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**VIRGINIA  
RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

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**January 8, 2024**



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**VRHA News**

## Meet the Newest Members of our Team!

Roshay and Bryan will be working with a grant in Danville, VA to increase access to affordable, healthy food and physical activity, and provide education and support for pregnant women to encourage breastfeeding on the individual and community level.

Learn more about them on our [Staff Page!](#)



**Roshay Richardson, LCCE**

Breastfeeding Coordinator (she/her)



**Bryan E. Price**

Evaluation Coordinator (he/him)

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## Virginia News

### [VDOE Creates Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness](#)

Helping schools address the unprecedented rise in mental health and behavioral challenges facing Virginia students post-pandemic, the Virginia Department of Education has created the Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness to help focus resources and attention to our students who are struggling with these evolving challenges.

“Our students and our schools are facing different issues than they faced before the pandemic,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons. “We have redesigned

several positions across the department to create the Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness. This office will bring a multifaceted approach to better equip educators, staff and parents in supporting our students and responding when a crisis occurs.”

Sharpening the focus on the “Right Help, Right Now” resources available to Virginia students, the office will assist schools with teams of professionals focused on three key areas:

### **Behavioral Health & Instructional Support**

Focusing on issues regarding behavioral and mental health including school counseling, school discipline, the causes and impact of chronic absenteeism, and the effects on children and teens who rely on social media.

### **School Health & Wellness**

Centering on issues such as opioid and drug use abatement, emphasizing the dangers of fentanyl and its spreading use amongst children and teens, and overdose prevention.

### **Student Services**

Dedicated to removing many of the wrap-around barriers to success facing children today, including working with military families and students in foster care, as well as equipping students for post-secondary access and success.

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## **National News**

### **An Important Update from the National Rural Health Association**

In July 2023, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) published a notice that included all designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) and those that were proposed for withdrawal. In this notice, HRSA stated that it would give state primary care offices (PCOs) until November 15, 2023, to continue to update their HPSA statuses. Additionally, HRSA said that it would announce the list of HPSAs in January 2024.

**This week, HRSA published a notice of its updated list of HPSAs. The list of HPSAs is available [here](#).** You can also look up your area, population, or facility [here](#) to see whether it is a designated HPSA. The list includes all HPSAs in a designated status as of December 2, 2023. This supersedes the list that HRSA published in July 2023 and

removes all HPSAs that were proposed for withdrawal and did not meet the requirements for designation as of November 15, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Alexa McKinley, Regulatory Affairs Manager at [amckinley@ruralhealth.us](mailto:amckinley@ruralhealth.us). You can also contact your state primary care office (PCO).

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## **Calendar**

### **[2024 ARC How-to-Apply Workshop \(Virginia\)](#)**

**January 10, 2024 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Wytheville, VA**

The Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development will provide information on applying for 2024 ARC funding. Several ARC staff will be in attendance and will share information about the federal process and program updates.

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## **Resources**

### **[2023 Survey of Rural Families and Summer Meal Service](#)**

Provides feedback from rural families regarding their use of summer meal services based on accessibility, transportation options, and location of meal site. Includes survey data focused on food access, grocery costs, congregate or non-congregate meal preference, factors related to meal pickup preferences, and travel concerns.

### **[Building Resilience through Disaster Relief and Recovery](#)**

Describes the impact of climate events on rural populations and community infrastructure. Provides strategies for localized disaster response and recovery solutions by utilizing partnerships, building resilience, and improving food access.

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## **Funding Opportunities**

### **Behavioral Health Integration Evidence Based Telehealth Network Program**

**\*NEW\***

Funding to support evidence-based projects that utilize telehealth technologies through telehealth networks to integrate behavioral health services into primary care settings in rural and underserved areas.

**Application Deadline: March 22, 2024**

### **Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities**

Capital advance funding for the development of permanent supportive rental housing. Housing must be for very-low-income persons with disabilities who are between 18-62 years of age at entry. Projects from **rural** and tribal areas are encouraged.

**Application Deadline: February 12, 2024**

### **Rural Residency Planning and Development Program**

Grants to develop newly accredited, sustainable **rural** residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine, public health, general preventive medicine, psychiatry, general surgery, and obstetrics/gynecology. The overall goal of the program is to support expansion of the physician workforce in rural communities.

**Application Deadline: February 12, 2024**

### **Grants for Expansion and Sustainability of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances**

Grants to improve the mental health outcomes for children and youth, birth through age 21, at risk for or with serious emotional disturbances (SED), and their families. **Rural** and tribal populations are priorities, among others.

**Application Deadline: February 14, 2024**

### **Community Connect Broadband Grant Program**

Grants for communities without broadband access to provide residential and business broadband service and connect facilities such as police and fire stations, healthcare, libraries, and schools.

