Weekly Update

February 27, 2023

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VRHA News
Members in the News

National organizations recognize Smyth County Community Hospital for patient care

- U.S. News recognized **Smyth County Community Hospital** as “high-performing” in care for hip fracture patients, with a special notation for providing an excellent patient experience.
- Quantros named **Smyth County Community Hospital** in the top 10% of hospitals in the nation for medical excellence in major bowel procedures and sepsis care in its 2023 CareChex® awards.

LewisGale Hospital Montgomery completes first phase of surgical improvement and expansion project

Officials with **LewisGale Hospital Montgomery** are celebrating the completion of the first phase of a $16 million expansion of the hospital’s surgery department.

Construction started in February 2022 to add an additional 7,500-square-foot to its existing surgery department including two operating rooms, a 15-bed post-anesthesia care unit, and storage.

The surgical improvement and expansion project brings the hospital’s total capital investment since 2019 to nearly $35 million, including a renovated state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization, women's health service line enhancements and improvements, advanced medical equipment, new patient safety and quality projects.

Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital Recognized in Top 20 Rural & Community Hospitals by The Chartis Center for Rural Health and National Rural Health Association

**Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital** has been nationally recognized three years in a row for their hard work in providing safe, quality care to those on the eastern shore. RSMH will be recognized May 18, 2023 during NRHA’s Rural Hospital Innovation Summit in San Diego, C.A.

The NRHA names the Top 20 Rural & Community Hospitals annually based on an evaluation conducted by The Chartis Center for Rural Health. The selected hospitals are
identified through the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEXTM, the most comprehensive and objective assessment of approximately 800 U.S. rural Prospective Payment System (PPS) hospital performance based upon market, value-based and financial measures.

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**Calendar**

**RHCs & the Medicare Shared Savings Program - What You Need to Know**  
March 7, 2023  3:00 pm  Virtual

Dr. Doug Jacobs from the Center for Medicare at CMS and Dr. Clint MacKinney from Rural Health Value will provide an overview of MSSP and address RHC specific considerations for participation.

**2023 LGBTQ Health Education & Advocacy Summit**  
March 30-31, 2023  Virtual

This two-day virtual event is designed for healthcare professionals, academics, community advocates and anyone who wants to expand their understanding of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual (LGBTQ+) communities and their unique needs. "Supporting the Health and Well-being of Rural LGBTQ Adults" is one of the session topics.

**Southeastern Colorectal Cancer Consortium**  
June 21-23, 2023  Norfolk, VA

Provides an opportunity to discuss challenges and share knowledge, tools, resources and strategic approaches to increase CRC screening rates.

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**Resources**

**2023 Rural Advocacy Agenda**

Outlines the American Hospital Association's federal policy priorities for rural hospitals in 2023. Offers recommendations in the areas of payment and reimbursement, workforce, telehealth coverage, and the 340B program.
Utilizing Innovations In Telehealth To Advance The Care Of Patients In Congregate Settings

Webinar describing best practices, lessons learned, and innovations developed in telehealth mobile technologies to support clinical screening, treatment, and care of isolated, high-risk rural populations in prison and nursing home facilities.

Additional links: Presentation Slides, Transcript

Achieving Whole Health - A New Approach for Veterans and the Nation

Report offers guidance for providers both inside and outside of the VA for filling gaps in veterans healthcare. Discusses a team-based interprofessional care structure for preventing disease and promoting well-being. Highlights some considerations for providing a whole health approach for rural veterans as well.

The Health of US Primary Care: A Baseline Scorecard Tracking Support for High-Quality Primary Care

Examines the support for implementing high-quality primary care in the United States across measures in five categories: financing, workforce, access, training, and research. Presents data on primary care financing trends from 2010 to 2020, the number of primary care physicians per capita in medically-underserved areas (MUAs) and non-MUAs by state, trends in financing primary care research, and more.

Funding Opportunities

First Responders - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Grants *NEW*

Grants to allow first responders and members of other key community sectors to administer a drug or device approved or cleared under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. No less than 20% of the total funding available is set aside for recipients serving rural communities with high rates of opioid abuse.

Application Deadline: March 14, 2023

National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative - Category III Community Treatment and Services Centers *NEW*
Grants to increase access to treatment and services for all children and adolescents, and their families who have experienced traumatic events.

**Application Deadline: March 27, 2023**

**Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking *NEW***

Grants to support community-based organizations in providing culturally relevant services to meet the critical needs of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, as well as the development of innovative culturally specific strategies to enhance access to services and resources for victims who face obstacles to using more traditional programs.

**Application Deadline: April 12, 2023**

**Supporting the Management of Substance Use Disorders in Primary Care and other Ambulatory Settings *NEW***

Funding to develop and test strategies to improve the capacity of primary care and ambulatory care settings to provide evidence-based, patient-centered care for people who misuse opioids and other substances. Priority populations include inner city, rural, low income, minority, women, children, and elderly, among others.

**Application Deadline: April 14, 2023**

**Advancing Equity in Adolescent Health through Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs and Services *NEW***

Funding for projects to serve communities and populations with significant disparities to advance equity in adolescent health through the replication of evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs and services.

**Application Deadline: April 18, 2023**

**Community Level Interventions to Improve Minority Health and Reduce Health Disparities *NEW***

Funding for research to develop and test community-level interventions to improve minority health and reduce health disparities. Populations of focus include American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, and underserved rural populations, among others.

**Application Deadline: July 7, 2023**
**Berkeley Public Health Online Rural Health Innovation Program *NEW***

Scholarships for public health leaders working in rural communities to attend the online MPH program at Berkeley and participate in a rural health curricula cohort.

