Weekly Update

March 6, 2023

Check out the latest episode!

Follow VRHA

www.vrha.org

VRHA News
VRHA Executive Director to speak at SXSW EDU 2023

Beth O'Connor will join Keith Smith and Janelle Sokolowich from Western Governor's University and Dr. Alex Ding from Humana for Creative Solutions to the Rural Health Crisis, which will highlight how private, non-profit, and public sectors can work together to meet the economic and health care needs of our rural communities.

Virginia News

Share your thoughts about Children’s Oral Health in Rural Virginia

Healthcare professionals are invited to participate in a research study provided by a partnership with the VCU Oral Health Core and the Virginia Dental Association. You will be completing a survey that seeks to obtain a better understanding of the opinions and needs of health professionals who provide health care in rural areas.

Click Here for Survey

Calendar

Applying the SafeSide Framework for Suicide Prevention in Rural Communities Workshop
March 21, 2023   12:00-3:00 pm   Virtual

Free half-day interactive workshop featuring video demonstrations, active discussion groups, and access to the latest research on best practices for suicide prevention. Content is designed for service providers in rural communities, with highlights on suicide prevention for youth and substance use communities. Free SafeSide Prevention one-year membership after workshop completion. Additional dates: May 23 and July 25, 2023.

Rural Emergency Hospitals: State Considerations and Legislative Actions
April 21, 2023   1:00 pm   Virtual

This webinar will explore the new designation, including its intended purpose, program rules, requirements and potential challenges and opportunities for states. Attendees will
hear about recent state legislative activity regarding rural emergency hospitals from national experts and state legislators.

---

**Resources**

**FHC & RHC CMS Policy Manual Updates**

Highlights changes incorporated in the 2022 and 2023 updated FQHC/RHC CMS Policy Manual regarding mental health face-to-face and telehealth encounters, and care management services. Details when permanent policies take effect. Discusses the CMS modified definition of a mental health visit in current regulatory policy. Provides clarification on the Medicare allowance for general care management services including chronic care, principal care, chronic pain and behavioral health integration.

**Fact Sheet: CMS Waivers, Flexibilities, and the Transition Forward from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

Explains how the end of the PHE will impact vaccines, testing, treatment, telehealth, certain blanket waivers, virtual supervision, and more.

**Telehealth for FQHCs/RHCs: Video Resource Library**

Offers videos on topics relevant to telehealth implementation for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs). Topics address telehealth readiness, marketing, selecting service providers, process improvement, and documenting workflows. Also, covers telehealth in primary care and dentistry, school-based telehealth, and diabetes prevention, screening and education services.

**The Approaching End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and Its Implications for RHCs**

Outlines Rural Health Clinic (RHC)-specific waivers implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will end at the conclusion of the public health emergency (PHE). Highlights how other policies will be impacted by the end of the PHE, including telehealth flexibilities; Medicaid redetermination; the commercialization of COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and tests; and Emergency Use Authorizations.

**Critical Access Hospital Telehealth Guide**
Provides practical guidance on implementing and sustaining telehealth in Critical Access Hospitals, to optimize healthcare delivery, expand access, enhance care coordination, and address health inequity. Focuses on Medicare outpatient telehealth services, but also includes information on Medicaid coverage and remote services that may not strictly be considered telehealth.

### Funding Opportunities

**Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program** *NEW*

Competition to support projects that transform overburdened and underserved communities into healthy, thriving communities capable of addressing the environmental and public health challenges they have historically faced. Projects addressing climate change, disaster resiliency, and/or emergency preparedness and projects in rural/tribal areas will be given priority.

**Application Deadline: April 14, 2023**

**Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program Training and Technical Assistance** *NEW*

Funding for national training and technical assistance providers to develop comprehensive strategies to respond to the overdose crisis and the impacts of opioid, stimulant, and other substance use and misuse on individuals and families. TTA providers will form a collaborative to support the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use site-based Program.

**Application Deadline: April 18, 2023**

**Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative - State & Community Grant Program** *NEW*

Funding to support the development and expansion of dementia-capable home and community-based service systems in states and communities.

