Weekly Update

January 9, 2023

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Virginia News
The following bills have been introduced which may have an impact on rural health:

**SB 866 Paid sick leave; health care providers and grocery store workers.**

Requires employers to provide paid sick leave to health care providers and grocery store workers. Under current law, employers are only required to provide paid sick leave to certain home health workers. The bill removes requirements that workers work on average at least 20 hours/week or 90 hours/month to be eligible for paid sick leave.

**HB 1511 Midwifery; administration of medication.**

Allows licensed midwives to obtain, possess, and administer drugs and devices within the scope of their practice. The bill limits liability of entities that provide or dispense drugs or devices to a licensed midwife and that rely in good faith upon the license information provided by the licensed midwife.

**HB 1524 Va. Opioid Use Reduction & Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment & Transition Fund; establish.**

Establishes the Virginia Opioid Use Reduction & Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment & Transition Fund to be administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Services for the purpose of funding & supporting planning & implementation of locally administered jail-based addiction recovery & substance use disorder treatment and transition programs in local and regional jails.

**HB 1525 Peer recovery specialists; background checks, barrier crime exceptions.**

Permits the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, direct care service providers, and community boards to hire peer recovery specialists who have been convicted of certain barrier crimes where a history of such offense does not pose a risk in the work of a peer recovery specialist.

**HB 1534 Loan repayment programs; creates program for mental health professionals.**

Creates a loan repayment program for persons who have worked as mental health professionals in the Commonwealth for at least five years.

**HB 1538 Health insurance; coverage for doula care services.**
Requires health insurers, health care subscription plans, and health maintenance organizations whose policy, contract, or plan includes coverage for obstetrical services to provide coverage for doula care services provided by a state-certified doula. The bill requires such coverage to include coverage for at least eight visits during the antepartum or postpartum period and support during labor and delivery.

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**Calendar**

**2023 34th Annual Rural Health Policy Institute**
February 7-9, 2023   Washington, D.C.

Your chance to guide the future of rural health policy with NRHA leadership and advocate for issues you care about with new and returning members of Congress and the administration.

**2023 MATRC Telehealth Summit**
March 15 - 17, 2023   Norfolk, VA

Examine the technology, policy and operational best practices and lessons learned that contribute to making telehealth either a facilitator, enabler or barrier for different populations.

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**Resources**

**NSDUH (National Survey on Drug Use and Health) Detailed Tables - 2021**

Presents 2021 survey data, including revisions, on use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, trends in substance use disorder and mental health, and access to treatment for youth and adults. Features statistics for a variety of demographic and geographic characteristics, including rural versus urban status. Includes information on substance use and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**RTC: Rural Disability Counts**

Data dashboards and tools provide access to state and county level disability data as well as data on individuals who are institutionalized in correctional facilities (i.e. prisons and
jails) and nursing homes. All dashboards contain filters allowing users to focus specifically on metropolitan or nonmetropolitan counties at the national or state level.

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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: January 20, 2023**

**Cancer Health Equity Research Centers at Minority-Serving Institutions** *NEW*

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.

**Letter of Intent (Required): February 7, 2023**

**Application Deadline: April 15, 2023**

**2023 Mobile Health Innovation Collaborative** *NEW*

The Mobile Health Innovation Collaborative (MHIC) is a nine-month program in which people from up to 10 organizations who operate mobile clinics will learn new skills and receive technical assistance to measure and communicate their impact. If selected, each program will receive a $25,000 stipend to support the identified evaluation projects, allowing them to put their new skills into practice and advance their programs’ goals.

**Application Deadline: February 10, 2023**

**Tobacco Regulatory Science** *NEW*
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 14, 2023**

**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, 2023**

**Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program** *NEW*

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 3, 2023**

**Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part F Dental Reimbursement Program** *NEW*

Funding designed to improve access to oral healthcare services for low income people with HIV, and to train dental students, dental hygiene students, and dental residents to deliver dental care to people with HIV.

