New Episode!
#95 - Farm Bill

Featuring Carrie Cochran-McClain, Chief Policy Officer of the National Rural Health Association

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VRHA News

Members in the News

**Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital CEO recognized by Becker's Hospital Review**

Carl Cline, Vice President and Hospital Administrator for Carillion Franklin Memorial Hospital (CFMH) has been recognized by Becker's Hospital Review as a Community Hospital CEO to Know. Cline was recognized for his leadership in the current CFMH expansion. Under his leadership, the hospital completed the first phase of a $15 million expansion to bring additional services, such as Ob-Gyn, hand surgery, plastic surgery, podiatry and more, and expanded operating rooms and equipment.

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National News

**COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates Ending Soon**

The Administration will end the COVID-19 vaccine requirements for Federal employees, Federal contractors, and international air travelers at the end of the day on May 11, the same day that the COVID-19 public health emergency ends. Additionally, HHS and DHS announced that they will start the process to end their vaccination requirements for Head Start educators, CMS-certified healthcare facilities, and certain noncitizens at the land border.

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Calendar

**USDA Mental Health Awareness Month Workshop Series**

*Tuesdays, May 9 – Tuesday, June 6, 2023  2-3:30 pm*

The workshop series convenes farmers and ranchers, technical assistance providers, local leaders, and Federal, state, and university partners to dialogue and discuss mental health challenges, and stressors, and the resources and services to address them.
Rural Telementoring Quality Measure Toolkit and Mobile App Launch Event
Sessions available May 30, 31, June 1, and 2, 2023

The National Rural Telementoring Training Center (RTTC) is hosting a series of events to celebrate the launch of Rural Telementoring Quality Measure Toolkit and Mobile App.

Resources

**MotherToBaby**

A no-cost service providing evidence-based information on the benefit or risk of medications and other exposures during pregnancy and while breastfeeding. Provides guidance for healthcare providers and individuals, as well as fact sheets and other materials addressing medications, vaccines, chemicals, herbal products, substance use, maternal health conditions, and more. Also conducts observational studies on exposures.

**Access to Maternity Providers: Midwives and Birth Centers**

Provides an overview of the role of certified nurse-midwives and birth centers in Medicaid and how beneficiaries use these services. Describes policy issues and barriers to expanding access to midwives and birth centers, including payment policies; contracting with managed care organizations; licensure, certification, and accreditation; scope of practice; and limited supply. Includes rural considerations throughout.

**Guidance for the Expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

Outlines the emergency waivers related to the minimum health and safety requirements for long-term care and acute continuing care providers that are expiring at the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). Describes the timelines for certain regulatory requirements issued during the PHE through interim final rules.

Funding Opportunities

**Health System Strategies to Address Disparities in Hypertension Management and Control** *NEW*
Funding for clinical effectiveness research that compares health system strategies to improve blood pressure management and control in primary care, community, and safety net settings for populations experiencing disparities in outcomes, including Black, Hispanic, rural, and uninsured individuals.

**Letter of Intent (Required): May 31, 2023**  
**Application Deadline: August 29, 2023**

**Service Area Competition Funding for the Health Center Program** *NEW*

Grants to health centers to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services to an underserved area or population. Areas with a January 1, 2024 project period start date are eligible to apply.

**Application Deadline: June 26, 2023**

**Preventing Youth Overdose: Treatment, Recovery, Education, Awareness, and Training** *NEW*

Grants to increase services across the spectrum of prevention, treatment, and recovery for youth and young adults with, or at risk for, opioid use disorder and/or co-occurring disorders by supporting local efforts to raise awareness about fentanyl, improve access to treatment with medications, and to support youth with their treatment and recovery. Tribal and rural populations are a program priority.

**Application Deadline: June 27, 2023**

**Addressing Conditions To Improve Population Health (ACTion)** *NEW*

Funding to implement policy, systems, and environmental change interventions in communities that address social determinants of health to reduce chronic disease related disparities, risk factors, and inequities. Rural and tribal populations are a program priority.

**Application Deadline: June 30, 2023**

**Maternal Health Research Collaborative for Minority-Serving Institutions (MH-RC-MSI) Research Centers (RCs)**

Funding to establish a multi-institutional research network supporting minority-serving institutions to build capacity to conduct research addressing disparities in maternal mortality, morbidity, and health outcomes and to find community-based solutions to advance health equity.
Application Deadline: June 12, 2023

Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences through Data to Action

Funding for non-research activities that leverage multi-sector partnerships and resources to improve adverse childhood experiences and positive childhood experiences. Target populations include rural communities and other geographically underserved areas.

Application Deadline: June 12, 2023

Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program

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: June 12, 2023

Mine Health and Safety Grants

Grants to prevent fatalities, disease, and injury from mining and secure safe and healthy working conditions for miners through laws, regulations, safety improvements, education, and training.

Application Deadline: June 12, 2023

Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative for Law Enforcement Agencies

Grants to strengthen the capacity of small/rural law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to combat violent crime by implementing critical elements from BJA-developed guides, which include strategies and services to mitigate the risk for violent behavior in individuals dealing with mental health and/or substance use disorders.

Application Deadline: June 13, 2023

Broadband Technical Assistance Program

Funding to eligible entities to receive or deliver broadband technical assistance and training that promotes the expansion of broadband into rural areas. In addition to supporting broadband technical assistance and training activities, funding may be used to help develop and expand broadband cooperatives.

Application Deadline: June 20, 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**

**Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant**

Grants to intermediary organizations to provide technical assistance and training for rural organizations and agencies to identify and plan for community facility needs that exist in their area, and once those needs have been identified, locating public and private resources to finance those identified needs.

**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**

**Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG)**

Supports establishment or expansion of rural cooperatives and other mutually owned businesses that will help improve economic conditions in rural areas. Grants of up to $200,000 awarded to provide technical and cooperative development assistance to individuals and rural businesses.

**Application Deadline: June 26, 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

**Tobacco Control Policies to Promote Health Equity**

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 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**

**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**

**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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