Weekly Update

June 20, 2023

Check out the latest episode!

VRHA News

Members in the News
Virginia dental clinics awarded $200,000 to address dentist shortages

The “Sign Up, Pay Down” initiative anchored by the Virginia Health Care Foundation and the Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation aims to provide extra incentives to help address recruitment challenges faced by the clinics.

The five clinics include New Horizons Healthcare in Roanoke, Johnson Health Center in Amherst County, **Eastern Shore Rural Health System**, Martinsville/Henry County Community Dental Clinic and Southern Dominion Health System in Lunenburg County.

All five are what’s known as dental safety-net clinics, which receive federal funding to primarily provide free or low-cost care to low-income and uninsured patients in high-need communities.

Each clinic will receive a $40,000 recruitment package, which includes $20,000 in student loan repayment and a $20,000 signing bonus for hires in return for a two-year practice commitment.

---

**Virginia News**

**More than $8.7 million in grants recommended for Southwest, Southside projects to address opioid-use disorder**

A committee of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority voted Friday to recommend approval of more than $23 million in awards to 76 cities and counties for projects aimed at helping those with opioid-use disorder, including $8.72 million to projects in Southwest and Southside.

When approved, the vote will represent the first major allocation of awards by the authority since Virginia received its first set of national settlement payments from manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids last year, according to a news release from the authority.

**Projects in SWVA and Southside include:**

**Smyth County:** $1 million for a partnership that includes Smyth, Bland, Carroll, Grayson and Wythe counties and Galax to expand office-based opioid treatment services and medication for opioid-use disorders and assist in providing region-wide transitional recovery housing.
Wise County: $346,222 for a partnership that includes Wise, Lee and Scott counties and Norton to fund an intensive outpatient treatment facility for youth.

Martinsville: $20,000 for a partnership that includes Martinsville and Henry County to study and identify community-based options for most effective long-term use of funds for abatement.

Grayson County: $260,199 for a partnership, including Grayson and Carroll counties and Galax, to enhance the existing recovery court.

Buena Vista: $230,142 for a partnership that includes Buena Vista, Rockbridge County and Lexington to support the first recovery residence in the area, HOPE House Recovery Home.

---

**Youngkin signs legislation to improve behavioral health care access**

Youngkin proposed the Right Help, Right Now plan late last year, a part of his three-year plan to improve the commonwealth’s behavioral health care system.

The governor’s office described the plan as a “six-pillared approach” to address behavioral health challenges, including encompassing crisis care, easing the burden on public safety, providing substance abuse support, strengthening the behavioral workforce and improving service delivery.

Secretary of Health and Human Resources John Little applauded the plan citing the need to improve the behavioral health care infrastructure in the commonwealth.

“For far too long, our behavioral health care system has lacked the infrastructure to support the needs of Virginians,” Littel said. "While we are only in the first year of our three-year plan, these bills will have a tremendous impact on people in need of care, their loved ones, and their communities."

---

**National News**

**Input needed: Proposed Update to Older Americans Act Program Regulations**
The U.S. Administration for Community Living is seeking input on proposed updates to the regulations for its Older Americans Act (OAA) programs.

The proposed rule is the culmination of many years of engagement with the national aging network. It also reflects input received through a formal request for information and a series of listening sessions.

ACL now seeks feedback on the proposed rule from all who are interested in improving implementation of OAA programs and services. Input from the aging and disability networks and the people served by OAA programs is particularly crucial.

More information, included an expanded fact sheet which summarizes key provisions of the proposed rule, can be found on ACL’s website.

Comments may be submitted online at Regulations.gov (Enter "2023-12829" in the search bar, select ACL's proposed rule, and then click the blue "comment" box at the top left of the page.)

---

**Calendar**

_Aging Reimagined: Building Bridges to Better Aging_

**June 27, 2023  2:00 pm  Virtual**

This webinar will dive into the unique needs and challenges of the aging population, highlighting the importance of cross-sector collaboration and technology in developing comprehensive and effective solutions.