**Application Deadline: March 10, 2023**

**Virginia Behavioral Health Student Loan Repayment Program** *NEW*

Annual $1.6 million fund established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2021 to help recruit and retain behavioral health professionals to practice in underserved areas of the Commonwealth or to provide counseling and treatment to underserved populations. The program will repay a portion of eligible professionals’ student loan debt. In return, recipients commit to practicing in Virginia for a minimum of two years at an eligible site.
**Application Deadline: April 15, 2023**

**Supportive Services for Veteran Families**

Grants awarded to selected private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives to assist very low-income Veteran families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing. Grantees will provide a range of supportive services to eligible Veteran families that are designed to promote housing stability.

**Application Deadline: February 10, 2023**

**Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship Program (NAT)**

Funding for accredited institutions to support traineeships for licensed nurses who are enrolled in a nurse anesthesia program, with preference given to projects that will benefit rural and underserved populations.

**Application Deadline: February 10, 2023**

**School-Based Interventions to Promote Equity and Improve Health, Academic Achievement, and Well-Being of Students**

Funding to protect and improve health and well-being of school-age adolescents in underserved & disproportionately affected communities. Projects should increase physical activity, healthy dietary behaviors, & self-management of chronic health conditions among students & implement strategies and activities at the school level that promote student & staff health. Projects should address social determinants of health and reach populations such as racial/ethnic minorities, students receiving free & reduced lunch, students of lower socioeconomic status, and those living in rural areas.

**Application Deadline: February 11, 2023**

**State Newborn Screening System Priorities Program**

Supports state/territory NBS programs addressing state/territory-specific challenges. Activities include expanding access to diagnosis and treatment resources for providers and families of infants with SCID and other NBS disorders with a focus on reaching underserved populations, and empowering families to actively engage at all levels of the newborn screening system.

**Application Deadline: February 13, 2023**

**Service Area Competition Funding for Health Center Program (Areas Served with a Project Period Start Date of September 1, 2023)**
Funding to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services to an underserved area or population. Areas with a September 1, 2023 project period start date are eligible to apply.

**Application Deadline: February 13, 2023**

**Maternal and Child Health Secondary Data Analysis Research**

Funding to support applied research through analysis of existing databases and/or administrative records to improve the quality, efficiency, and accessibility of healthcare services and health outcomes for underserved maternal and child health populations. Underserved populations include indigenous and Native American persons, people in rural areas, persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality, among others.

**Application Deadline: February 13, 2023**

**Senior Medicare Patrol Projects**

Funding to provide local outreach, education, and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries through a volunteer workforce that is trained to empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse.

**Application Deadline: February 15, 2023**

**Research Grants to Inform Firearm-Related Violence and Injury Prevention Strategies**

Grants for research to inform the development or improvement of prevention programs, policies, or practices that have the potential to substantially reduce firearm-related violence, injuries, death, or crime within populations or settings experiencing elevated risk. Research focusing on rural and tribal communities is encouraged.

**Application Deadline: February 16, 2023**

**Research Grants to Rigorously Evaluate Innovative and Promising Strategies to Prevent Firearm-Related Violence and Injuries**

Grants for investigator-initiated research to evaluate the effectiveness of innovative and promising strategies to prevent all forms of firearm-related violence and injuries. Research focusing on rural and tribal communities is encouraged.

**Application Deadline: February 16, 2023**
Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement

Awards funding to one organization to provide technical assistance to beneficiaries of FORHP quality initiatives, such as grantees, Critical Access Hospitals, and other rural providers.

**Application Deadline: February 17, 2023**

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 17, 2023**

Lesbian Health Fund 2023 Grant Call

Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty interested in pursuing a research career focused on LGBTQ+ women or girls are invited to apply. Senior scholars, faculty, and non-profit organizations interested in expanding their program of research into this population are also welcome to apply.

**Application Deadline: February 28, 2022**

HHS COVID-19 and Health Equity Impact Fellowship

A mentored fellowship opportunity located in Washington, D.C. to conduct policy research and participate in quantitative data analyses on topics such as social determinants of health; health equity; access to healthcare services for at risk populations; and analyzing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on emergency care services, maternity care, and/or the HIV population.

**Application Deadline: March 1, 2023**

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Grants for projects designed to reduce the incidence and impact of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome in rural communities by improving systems of care, family supports, and social determinants of health.

