VRHA News
Members in the News

Discussing Black maternal health outcomes, solutions in Virginia

Kenda Sutton-El, Executive Director of Birth in Color RVA is a Maternal and Reproductive Advocate who trains doulas of color in addition to advocacy work on behalf of pregnant and birthing people. Their services include providing doulas and lactation consultants, prenatal classes, racial bias training and advocacy within Virginia’s legislature. Sutton-el said that included work to cover to provide Medicaid reimbursement for doulas.

In the CDC’s latest report, the staggering data is coupled with reasons WHY health experts say Black women face worse pregnancy outcomes compared with White women.

The report blames variation in quality healthcare, underlying chronic conditions, structural racism as well as implicit bias, which Kenda Sutton-el said she has seen firsthand.

The Virginia Rural Health Association secured funding from HRSA's Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program to assist Birth in Color RVA with doula trainings in Danville and Martinsville.

National News

Medicare Advantage final rule released

Last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its contract year 2024 Medicare Advantage Policy and Technical Changes final rule. The National Rural Health Association’s summary can be found here. CMS' fact sheet can be found here. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact (amckinley@ruralhealth.us).

Calendar

Provider/Support Staff Training to Increase Access to Treatment for
Hepatitis C in their Independent Locations  
June 2, 2023  8:00 am - 5:00 pm  Virtual or Charlottesville, VA 

Education and empowerment to identify and assist people living with hepatitis C in your practice, offering a pathway to treatment and cure. The HCV care continuum will be addressed from screening, linkage to care, necessary labs, liver staging, choosing the correct medication, assessing for interactions and reactions, obtaining medication with minimal cost, monitoring through treatment, diagnosing cure, and following up when advanced liver disease is identified.

VCOM National Rural Medicine Conference  
August 24-26, 2023  Nashville, TN 

Brings together leaders in rural medicine and provides physicians, students, and other healthcare professionals opportunities to learn, network, and inspire each other to better serve rural and medically underserved populations in the United States and abroad.

HRSA Virtual Job Fair  
April 19, 2023  6:00 pm - 9:30 pm 
This event connects health care facilities with clinicians seeking opportunities to practice in communities in need.

Concepts in Primary Care Nursing  
April 22, 2023  8:30 am - 3:00 pm  Harrisonburg, VA 

Continuing Education Workshop: Overview, roles, strategies, chronic and transitional care management, mental health, tools & best practices.

Resources  

End Of The Public Health Emergency Telehealth Flexibility Planning 
A central site for end of Public Health Emergency (PHE) telehealth flexibility planning, which will include blog posts, trusted resource links, tips and tricks, and downloadable tools.

NOSORH Rural Health Capital Resources Master Class  
A live, 4 course master class for working professionals who want to learn more about accessing and utilizing capital from federal, state, and private sources for rural health
Using the 2023 Rural Population Health Chartbook

Discusses the data within the 2023 Rural Population Health Chartbook from the North Carolina Rural Health Research Program. Explains how to utilize the 33 measures of population health to understand rural health disparities, comparisons by counties and states, rural-urban differences, and more.
Additional links: Slide Deck, Transcript, Video Recording

Funding Opportunities

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. At least 30% of the planned research participants will be racial and ethnic minorities or live in rural or medically underserved areas.

Letter of Intent (Required): May 1, 2023
Application Deadline: October 16, 2023

Healthy Meals Incentives Grants for Small and Rural School Food Authorities
*NEW*

Grants for small and rural School Food Authorities that are experiencing challenges in the improvement of the nutritional quality of their school meals due to limited staffing, difficulty in accessing training, increased food costs due to limited purchasing power, lack of physical space, and outdated kitchen equipment.

Application Deadline: May 26, 2023

Helping Hands Grant Program *NEW*

Grants to encourage medical students to participate in community service activities, particularly those focused on underserved populations; raise awareness of mental illness and the importance of early recognition of illness; and build an interest among medical students in psychiatry and working in underserved communities. Projects should focus on mental health and substance use disorder.
**Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program** *NEW*

Funding to promote behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care by supporting the development of new, or the improvement of existing, statewide or regional pediatric mental healthcare telehealth access programs.

**Application Deadline: May 31, 2023**

**Tobacco Control Policies to Promote Health Equity** *NEW*

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: June 12, 2023**

**Dissemination and Implementation Research to Advance Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Health Preventive Interventions in School Settings** *NEW*

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: September 7, 2023**

**Research Using Implementation Science to Support the Delivery of Evidence-Based Practices in Community-Based Mental or General Medical Healthcare Settings** *NEW*

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: June 5, 2024**

**Staff Sergeant Fox Suicide Prevention Grants**
Community-based grants for eligible entities to provide, or coordinate the provision of, suicide prevention services to eligible veterans and their families. Priority is given to rural communities, tribal lands, & medically underserved areas.

**Application Deadline: May 19, 2023**

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

The purpose of this program is to increase engagement in care for racial and ethnic medically underserved individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs) and/or co-occurring SUDs and mental health conditions (COD) who are at risk for or living with HIV. Award recipients will be expected to take a syndemic approach to SUD, HIV, and viral hepatitis by providing SUD treatment to medically underserved racial and ethnic individuals at risk for or living with HIV.

