



# Greetings from the Virginia Primary Care Office & State Office of Rural Health

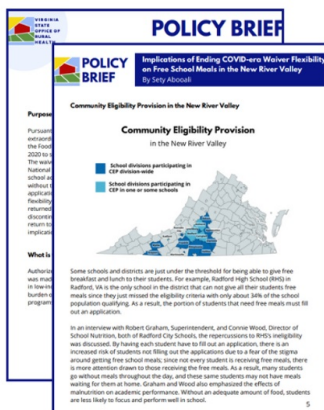
## Community Photo Feature

Rachel Morgante-Richmeier captured this peaceful moment as the sun shown beautifully over this landscape in Southwest Virginia's New River Valley.

Rachel submitted this photo to the 2021 VA-SORH Photo Contest.



## VA-SORH Updates



### Rural Health Policy Brief: Implications of Ending COVID-era Waiver Flexibility on Free School Meals in the New River Valley

The Virginia State Office of Rural Health publishes a **monthly series of rural health briefs**. Checkout the October 2022 edition, "Implications of Ending COVID-era Waiver Flexibility on Free School Meals in the New River Valley," which explores the return to pre-COVID-19 Community Eligibility Provision eligibility criteria and its implications for students in Virginia's rural New River Valley.

[For More Information](#)



### Updated COVID-19 Resources

For a compiled list of Virginia Department of Health, Communication, and External COVID-19 Resources, please visit our website linked below.

New resources include:

- [RADx-UP CDCC Rapid Research Pilot Program](#)
- [Updated Guidance on COVID-19 Booster Shots](#)

# Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities



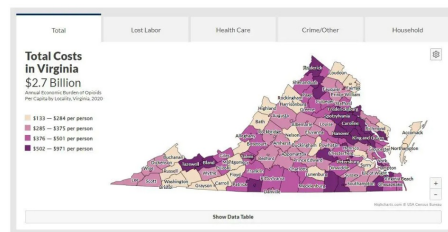
## Local Rural Leaders Explore Collaboration

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond recently brought together leaders from five states, including Virginia, for a Rural Intermediary Leadership Retreat to develop an initiative to improve economic opportunities for small towns and rural areas in our District.

For More Information

## Virginia Department of Health and VCU partner to launch an opioid cost calculator

"The Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Society and Health collaborated on the development of an **opioid cost calculator**. The calculator presents cost estimates of how much the opioid epidemic impacts Virginians in multiple categories: lost labor, health care, crime, household costs, state costs and federal costs."



For More Information



## Rural Health Clinical Congress Fall 2022

Saturday, November 19, 2022

Attention primary care clinicians: don't miss RME Collaborative's Rural Health Clinical Congress Fall 2022 on Saturday, November 19! This free virtual live CME/CE event features updates from experts on a wide variety of clinical topics relevant to the needs of rural and underserved communities.

For More Information

## VRHA awarded \$1 million to address substance use disorder Martinsville, nearby counties

"The Virginia Rural Health Association (VRHA) is one of 65 grantees nationwide to receive funding from the Health Resources and Services



Administration (HRSA) Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) - Implementation Awards...VRHA will use the \$1 million funding to establish the Virginia Piedmont Harm Reduction Coalition, which will work to expand Comprehensive Harm Reduction programs to address SUD in Franklin, Henry, and Patrick counties and the City of Martinsville.”

[For More Information](#)

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### **Rural Health Clinic Program at 45 Years: Created for Access and Still Delivering Care**

Rural health policy experts, researchers, and clinicians review the impact of the Rural Health Clinic Services Act of 1977 on outpatient healthcare delivery in rural America. A [related article](#) shares the founding of the National Association of Rural Health Clinics.

[For More Information](#)

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### **Analysis: Access Is Not Everything – With Inadequate Broadband Digital Dignity Is Lacking**



"New research shows that inadequate broadband can lead to waiting, forcing people to take up unusual schedules, miss work, opportunities, and more. While the Federal Communication Commission estimates that 16 million people in rural America go without broadband Internet access, that number may be far higher – some estimates go as high as more than 150 million Americans lacking adequate broadband access, according to a new report."

[For More Information](#)

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### **Rural Recruitment Key to Solving Rural Physician Shortage**

Describes efforts to recruit physicians to work in rural Montana, noting the importance of pipeline programs that recruit rural students and the likelihood of graduates from rural areas to return to their communities. Highlights education programs and initiatives and the general need to expand the rural healthcare workforce in the state.

[For More Information](#)

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### **Advancing Health Equity and Integrated Care for Rural Dual Eligibles**

Discusses health disparities for rural individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Presents an overview of a toolkit to advance health equity for rural dual eligibles and findings from roundtables of 50 stakeholders across 3 states regarding solutions for the workforce and service needs of this population.