---

**Resources**

[Improving Financial Access to Maternal and Infant Care in Rural Areas](#)

A brief that discusses ways to improve maternal and infant healthcare access, with a focus on Medicaid initiatives, value-based care systems, and leveraging the perinatal workforce.

[Rural Health Care Outcomes Accelerator](#)

---
Participation in the accelerator provides no-cost access to newly added quality improvement programs, 1-on-1 consultation, education and resources, and collaboration with a community of peers to support rural hospitals in achieving this goal together. Join peers, with the support of the American Heart Association, to optimize acute care and align with clinical practice guidelines, using resources built specifically to meet rural health care needs.

**The Appalachian Region: A Data Overview from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey Chartbook**

State- and county-level information on population, age, race and ethnicity, housing occupancy, education, labor force, employment, income, health insurance coverage, disability, and veteran status, for the 13 Appalachian states. Features statistics with breakdowns by 5 levels of population density. Includes data explorer options for Appalachian categories such as population and age, education, income and poverty, computer and broadband access, rural Appalachia versus rural America, and employment and commuting.

**Rural Health Value Community Engagement Resource Guide**

Describes the importance of community engagement in developing and implementing strategies to improve health, increase value, and drive equitable care delivery. Outlines a variety of toolkits, strategies, and resources to help initiate, improve, and inspire community engagement strategies that support value-based care.

**Quality Payment Program Webinar Library**

Offers recordings of webinars on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Quality Payment Program. Includes overviews of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), measure development, regulations, support calls, and more.

**Gender-Specific Services: Billing Correctly and Usage of the Condition Code/Modifier**

CMS may reject or return Medicare Part A and Part B claims inappropriately if it appears there’s a mismatch between the procedure or diagnosis code and the reported sex of the patient. This is a reminder to institutional providers and clinicians that bill for Part B professional claims that a condition code/modifier are available to allow these claims to process correctly.

**The Impacts of Opioid Addiction on the Rural Workforce**
A recorded webinar that examines how the rural workforce has been impacted by opioid addiction. Discusses issues of healthcare access, poverty, mental health, and farmworker health, along with data on workforce impacts. Includes resources to support opioid recovery and examples of recovery efforts in specific regions, such as Appalachia.

**The Impact of Chronic Underfunding on America's Public Health System: Trends, Risks, and Recommendations, 2023**

Provides state-by-state information on public health funding. Includes information on funding provided to the states by the federal government, as well as state public health budgets. Features information about federal funding for COVID-19 response actions.

---

**Funding Opportunities**

**Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training - Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults Program for Professionals *NEW***

Grants to increase the supply and distribution of behavioral health professionals providing services for children, adolescents, and young adults (CAY), and thereby increase access to behavioral health providers and services in rural and underserved communities.

**Application Deadline: July 14, 2023**

**Maternity Care Nursing Workforce Expansion Program *NEW***

Provides support to accredited nurse midwifery programs to train nurse midwives through trainee scholarships, stipends, curriculum enhancement, and community-based training in order to grow and diversify the maternal and perinatal health nursing workforce.

**Application Deadline: July 14, 2023**

**Pediatric Specialty Loan Repayment Program *NEW***

Loan repayment for eligible clinicians who provide pediatric medical subspecialty, pediatric surgical specialty, or child and adolescent behavioral healthcare including substance use disorder prevention and treatment services. In exchange for loan repayment, participants agree to 3 years of full-time service at an approved site including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, schools, and public health departments, among others.
**Application Deadline: July 20, 2023**

**Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative - State and 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: August 7, 2023**

**Family Violence Prevention and Services Culturally Specific Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Discretionary Grants** *NEW*

Funding to implement culturally relevant sexual assault and domestic violence services for individuals and families impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and family violence. The program is designed to reduce the pervasive and harmful impact of violence and trauma by implementing culturally relevant, trauma-informed, and evidence-informed interventions for individuals and families who are from diverse, underserved, and historically marginalized communities.