**Application Deadline: August 13, 2023**

**Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project *NEW***

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.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**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**

**The Workers Lab: Innovation Fund**

The Workers Lab seeks innovators with early-stage ideas centered around making the ways the U.S. serves workers more modern and inclusive. Up to six fellows will be selected to participate in a 4-month program providing training, mentorship, and customized support to bring their idea to life and set them up for larger-scale investment.

**Application Deadline: March 27, 2023**

**Services Program for Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women**

The purpose of this program is to provide comprehensive services for pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorders across the continuum of residential
settings that support and sustain recovery. As a family-centered program, services also extend to family members and the minor children of the women, the latter whom may reside with the women in the program facilities at the woman’s request.

**Application Deadline: March 27, 2023**

**National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative – Category III: Community Treatment and Service (CTS) Centers**

The purpose of this program is to increase access to effective trauma- and grief-focused treatment and service systems for children, adolescents, and their families, who experience traumatic events. With this program, SAMHSA aims to raise the standard of care and improve access to evidence-based services for children experiencing trauma across the nation.

**Application Deadline: March 27, 2023**

**RWJF Culture of Health Prize**

Celebrates communities across the country where people and organizations are collaborating to build positive solutions to barriers that have created unequal opportunities for health and wellbeing. The Prize serves to inspire others to take action and create a healthier future for everyone’s children and grandchildren.

**Application Deadline: March 29, 2023**

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities**

A single grant for a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) to conduct research, knowledge translation, training, dissemination, and technical assistance activities to improve outcomes among people with disabilities who live in rural areas, including those from racial and ethnic minority groups.

**Application Deadline: March 31, 2023**

**Sexual Assault Services Culturally Specific Grant Program**

Grants to establish, maintain, and expand sustainable, culturally appropriate services that address the unique needs and challenges of victims of sexual assault from culturally specific communities.

**Application Deadline: March 31, 2023**
**Sun Life Team Up Against Diabetes**

The Team Up Against Diabetes initiative supports efforts to improve people’s health, prevent type 2 diabetes, and help those living with type 1 diabetes. Programmatic support is provided to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in the that focus on the following areas: diabetes prevention, awareness, education, and care; diabetes management; recovery and support from diabetes-related complications; obesity prevention; and nutritional programs focused on education, management, and awareness.

**Application Deadline: March 31, 2023**

**National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) Diversity Scholarships**

Scholarships for students of color who do not hold an EMS certification but who intend to become an EMT or paramedic. The overall goal of the scholarship program is to promote the development of greater diversity in the EMS workforce so that the workforce reflects the communities they serve.

**Application Deadline: March 31, 2023**

**Gamma Mu Foundation**

The mission of the Gamma Mu Foundation is to make a positive difference in the lives of the LGBT community, primarily in rural and underserved populations of the United States. The priority focus area for 2023 is HIV/STD education, prevention, and treatment for the LGBTQ community. Applications with other areas of focus, including community services and research and public education, will be considered after those with the priority focus are evaluated.

**Application Deadline: March 31, 2023**

**American Hospital Association Next Generation Leaders Fellowship and Rural Scholarships**

A fellowship program designed to empower healthcare leaders to bring about lasting change in the hospital and health systems in which they serve. Rural applicants are encouraged.

**Application Deadline: March 31, 2023**

**Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part C Early Intervention Services Program: New Geographic Service Areas**
Funding to provide, on an ongoing outpatient basis, high quality early intervention services and comprehensive primary care services for individuals with HIV infection in new geographic service areas.

**Application Deadline: April 3, 2023**

**Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) Program**

Grants to support innovative academic-practice partnerships to prepare primary care advanced practice registered nursing students to practice in rural and underserved settings through academic and clinical training.

**Application Deadline: April 7, 2023**

**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program**

Funding to support community-based organizations to use the EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model to develop and implement community-driven solutions that address environmental and/or public health issues for underserved communities. Special consideration will be given to projects located in rural areas.

**Application Deadline: April 10, 2023**

**Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)**

5-year program to improve health, prevent chronic diseases, and reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic populations with the highest risk, or burden, of chronic disease.

**Application Deadline: April 11, 2023**

**Advanced Nursing Education Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Program**

Prepares new Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to effectively provide primary care by supporting transition to practice through the establishment, expansion and/or enhancement of existing community-based Nurse Practitioner (NP) residency and fellowship training programs that are accredited or in the accreditation process.

**Application Deadline: April 11, 2023**

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

**The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program Competitive Grants**

Funding to support projects that will increase the purchase of fruit and vegetables among low-income consumers who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by providing incentives at the point of purchase.

**Application Deadline: May 4, 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**

**Rural Health Innovation Program**

Berkeley Public Health Online, with backing from the Barr-Campbell Family Foundation, will offer 25 fully paid scholarships per year to eligible online MPH students. All 25 Rural Health Scholars will study alongside a larger cohort of public health masters students across disciplines as well as a more intimate cohort that is equipped with a specialized rural health curricula.

**Application Deadline: August 13, 2023 (for January 2024 start date)**

**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.
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.

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.

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.

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.
**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

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research to Improve Pre-Pregnancy Care and Enhance Healthy Birth Intervals

Notice of Special Interest for research that assesses the social and behavioral processes that facilitate or hinder the achievement of healthy interbirth intervals and to identify public health interventions that promote healthy birth outcomes.

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 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

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: September 30, 2025

AHRQ Small Research Projects to Advance the Science of Primary Care (R03)

Funding to support small research projects that advance the role and capacity of primary care to increase the value and quality of care and improve patient outcomes and population health. Rural populations are considered a priority.

Application Deadline: March 19, 2027

For ongoing funding opportunities, visit our website

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