**Application Deadline: February 20, 2024**

**Service Area Competition - Additional Area Funding for Health Center Program (Project Period Start Date of August 1, 2024)**

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

**Application Deadline: February 20, 2024**

**Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program**

Grants to educate and train the primary care and geriatrics workforces to provide age-friendly and dementia-friendly care in integrated geriatrics and primary care sites/delivery systems and maximize patient and family engagement to address care gaps and improve health outcomes for older adults. Proposals that benefit older adults in **rural** or other underserved communities/populations are a priority.

**Application Deadline: February 26, 2024**

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

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: February 28, 2024**

**Rural Business Development Grants**

Supports targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in **rural** areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1,000,000 in gross revenues.

**Application Deadline: February 28, 2024**

**ELEVATE: Internships at ARC**

ELEVATE is a paid summer internship opportunity where Appalachian students and recent graduates can elevate their careers, cultivate a deeper connection to the region, and innovate through meaningful projects that will impact their communities.

**Application Deadline: February 29, 2024**

### **VA Quality Scholars Fellowship**

Two-year residential fellowship for clinicians who are interested in making veteran healthcare equitable and accessible for marginalized and rural populations. Fellows split their time between in-person clinical work, independent studies, and structured didactics while guided by a set of experienced mentors.

**Application Deadline: March 1, 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**

### **SAMHSA Minority Fellowship**

A 1-year fellowship for psychiatry residents who are interested in addressing minority psychiatric mental health issues and committed to a career providing culturally sensitive psychiatric services for minority underserved populations.

**Application Deadline: March 15, 2024**

### **American Psychiatric Association Diversity Leadership Fellowship**

A 2-year fellowship for minority psychiatry residents or those interested in minority and vulnerable populations. Activities are designed to prepare residents to teach, administer, and provide culturally competent, evidence based mental health and substance abuse services for diverse minority groups and at-risk populations.

**Application Deadline: March 15, 2024**

### **Physician Assistant Rural Training in Behavioral Health Program**

The purpose of the Primary Care Training and Enhancement- Physician Assistant Rural Training in Behavioral Health program is to develop clinical rotations for primary care physician assistant students in **rural** areas. The goal is to increase the number of physician assistants trained to deliver these services in rural areas, including Medications for Opioid Use Disorder.

**Application Deadline: March 15, 2024**

### **Primary Care Training and Enhancement: Physician Assistant Rural Training in Behavioral Health (PCTE-PARB) Program**

Funding to train primary care physician assistants to prevent, identify, diagnose, treat, and refer services for behavioral health conditions. The program goal is to increase the number of trained physician assistants who choose to practice in **rural** areas after graduation.

**Application Deadline: March 15, 2024**

### **Rural Emergency Medical Services Training Grant**

Grants to recruit and train emergency medical services personnel in **rural** areas with a focus on addressing substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health conditions.

**Application Deadline: March 20, 2024**

### **American Hospital Association Next Generation Leaders Fellowship**

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

**Application Deadline: March 29, 2024**

### **Rural Health Care Telecommunications (Telecom) Program**

Assistance to healthcare providers for eligible expenses related to telecommunications and voice services for the use of telemedicine and telehealth.

**Application Deadline: April 1, 2024**

### **Rural Health Care Program – Healthcare Connect Fund**

Provides assistance to healthcare providers for eligible expenses related to broadband connectivity at a flat discounted rate of 65%. Participants can apply as a member of a consortium or a stand-alone entity.

**Application Deadline: April 1, 2024**

### **State Maternal Health Innovation**

Funding to reduce maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in states, including for populations experiencing disparities in maternal health outcomes.



**Application Deadline: April 2, 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**

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**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**

### **[AHRQ Health Services Research Projects](#)**

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, 2024**

### **[AHRQ Small Research Grant Program](#)**

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. **Rural** and frontier areas are considered a priority population.

**Application Deadline: July 8, 2024**

### **[Virginia Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program](#)**

Offers a J-1 Visa waiver to foreign physicians who commit to serving for 3 years in an underserved area of Virginia, allowing them to remain in the United States.

**Application Deadline: August 31, 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**

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**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**

**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 disparity populations and how work functions as a social determinant of health.

**Application Deadline: September 8, 2024**

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**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**

**Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program**

Funding for community-driven projects that address climate challenges and reduce pollution while strengthening disadvantaged communities.

**Application Deadline; November 21, 2024**

**Stimulating Research to Understand and Address Hunger, Food, and Nutrition Insecurity**

Notice of Special Interest for research on interventions that address nutrition security and the mechanisms of food insecurity on a variety of health outcomes. Priority populations include racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations, and **rural** and remote populations including tribal communities and insular areas.

**Application Deadline: November 29, 2024**

For ongoing funding opportunities, [visit our website](#)

**Virginia Rural Health Association**

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