia Public Health Association Annual Conference & Research Day**
**March 26, 2022  Blacksburg, VA**

VPHA is partnering with the Virginia Rural Health Association this year to focus on rural health in Virginia. The day will include speakers, networking opportunities, and poster presentations. Conference will be held from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm at Virginia Tech.

**National Virtual Rural EMS & Care Conference 2022**
**April 19-21, 2022  Virtual**

Invited attendees include rural ambulance services, rural EMS directors, medical directors and officers, rural health care providers, ambulatory agencies and staff, state EMS officials, state rural health officials, hospital administrators, federal agency officials, and State Offices of Rural Health.

**Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC) Telehealth Summit**
**April 24-26, 2022  Concord, NC (Virtual option available)**

**Healthcare in Appalachia Conference**  
April 28-30, 2022  Pigeon Forge, TN

The Healthcare in Appalachia conference is designed to address the unique needs and circumstances of the Appalachian region. This conference will feature experts in the medical, mental health and public health fields and provide practical advice, tips, and resources to health care providers and public health professionals.

**30th Annual West Virginia Rural Health Conference**  
October 19-21, 2022  Lewisburg, WV

"POWER – Preparing Our Workforce and Empowering Rural WV"

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**Resources**

**Catalog of Value-Based Initiatives for Rural Providers**

Summarizes rural-relevant, value-based programs currently or recently implemented by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the CMS Innovation Center. Designed to help rural healthcare leaders identify HHS value-based programs that are suitable for rural participation. Contains descriptions of each demonstration and provides direct links to the corresponding agency web page.

**340B Peer-to-Peer Program Compliance Improvement Guide**

Helps organizations determine their needs through 10 self-assessment tools. Two of the tools help organizations quickly evaluate their cultural readiness to improve compliance, and to identify potential areas of compliance risk.

**FACT SHEET: The Biden Administration's Historic Investments To Create Opportunity and Build Wealth in Rural America**

Highlights the federal government's investments in rural economies and service programs through the American Rescue Plan, as well as the Biden administration's priorities for rural investment moving forward. Notes funding to expand rural access to education, nutritious foods, aid to rural hospitals responding to COVID-19, and efforts to increase access to healthcare, mental health services, telehealth, substance use disorder treatment, and more.

**Fast Facts on U.S. Hospitals**

Offers resources highlighting data from the American Hospital Association (AHA) Annual Survey. Includes data on the number of hospitals by type, ownership, system-affiliated versus independent, and rural versus urban; AHA's COVID-19 bed occupancy projection tool; a map of community hospitals in the United States; and maps of bed occupancy over time.
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.

Funding Opportunities

Quality Payment Program Exceptions *NEW*

The opportunity to apply for exceptions to meeting Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) program requirements. The MIPS Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Exception is currently open for the 2021 MIPS performance year. Facilities may request reweighting for any or all performance categories in response to extreme and uncontrollable circumstance or public health emergency, such as COVID-19, that is outside of the facility's control.

Application Deadline: March 31, 2022

Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program *NEW*

Grants for projects designed to address and prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in rural communities.

Application Deadline: April 7, 2022

Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF Rx) *NEW*

Grants to help prevent and address prescription drug misuse within a state, tribe, or locality. The program is designed to raise awareness about the dangers of sharing medications, the risks of fake or counterfeit pills purchased over social media or other unknown sources, and to work with pharmaceutical and medical communities on the risks of overprescribing.

Application Deadline: April 25, 2022

Medication Assisted Treatment - Prescription Drug & Opioid Addiction *NEW*

Provides funds for states, organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations to expand or enhance access to medication assisted treatment services for individuals with opioid use disorder.
Application Deadline: April 29, 2022

**Minority Aids Initiative: Substance Use Disorder Treatment for Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations at High Risk for HIV/AIDS** *NEW*

Grants to increase engagement in care for racial and ethnic minority individuals with substance use disorders and/or co-occurring substance use and mental disorders who are at risk for HIV or are HIV positive and that receive HIV services/treatment.

Application Deadline: April 29, 2022

**Evaluating the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Food and Housing Policies and Programs on Health Outcomes in Health Disparity Populations (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Funding for research to identify and evaluate the ongoing and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing specifically on governmental (local, state, tribal, federal) policy and programmatic actions that address two specific social determinants of health: food/nutrition security and housing security. Projects should examine how these food/nutrition and housing policies and programs aimed at lessening the effects of the pandemic impacted health and health equity in individuals, families, and communities from health disparity populations.

Application Deadline: April 7, 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

**Drug-Free Communities Support Program**

Awards funding to coalitions working to reduce substance abuse among youth and to establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, organizations, and governmental entities.

Application Deadline: April 11, 2022

**Rural Business Development Grant Program: Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation Systems**

Funding to provide technical assistance and training for rural and tribal transportation system agencies nationwide for the purpose of improving passenger transportation services and/or facilities.

