

RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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What's New

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services: "Putting Our Rethinking Rural Health Strategy Into Action"

A blog post issued by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services highlighting their goal to develop programs and policies that ensure rural American have access to high quality care, support rural providers and not disadvantage them, address the unique economics of providing healthcare in rural America, and reduce unnecessary burdens to advance our commitment to improving health outcomes for Americans living in rural areas.

You can find the full blog post [here](#), and a recording of CMS Administrator, Seema Verma's speech at the National Rural Health Association Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, [here](#).

Utah Ranked #4 as Best Place to Practice

Medscape nominated Utah as the #4 Best Place to Practice. It states

"National parks, information technology, skiing, and cattle ranching are some of the attractions of Utah. The burnout rate for physicians is below the national average. Utah's health system scores in the top three spots for avoidable hospital use and costs, healthy lives, and low disparity of care. The state ranks third in terms of overall livability indicators and has a low rate of adverse actions against physicians."

You can find the article [here](#).

Opioid Rapid Response Teams (ORRT)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps are working together to support state and local agencies when there is a spike in opioid-related overdoses or closure of a clinic where patients are prescribed opioid therapy.

Opioid Rapid Response Teams (ORRT) are comprised of public health experts ready to deploy on short-notice to support jurisdictions experiencing spikes in opioid-related overdoses or the closure of a clinic where patients are prescribed opioid therapy. ORRTs support local jurisdiction efforts and facilitate linking patients to care to prevent increases in opioid overdoses and deaths. This effort demonstrates HHS' commitment to ensuring patients have access to appropriate services.

Who can request an ORRT?

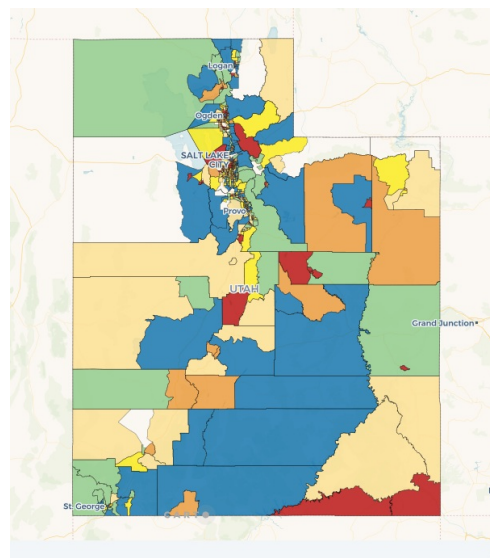
Officials with authority for public health can request ORRT assistance.

- State and territorial public health authorities
- Local public health authorities, in coordination with the state authorities
- Elected tribal leaders of federally-recognized tribes

More Information on the ORRT Program can be found [here](#).

OPCRH Office Highlight

Each month the OPCRH team is highlighting a map or project in our office. This month, we're highlighting the Life Expectancy at Birth. This is an intuitive and easy to understand concept that is widely used as the ideal measure of a population's mortality. The term simply refers to the number of years a person can expect to live, based on an estimate of the average age that members of a particular population group will be when they die. To access the map, please follow the link [here](#).



There are no scheduled events.
Enjoy your summer!

OPCRH Program Updates

HEALTH SYSTEMS SUPPORT

- Thank you for your participation in the 8th Annual Rural Hospital Administrator Summit

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- NHSC New Site Application cycle has been extended to June 13.
- Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program reviews are done and contracts will be awarded 7/1/2019. There is still available funding

OPCRH is Hiring a *Workforce Development Specialist*

Are you interested in helping to increase healthcare access in rural communities? We are hiring a *Workforce Development Specialist* to assist with projects and activities that help expand access to primary care services by bringing healthcare providers to rural and underserved communities.

Watch for the job announcement on statejobs.utah.gov in the coming weeks to learn more and apply.



Statewide Announcements

State of Utah Census

The state of Utah is attempting to get a complete count of Utah residents for the U.S. Census in 2020 and will be administered online for the first time. In 2010, there was only a 75% initial response rate to the census questionnaire.

In the past, it has always been difficult to count university students, isolated or rural populations, minority, and homeless populations. This will be even more challenging now that the survey is administered online as

more than 73,000 of Utah households have no internet access at home.

Please take a moment to view this brief video that explains the importance of an accurate census and think about ways you can help our state increase participation. We all need to do our part to impress upon everyone in our circle of influence how important it is to provide this information.

Census 2020 [video](#)

June Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

Statistics show that in the world today some 50 million people are living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative brain disease and the most common form of dementia. Dementia is not a specific disease. It's an overall term that describes a group of symptoms.

The Longest Day is the day with the most light — the summer solstice. On June 21, thousands of participants across the world come together to fight the darkness of Alzheimer's through an activity of their choice. Together, they use their creativity and passion to raise funds and awareness for the care, support, and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. To learn more, please click [here](#).

Webinars

Hospital Board Education 101

In today's rural healthcare climate strong governance is essential. This one hour webinar provided by the Texas A & M Rural & Community Health Institute will review the roles and responsibilities of effective hospital boards.

Webinar Agenda:

- What Makes Boards Unique
- The Fiduciary Duties of a Board



- The Seven Deadly Sins of Ineffective Governance
- The Levers of Effective Governance
- The Effective Governance Pyramid

Registration can be found [here](#).

Rural Telehealth Toolkit and Webinar

Created in partnership with the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, the toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations in identifying and implementing telehealth programs for common rural health challenges. You can view the toolkit [here](#).

There is a webinar scheduled June 5 at 12 p.m. Central Time to introduce the toolkit.

Funding Opportunities

Rural Community Loan Repayment Program

A new National Health Service Corps (NHSC) program, the [Rural Community Loan Repayment Program](#), will award up to \$100,000 in student loan repayment to primary care and behavioral health clinicians providing substance use disorder (SUD) treatment in rural communities nationwide. In exchange, participants commit to serve for three years at rural health care sites. **Accepting applications through Thursday, July 18 at 7:30 p.m. ET**

Faculty Loan Repayment Program

The [Faculty Loan Repayment Program](#) works to increase recruitment and retention of faculty from disadvantaged backgrounds by providing loan repayment to those who have an interest in pursuing a career at an eligible health professions school.

You can receive up to \$40,000 for two years of service to repay your qualifying educational loans. Additionally, the program encourages a funding match from your health professions school, which can further

reduce your educational debt.

You must obtain all qualifying educational loans prior to the application deadline of June 27, 2019.

COMING SOON!

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) will be releasing a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a new Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) initiative called RCORP-Medication-Assisted Treatment Expansion.

Please check our website for updated funding opportunities. You can find the table by following the link [here](#).

National Organizations

[Human Services to Support Rural Health](#)

[Oral Health in Rural Communities](#)

[Overdose Data to Action \(RFA-CE19-1904\)](#)

[HRSA US Fact Sheet by State](#)

[Rural Health Care Professional Job Posting](#)



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The OPCRH provides support to our stakeholders and clients in the form of hands-on support, economic impact analysis, research, community health needs assessments, and healthcare workforce needs assessment. We also provide technical assistance and pertinent information on student loan repayment programs and grant opportunities

If you would like to be a part of our newsletter in the future and/or would like to submit a success story, announcement, or communicate any other information to us or your rural health partners, please contact Colton Gordon Program Specialist 801-273-6618, coltongordon@utah.gov

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