[For More Information](#)

# Upcoming Meetings & Webinars



**2022 Virginia EMS Symposium**

**November 9-13**

[To Register](#)



**VAFCC's Annual Conference**

**November 13-15 & virtually 16-18**

[To Register](#)



**2022 Rural Health Voice Conference**

**November 16-17**

[To Register](#)



**NRHA's 34th Rural Health Policy Institute**

**February 7-9**

[To Register](#)

## State & Regional Funding Opportunities

### Zeroing in Rural Health Equity and Advancement Grants

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, November 15, 2022**

Grants to support community-based organizations whose programs work to advance equitable health outcomes for people living with HIV (PLWH) or those who may benefit from PrEP in rural America.

[For More Information](#)

### SAMHSA Crisis Mapping Suicide Prevention for Veterans

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, November 30, 2022**



Through its Service Members, Veterans and Families (SMVF) Technical Assistance Center, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will offer workshops for Crisis Intercept Mapping, a coordinated approach to crisis care at the community level. Applicants are expected to be an interagency group of key stakeholders, including but not limited to emergency health care services, law enforcement, recovery support services, and persons with lived experience. Applications from rural and tribal communities and projects that address SMVF special populations are encouraged.

[For More Information](#)

**DOT Assistance for Transportation Projects /Underserved**



## Communities

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help underserved communities compete for federal aid. The Thriving Communities Program will select 30 participants – state, local, and tribal governments; U.S. territories, transit agencies, and planning organizations – to receive assistance for up to two years and be part of a Community of Practice advancing policies, practices, and projects.

[For More Information](#)

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## New Funding: Department of Labor Nursing Expansion Grants

**Application Deadline: Friday, January 6, 2023**



The U.S. Department of Labor will invest \$80 million to expand and diversify the pipeline of qualified nursing professionals on two tracks: 1) increasing the number of nursing educators, and 2) training frontline professionals and paraprofessionals to attain postsecondary credentials needed for middle- to high-skilled nursing jobs. The funding is meant to address a combination of forces – the pandemic, an aging workforce, and retirements – that have challenged the supply of a skilled nursing workforce, and places emphasis on training those who are underemployed and/or from underrepresented populations to improve workforce diversity. A recent brief from the Rural Health Research Gateway showed that, due to a relatively **high proportion of registered nurses with an associate degree in rural areas**, programs that bridge RN experience to Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees are well-positioned to develop the rural nursing workforce.

[For More Information](#)



## Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Overdose Response

**Application Deadline: Thursday, January 19, 2023**

Grants to support immediate responses to the overdose crisis in rural areas through improving access to, capacity for, and sustainability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services for substance use disorder.

[For More Information](#)

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## Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Evaluation

**Application Deadline: Friday, January 27, 2023**

Funding for a single cooperative agreement to evaluate the impact of Rural Communities Opioid Response Program initiatives and to develop evaluation tools and resources for use in rural communities to inform future community-led rural health initiatives.

[For More Information](#)

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## Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program

**Application Deadline: Friday, February 10, 2023**



Grants to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives that provide supportive services for very low-income veterans and their families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing. Supportive services grants will be equitably distributed across geographic regions, including rural communities and tribal lands.

[For More Information](#)

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## Virginia AHEC Scholars Program

**Application Deadline: ongoing**

The Virginia AHEC Scholars Program recruits, trains, and supports a diverse group of students from across the state, creating a multidisciplinary team of health professionals committed to both community service and the transformation of health care in Virginia.

Selected applicants participate in a two-year educational program and may be eligible to receive a stipend. Each AHEC Scholar will receive a Virginia AHEC Scholars Certificate, setting them apart from other students in an increasingly competitive environment. Selected scholars will also have the chance to meet leaders in health care and make connections with other participants, creating an invaluable network for their future careers in health care.

[For More Information](#)

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## Virginia Health Access Grants

**Letter of Intent Deadline (required): Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

**Application Deadline: Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

Most Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF) grants work to increase access to healthcare for uninsured Virginians and those who live in areas with limited access to care. Barriers to healthcare access take many forms and can be caused by a variety of factors.

Grant applicants are encouraged to develop initiatives in the following areas based on their local needs:

- Developing or Expanding Capacity
- Establishing a Broader Scope of Services
- Accelerating Licensure of Behavioral Health Professionals
- Creating Local Coordinated Systems of Care
- Conquering the Consequences of COVID-19

[For More Information](#)

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health issues and important messages from our community partners on your Facebook News Feed.

Visit the VA-SORH Facebook Page