**Application Deadline: May 22, 2023**

**Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Planning, Development, and Implementation Grant**

This program aims to transform community behavioral health systems and provide comprehensive, coordinated behavioral health care by: (a) assisting organizations in the planning, development, and implementation of a new CCBHC that meets certification criteria (b) providing a comprehensive range of outreach, screening, assessment, treatment, care coordination, & recovery supports based on a needs assessment that aligns with certification criteria, (c) supporting recovery from mental illness and/or substance use disorders (SUD) by providing access to high-quality mental health and SUD services.

**Application Deadline: May 22, 2023**

**Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Improvement & Advancement Grant**

This program aims to transform community behavioral health systems & provide comprehensive, coordinated behavioral health care by (a) enhancing & improving CCBHCs that meet certification criteria; (b) providing a comprehensive range of outreach, screening, assessment, treatment, care coordination, & recovery support based on needs assessment with fidelity to certification criteria; (c) supporting recovery from mental illness/substance use disorders by providing access to mental health services.

**Application Deadline: May 22, 2023**
Promoting the Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care

Promotes integration & collaboration between behavioral & primary physical healthcare (2) supports improvement of integrated care models for behavioral & primary/physical healthcare to improve overall health status of adults & children with co-occurring mental illness & physical health conditions or chronic disease; individuals with substance use disorder; or individuals with co-occurring mental & substance use disorder (3) promotes implementation & improvement of integrated care services, including screening, assessment, diagnosis, prevention, treatment, & recovery services.

**Application Deadline: May 22, 2023**

Health Careers Opportunity Program: The National HCOP Academies

Grants to increase and support opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter and graduate from health professions programs. National HCOP Academies strengthen the health workforce pipeline in medically underserved and rural areas by providing both academic and social supports to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

**Application Deadline: May 24, 2023**

Integrated Maternal Health Services

Funding to develop/demonstrate an integrated maternal health services model to support comprehensive care for pregnant and postpartum people who experience health disparities and have limited access to basic social and healthcare services.

**Application Deadline: May 24, 2023**

AHRQ Safety Program for Telemedicine

Learning cohorts of healthcare professionals who use telemedicine as a care delivery model. The current cohort (March - May, 2023) focuses on improving the cancer diagnostic process and will include telehealth practices in adult and family primary care, gynecology, and community-based health clinics who regularly provide cancer diagnoses. Providers and practices from rural communities are encouraged to apply.

**Application Deadline: May 25, 2023**

Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support Grants

Grants to implement evidence-based programs to support individuals in substance use disorder treatment and recovery to live independently and participate in the workforce.
Projects should focus on equity for rural, tribal, and other underserved populations.

**Application Deadline: May 30, 2023**

**American Psychiatric Association Foundation: Helping Hands Grants Program**

The Helping Hands Grants Program seeks to encourage medical students to participate in community service activities focused on underserved populations, raise awareness of mental illness & the importance of early recognition of illness, and build an interest among medical students in the psychiatric field and working in underserved communities. Grants are provided to medical schools for mental health and substance use disorder projects, particularly in underserved minority communities, which are created and managed by medical students.

**Application Deadline: May 31, 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**

**Clif Family Foundation**

The Foundation's funding priorities include strengthening food systems, enhancing equitable community health outcomes, and safeguarding the environment and natural resources. Through the Foundation's Small Grants Program, general organizational support as well as funding for specific projects is provided to nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S. Priority is given to applicants that address two or more of the funding priorities at the same time, demonstrate strong community ties, and operate within viable and clearly defined plans for positive change.

**Application Deadline: June 1, 2023**

**Screening and Treatment for Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders**

Funding to expand the capacity of healthcare providers to screen, assess, treat, and refer pregnant and postpartum people for maternal mental health and substance use disorders. Rural and other medically underserved areas are a program priority.
Application Deadline: June 2, 2023

Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success

Funding to use the SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework to address one of the nation's top substance abuse prevention priorities in youth and adults. Awardees will use local data to identify the primary substance use concerns in their community and develop strategies and services to prevent substance use and promote mental health.

Application Deadline: June 5, 2023

Community Connect Grant Program

USDA is making $79 million in grants available for recipients to provide high-speed internet service at community-serving institutions free of charge for up to two years. Institutions include schools, libraries, fire stations, and other public safety sites.

Application Deadline: June 20, 2023

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research Centers

Funding for academic research centers to participate in the network of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research Centers.

Application Deadline: June 23, 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**

**Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grants**

Grants to support communities in the development and implementation of comprehensive safety action plans to significantly reduce or eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries. Ensuring investment in rural communities is a priority.

**Application Deadline: July 10, 2023**

**Virginia Health Access Grants**

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**

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**

**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**

**Walmart Foundation Community Grant Program**

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**

**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**

**Notice of Special Interest: Research to Address Vaccine Uptake and Implementation among Populations Experiencing Health Disparities**

Notice of Special Interest for research on strategies and interventions to increase vaccine uptake and implementation among populations experiencing health disparities.

**Application Deadline: June 6, 2026**

**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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