**Application Deadline: April 24, 2023**

**NHSC Loan Repayment Program** *NEW*
Loan repayment assistance for eligible primary healthcare professionals who agree to serve in Health Professional Shortage Areas.

**Application Deadline: April 25, 2023**

**NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program** *NEW*

Loan repayment assistance for medical, nursing, and behavioral/mental health clinicians with specific training and credentials to provide evidence-based substance use disorder treatment in rural communities designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas.

**Application Deadline: April 25, 2023**

**National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program** *NEW*

Loan repayment assistance for eligible primary healthcare professionals who agree to serve in Health Professional Shortage Areas.

**Application Deadline: April 25, 2023**

**NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program** *NEW*

Loan repayment assistance for eligible clinicians who agree to serve in an approved SUD treatment facility.

**Application Deadline: April 25, 2023**

**Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention - Pathway to Registered Nurse Program** *NEW*

Funding to create a pathway from academic training to clinical practice through the creation and implementation of Licensed Practical Nurse/Licensed Vocational Nurse (LPN/LVN) to Registered Nurse (RN) Bridge Programs and employment of Clinical Nurse Faculty. The focus is to provide training experiences in rural and underserved areas.

**Application Deadline: April 27, 2023**

**Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)** *NEW*

This program aims to develop a sustainable infrastructure for school-based mental health programs & services. Recipients are expected to build collaborative partnerships with State & Local Education Agencies, State Mental Health Agency, community-based providers of behavioral health care, school personnel, community organizations, families, & school-aged youth. Recipients will use partnerships to implement mental health-related
promotion, awareness, prevention, and intervention activities to ensure that school-aged youth have access and are connected to effective behavioral health services.

**Application Deadline: April 28, 2023**

**Rural Emergency Medical Services Training** *NEW*

The purpose of this program is to recruit and train EMS personnel in rural areas with a particular focus on addressing substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders. Recipients will be expected to train EMS personnel on SUD and COD, trauma-informed, recovery-based care for people with such disorders in emergency situations and, as appropriate, to maintain licenses and certifications relevant to serve in an EMS agency.

**Application Deadline: May 1, 2023**

**Mental Health Awareness Training Grants** *NEW*

The purpose of this program is to: (1) train individuals (e.g., school personnel, emergency services personnel, armed services members and their families, etc.) to recognize signs and symptoms of mental disorders and how to safely de-escalate crisis situations involving individuals with a mental illness and (2) provide education on resources available in the community for individuals with a mental illness and other relevant resources, including how to establish linkages with school and/or community-based mental health agencies.

**Application Deadline: May 1, 2023**

**Community Economic Development Projects** *NEW*

Grants to Community Development Corporations (CDCs) for projects designed to address the economic needs of low-income individuals and families through the creation of employment and business opportunities, including expansion or construction of clinics and health centers. Priority points will be given to projects that create jobs in rural communities and counties of persistent poverty.

**Application Deadline: May 8, 2023**

**The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program - Produce Prescription Program** *NEW*

Funding to support projects that demonstrate and evaluate the impact of prescribing fresh fruits and vegetables on the improvement of dietary health through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, the reduction of individual and household food insecurity, and the reduction in healthcare use and associated costs.
Application Deadline: May 16, 2023

**Virginia Health Access Grants** *NEW*

Funding for projects to increase access to healthcare for uninsured Virginians and those who live in areas with limited access to care.

**Letter of Intent (Required): July 14, 2023**
**Application Deadline: September 5, 2023**

**Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation Grants** *NEW*

Grants to support community-based organizations providing direct services, education, or research in the areas of HIV and AIDS, with priority given to smaller communities and rural areas.

**Letter of Intent (Required): August 5, 2023**
**Application Deadline: September 1, 2023**

**Walmart Foundation Community Grant Program** *NEW*

Grants to support the unique needs of local communities in the service areas of Walmart and Sam's Club stores.

**Application Deadline: December 31, 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**

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

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**

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**

**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

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

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

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

Community Level Interventions to Improve Minority Health and Reduce Health Disparities

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**

**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**

**Berkeley Public Health Online Rural Health Innovation Program**

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 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.

**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

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.