Application Deadline: April 14, 2022

**Health Workforce Research Center Cooperative Agreement Program**

Funding to support and disseminate research on trends in health workforce. In this cycle, up to 9 centers will be funded in the areas of public health workforce, behavioral health workforce, health equity in health workforce, allied health workforce, long-term care
support/services, oral health workforce, emerging workforce topics, and technical assistance.

**Application Deadline: April 14, 2022**

**Small, Rural School Achievement Grant Program**

Funding for small, rural Local Education Agencies for initiatives aimed at improving student academic achievement. Activities may include drug prevention, violence prevention, school-based health services, and other health-related programs.

**Application Deadline: April 15, 2022**

**Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Program**

Funding to support states and tribes with implementing youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies in schools, institutions of higher education, juvenile justice systems, substance use and mental health programs, foster care systems, and other child and youth-serving organizations.

**Application Deadline: April 18, 2022**

**Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Behavioral Health Care Support**

Funding to improve access to and quality of substance use disorder and other behavioral healthcare services in rural communities including utilization of prevention, treatment, and recovery services to improve the care for those affected by behavioral health conditions.

**Application Deadline: April 19, 2022**

**Catalyst for Infant Health Equity**

The goals of the new Catalyst for Infant Health Equity program are twofold: 1) to continue reducing overall infant mortality (IM) rates in the United States, and 2) to decrease and ultimately eliminate disparities in IM across racial/ethnic groups by achieving steeper declines for groups with the highest rates. To accomplish these goals, award recipients are expected to address the broader social and structural determinants (or root causes) contributing to IM disparities at the county or jurisdiction1 level.

**Application Deadline: April 19, 2022**

**Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)**

Funding to help nonprofit housing and community development intermediary organizations support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

**Application Deadline: April 19, 2022**

**Minority AIDS Initiative: Service Integration**

Grants to integrate evidence-based, culturally competent mental and substance use disorder treatment with HIV primary care and prevention services. The population of
focus is individuals of racial and ethnic minorities with a serious mental illness or co-occurring disorder living with or at risk for HIV and/or hepatitis.

Application Deadline: April 25, 2022

**Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program**

Funding for community-based outreach education and extension programs at land-grant colleges and universities that provide individuals and families based in rural areas with information on health, wellness, and prevention. Projects should utilize telehealth, telemedicine, and distance learning strategies for education and training in minority rural communities related to opioids, preventing spread of COVID-19, and/or mitigating infection and transmission of COVID-19.

Application Deadline: April 29, 2022

**Emergency Awards: RADx-UP - Social, Ethical, and Behavioral Implications (SEBI) Research on Disparities in COVID-19 Testing among Underserved and Vulnerable Populations (U01 Clinical Trial Optional)**

American Rescue Plan Act funding to conduct social, ethical, and behavioral implications (SEBI) research to understand and reduce barriers to COVID-19 testing, as well as COVID-19 disparities that arise from barriers to testing among underserved and vulnerable populations.

Application Deadline: May 2, 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

**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.

Application Deadline: May 16, 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

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

Rural Hospital Leadership Team Award

Award that honors an exceptional leadership team that has guided their rural hospital and community through transformational change and healthcare reform.

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

Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project (RHPTP)

Technical assistance and training for rural healthcare providers to build capacity in value-based care (VBC), with emphasis on efficiency, quality, patient experience, and safety. The program's goal is to guide small rural hospitals and rural health clinics that are not currently participating in VBC to prepare for participation in a health system focused on value.

Application Deadline: September 30, 2022

Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund

Funds programs that work in the areas of affordable housing and shelter, education and youth development, environmental stewardship, workforce, and human services within the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation service area. Available in 15 counties in Virginia.

Application Deadline: September 30, 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

Stand Down Grants

Provides funding for events that offer homeless veteran populations a variety of social services designed to help them to reintegrate into their communities, such as housing, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

Application Deadline: December 31, 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**

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Hearing Healthcare for Adults: Improving Access and Affordability

Notice of Special Interest for research to improve access and affordability of hearing healthcare (HHC) in adults, which includes research addressing rural health issues potentially affecting HHC utilization and the unique HHC needs of rural populations.

**Application Deadline: January 7, 2024**

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**

**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**

**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**

**Health Care Models for Persons with Multiple Chronic Conditions from Populations that Experience Health Disparities: Advancing Health Care towards Health Equity (R01 - Clinical Trials Optional)**

Funding for research to study the effective adaptation, integration, and implementation of recommended guidelines of care of persons with multiple chronic conditions from populations that experience health disparities.

**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**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Disparities Affecting Healthcare Utilization and Health Outcomes Among Childhood Cancer Survivors**

Notice of Special Interest for research to understand and address the full spectrum of factors that contribute to disparities in survivorship care, healthcare utilization, and health outcomes among childhood cancer survivors. Proposed projects must include populations commonly experiencing disparities based on race or ethnicity, sex, sexual or gender minority status, insurance status, rural residence, socioeconomic disadvantage, or other demonstrated differences.

**Application Deadline: October 9, 2024**

**For ongoing funding opportunities, visit our website**

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**Virginia Rural Health Association**

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