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**VIRGINIA  
RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

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**February 12, 2024**



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**New Episode!**  
**[#111 - Mobile Health](#)**

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**VRHA News**

**Advocacy Alert!**  
**2024 General Assembly**

The Virginia General Assembly has just entered the Crossover period for the 2024 Assembly Session. **This is a key time to contact your Senator and Delegate and talk to them about the issues that effect health and healthcare in rural Virginia.** Please call, email, or visit their offices to share the VRHA 2024 Policy Priorities.

**Here are links to contact the [Senate](#) and [House](#)** as well as information to look up your Senator and Delegate if you are not sure who they are.

[View 2024 Policy Priorities](#)

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## Virginia News

### [Connectivity in the Commonwealth: Virginia's Plan](#)

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Office of Broadband released its draft Digital Opportunity Plan to the public. The plan is a first-of-its-kind undertaking to assess all facets of the digital divide in the Commonwealth and develop a strategy to close it. Ensuring broadband affordability and full broadband adoption will mean Virginia residents have affordable, reliable, and high-speed internet access, and the skills necessary to use it to its full potential. By acting on this plan, the Office of Broadband believes Virginia will be positioned to be one of the first states to achieve its goal of universal broadband and also achieve full Digital Opportunity.

Within Virginia, covered populations comprise over 81 percent of the Commonwealth's total population. With such a sizable portion of the Virginians falling into one or more covered populations, understanding where needs intersect and where they are unique is crucial to developing an effective Digital Opportunity Plan with actionable strategies.

The percentages of each covered population out of Virginia's total population are as follows:

- Individuals who live in low-income households: 16.5 percent
- Aging individuals: 22.3 percent
- Incarcerated individuals: 0.7 percent
- Veterans: 7.7 percent
- Individuals with disabilities: 12.5 percent

- Individuals with a language barrier: 17.8 percent
  - Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group: 38.9 percent
  - Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area: 32.8 percent
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## National News

### **New National Rural Health Association Policy Papers**

*(December 2023)*

- [Cybersecurity in Rural Health](#)
  - [Medicare Advantage in Rural](#)
  - [Psychiatric Boarding of Rural Youth](#)
  - [Rural Childhood Immunizations](#)
  - [Rural Long Term Care Services](#)
  - [Rural Workforce Pathway Programs](#)
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## Calendar

### **[Transforming Maternal Health \(TMaH\) Model Overview Webinar](#)**

**February 28, 2024 1:00 pm Virtual**

TMaH aims to improve maternal health care by partnering with state Medicaid agencies to develop a whole-person approach to pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care that addresses the physical health, mental health, and social needs experienced during pregnancy.

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## Resources

### **[The State of Rural Healthcare: Research Report and Outlook for 2024](#)**

Presents results of a survey of 106 rural healthcare organizations across 25 states regarding their financial health and strategic priorities. Identifies the top challenges identified by the surveyed organizations. Discusses how providers are addressing three strategic priorities in 2024, including people management, revenue capture, and digital capabilities.

### [Fortifying Community Health Centers: Fostering Community Resilience, Equitable Response, and Disaster Preparedness](#)

Discusses the impact of community health centers, with a focus on the diverse patients they serve, the low-cost/high-quality healthcare, and the ability to serve patients with complex needs. Includes discussion on disaster response, care coordination, and policies, such as those related to telehealth, that affect community health center work.

### [HCBS Clearinghouse](#)

Collection of resources, tools, and policies related to home and community based services. Resources can be filtered by state, topic, format, and more.

### [Rural Healthy People 2030: Charting a Course for Rural Health Over the Next Decade](#)

A recorded webinar that discusses the findings and data from the Rural Healthy People 2030 report. Includes reflection on rural health priorities over the past 3 decades and important rural health issues to focus on in the coming decade. Transcript available below description.

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## [Funding Opportunities](#)

### [Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners \(ANE-SANE\) Program](#) \*NEW\*

Grants to increase the number of registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, and forensic nurses trained and certified as sexual assault nurse examiners, with a preference for projects that will substantially benefit **rural** or underserved populations or help meet public health nursing needs in state or local health departments. The program goal is to train providers to conduct sexual assault forensic examinations, which provide for better physical and mental healthcare for survivors, including trauma-informed care, and better evidence collection.

**Application Deadline: April 2, 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**

**[American College of Lifestyle Medicine HEAL Scholarship Program](#)**

A scholarship for clinicians who are underrepresented in medicine to assist with the costs associated with attaining education and certification in lifestyle medicine.

**Application Deadline: March 17, 2024**

**[States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches & Development Model](#)**

A state total cost of care (TCOC) model that works to drive state and regional healthcare transformation and multi-payer alignment, with the goal of improving the total health of a state population and lowering costs. The AHEAD Model will provide participating states with funding and other tools to address rising healthcare costs and support health equity.

**Application Deadline: March 18, 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**

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

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**

**Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity**

Funding to support innovative intervention research addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) which, if successful, would have a major impact on preventing, reducing, or eliminating health disparities and advancing health equity. **Rural** populations are a priority, among other populations.

**Application Deadline: March 22, 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**

**Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Drug Courts**

Grants to enhance and expand substance use disorder treatment services in existing drug courts, recognizing the need for treatment instead of incarceration for individuals with substance use disorders.

**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**

**PCORI Engagement Award: Capacity Building**

Funds projects that encourage the integration of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other stakeholders as members of the patient-centered clinical effectiveness research process.

**Letter of Intent (Required): April 4, 2024**

**Application Deadline: July 10, 2024**

**Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program**

Grants to state designated entities to assist Critical Access Hospitals with quality and performance activities, including: stabilizing **rural** hospital finance; integrating emergency medical services (EMS) into their healthcare systems; incorporating population health; and fostering innovative models of healthcare.

**Application Deadline: April 16, 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, and medically underserved areas.

**Application Deadline: April 26, 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**

**AHRQ Safety Program for Telemedicine**

Free learning cohorts of healthcare professionals who use telemedicine as a care delivery model. The 2024 cohort will begin in June 2024 and will focus on appropriate antibiotic use while maintaining patient satisfaction and reducing potential side effects in patients seen via telemedicine. Providers and practices from **rural** communities are encouraged to apply.

**Application Deadline: May 23, 2024**



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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**

### **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 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**

**[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**

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

**[Virginia Rural Health Association](#)**

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