**Application Deadline: August 11, 2023**

**Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grants**

Grants for education and training programs to help identify, avoid, and prevent unsafe working conditions in and around mines. Special emphasis is given to programs and materials that target workers at smaller mines, including training miners and employers about new MSHA standards, high-risk activities, or hazards identified by MSHA.

**Application Deadline: July 21, 2023**

**Service Area Competition Funding for Health Centers Program (Areas Served with a Project Period Start Date of February 1, 2024)**

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

**Application Deadline: July 24, 2023**

**Rural Emergency Medical Communications Demonstration Project**

Provides funding for demonstration projects addressing rural medical communications in order to gain an understanding of barriers and best practices to coordinate emergency response across multiple jurisdictions.
Application Deadline: July 28, 2023

Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas

Grants for new organizations to assist veterans with transportation in highly rural areas. Applicants should provide transportation services to VA medical centers and assist with transportation services in connection with the provision of VA medical care to these veterans.

Application Deadline: July 30, 2023

Technical Assistance and Construction for Innovative Regional Wastewater Treatment Solutions (TAC-RWTS) Grant Pilot Program

Grants for the study, design, and/or construction of regional wastewater systems for historically impoverished communities that have had difficulty installing traditional wastewater treatment systems due to soil conditions.

Application Deadline: July 31, 2023

Field-Initiated Approach to Addressing Racial Bias and Inequity in Child Welfare

Grants for the development, implementation, and evaluation of field-initiated approaches to addressing racial bias and inequity in child welfare; and improving the safety, stability, and well-being of families in traditionally underserved communities.

Application Deadline: July 31, 2023

Future Clinicians Scholarship Program

Scholarships for underrepresented health professions students who are engaging in self-led community service and research, are developing critical professional skills, and are interested in working to address health disparities in medically underserved communities.

Application Deadline: July 31, 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)

Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program

Grants to rehabilitate and modify the primary residence of veterans who are low-income and living with disabilities, with a focus on helping them regain and/or maintain their independence to alleviate critical health, life, and safety issues. Priority is placed on increasing equity and improving customer experience across all HUD programs, which includes people who live in rural areas and those otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

Application Deadline: August 31, 2023

Long-Term Effects of Disasters on Health Care Systems Serving Health Disparity Populations (R01- Clinical Trial Optional)

Grants for research focused on understanding the long-term effects of natural and/or human-made disasters on healthcare systems serving health disparity populations. Health disparity populations include, but are not limited to, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and underserved rural populations.

Application Deadline: September 7, 2023

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**

**John and Polly Sparks First Responder Grant for Rural First Responders Mental Health Interventions *NEW***

Grants for evidence-based research and intervention in providing mental health training dissemination to first responders in rural areas.

**Application Deadline: October 15, 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 LGBT youth and children seen at rural emergency departments.

**Application Deadline: May 8, 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

Co-infection and Cancer

Grants for research on the roles of co-infection and cancer to inform prevention and treatment strategies for infection-related cancers. Applicants are encouraged to investigate co-infection and its relation to causes of risk among racially/ethnically diverse populations and those from urban and rural areas who are poor and medically underserved, and populations who may have a disproportionate burden of infection-related cancers.

Application Deadline: November 16, 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

Assessing Real-World Effectiveness & Implementation of Telehealth-Guided Provider-to-Provider Communication among Rural Communities

Notice of Special Interest for research that generates evidence on the real-world effectiveness of telehealth collaboration among healthcare providers for consultation, second opinions, and other purposes, referred to as provider-to-provider telehealth (PPT). PPT offers remote access to critical health expertise that might not exist locally in some rural communities.

Application Deadline: October 10, 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

Virginia Rural Health Association
1872 Pratt Drive, Suite 1125
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 231-7993 staff@vrha.org

Unsubscribe