**Application Deadline: March 8, 2023**
Health Services Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities

For health services research that can directly contribute to the improvement of minority health and/or the reduction of health disparities, while taking into consideration the interaction between system-level healthcare, individual clinical care and social determinants of health, including the role of structural systemic factors, place and neighborhood factors. Focuses on services provided in the healthcare setting where individuals from health disparity populations seek care with a clinician for preventive services, chronic disease management, urgent symptomatic care, emergency care, and hospital care.

Application Deadline: March 27, 2023

AgriSafe Nurse Scholar Program

A distance learning opportunity available to rural nurses designed to increase knowledge base in prevention, identification, and assessment of diseases related to agricultural work exposures. A 50% scholarship is available for nurses working in nonprofit organizations, Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, government agencies, and educational institutions. A full scholarship is available for nurses from Illinois and for nurses from Missouri that work in Rural Health Clinics, government agencies, academia, and nonprofit organizations.

Application Deadline: May 15, 2023

David W. and Sandra L.R. Boyes Physician Education Scholarship

Scholarship for health professionals and specialists working on continuing education in the field of gerontology. Special consideration is given to applicants who currently practice or plan to practice in rural Virginia or southern Appalachian areas.

Application Deadline: June 1, 2023

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.

Application Deadline: July 8, 2023

AHRQ Health Services Research Projects (R01)
Support for specified health services 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: July 8, 2023**

**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, 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**

**Notice of Special Interest: Advancing the Science of Geriatric Palliative Care**

Notice of Special Interest to encourage research focused on palliative care in geriatric populations. Studies may take place in a variety of settings including hospitals, post-acute care settings, outpatient clinics, doctors' offices, homes and other residential settings, long-term care facilities, hospices, and other healthcare or community settings. Research in disparity populations and in rural/remote settings is encouraged.

**Application Deadline: September 8, 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**
**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**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Telehealth in Cancer Care**

Notice of Special Interest for research on the use of telehealth in cancer-related care, with a focus on populations that experience inequities in access to care and have worse cancer outcomes compared to the general population.

**Application Deadline: March 8, 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): Research on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Risks for Abuse and Injury Among Vulnerable Children and Youth**

Notice of Special Interest to fund research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and risks for abuse and injury among vulnerable children and youth. Emphasis is placed on disparity populations related to abuse and neglect prior to the pandemic, as well as populations that have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus. Disparity populations include American Indians, Alaska Natives, LGBT youth, and children seen at **rural** emergency departments.

**Application Deadline: May 31, 2024**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Dissemination and Implementation Research to Advance Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Health Preventive**
Interventions in School Settings

Notice of Special Interest for dissemination and implementation research to support innovative approaches to overcoming barriers to the adoption, adaptation, integration, scale-up, and sustainability of evidence-based interventions to support children's mental, emotional, and behavioral health in school settings. Health disparity populations, including individuals living in rural areas, are a priority.

Application Deadline: June 5, 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

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

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**

**Innovative Mental Health Services Research Not Involving Clinical Trials (R01)**
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**

**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 disparity populations and how work functions as a social determinant of health.

**Application Deadline: September 8, 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**

**Leveraging Health Information Technology (Health IT) to Address Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Grants for research that examines how health information technology adoption impacts minority health and health disparity populations in access to care, quality of care, patient engagement, and health outcomes.

**Application Deadline: May 7, 2025**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research Using Implementation Science to Support the Delivery of Evidence-Based Practices in Community-Based Mental or General Medical Healthcare Settings**

Notice of Special Interest for mental health services and implementation research to support the adoption and sustainability of evidence-based practices in community-based settings that deliver care to people with mental illness. Health disparity populations, including individuals living in rural areas, are a priority.

**Application Deadline: May 8, 2025**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Implementation Science to Advance Maternal Health and Maternal Health Equity for the IMPROVE Initiative**

Notice of Special Interest for research to address health disparities associated with pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated morbidity and mortality. Populations of focus include American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and underserved rural populations, among others.

**Application Deadline: May 8, 2025**

For ongoing funding opportunities, [visit our website](https://www.vrha.org)

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