

# RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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## What's New

### Utah Strong Recovery Project

More than 40 crisis counselors are ready to answer your call if you are experiencing stress, anxiety, or depression because of COVID-19. The Utah Strong Recovery Project is funded by a FEMA grant facilitated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The funding is designated to the Utah Department of Human Services Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health to provide statewide emotional support services specifically as a result of the pandemic. Services include emotional support, crisis counseling, mental

health education and coping strategies, and referral to additional services and professional help, if needed. All information is confidential and free of charge

The flyer can be viewed by following the links in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)

## National Rural Health Resource Center (NRHRC) COVID-19 Funding Sources Impacting Rural Providers

The National Rural Health Resource Center has authored a resource intended to support rural health care providers, along with their state and local partners, navigate the availability of federal funds to support the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic response and recovery efforts. Seven (7) tables, or matrices, are provided for quick reference at the beginning of this resource. The tables can be used to check eligibility of participation in funding sources by provider types: rural prospective payment system (PPS) and critical access hospitals (CAH), rural health clinics (RHC), federally-qualified health centers (FQHC), long-term care (LTC) or skilled nursing facilities (SNF), tribal facilities, and emergency medical services (EMS).

To view the NRHRC resource page, please follow the link [here](#).

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Rural COVID-19 Page Release

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) new rural COVID-19 resource page is now live. The page will provide updates, research, resources, and opportunities specifically for rural communities.

To view the page, please follow the link [here](#).

## OPCRH Program Updates

### HEALTH SYSTEMS SUPPORT

- 2020 FLEX Hospital Administrator Award site visits will be scheduled during August to deliver the awards. We look forward to presenting our Utah administrators with your awards. Thank you for the dedication and hard work you provide to your community!
- FLEX stakeholders, the *340B Program HRSA Recertification* period for hospitals will be *August 17 -*

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- The new rule, *R434-20 Behavioral Health Workforce Reinvestment Initiative*, which provides loan repayment assistance to behavioral health professionals to work in publicly funded facilities in the state, will be available for public comment on *8/15/2020*.
- The *Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program* has been *extended for another 5-years*.

*September 14, 2020.* There will be a recertification webinar provided by HRSA on *August 12, 2020, from 1pm - 2pm EST.* To register, please follow the link [here](#).

- **\*CANCELLED\* 2020 FLEX Summit on June 11-12, 2020.** In consultation with the Planning Committee, we made the difficult decision to cancel this year's event. We believe this decision is consistent with the guidance around Utah's current risk level and respects the ongoing attention and focus on the COVID-19 response among the planned participants. We will be in touch again as we begin planning next year's Summit.

- The OPCRH is establishing a **Health Workforce Coalition** to develop a coordinated approach to addressing health workforce issues in rural and underserved Utah. The coalition will focus on the root causes of health workforce shortages, identify emerging issues affecting Utah's health workforce, and share successful models and opportunities to scale them. Members may include government, health industry, education institutions, and associated organizations. The first meeting, initially scheduled for March 26, was postponed due to COVID-19. We are restarting our outreach to potentially interested stakeholders. If you would like to participate or learn more about this initiative, please contact **Ashley Moretz, OPCRH Director,** at [amoretz@utah.gov](mailto:amoretz@utah.gov)

## Statewide Announcements

### FLEX Summit Awards

On behalf of the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (OPCRH), we want to recognize the tireless work being done in our Utah rural hospitals. To ensure these efforts do not go unnoticed -- and not go unrecognized, the OPCRH team has decided to continue with our annual tradition of distributing awards to select rural hospital leaders for their outstanding work.

This year's award recipients were nominated by Greg Rosenvall in light of his extensive experience working with the rural hospital administrators. However, based on our observations and research, the OPCRH team couldn't agree more that the awardees are deserving of this recognition.

The 2020 awards are as follows:

CEO of the Year: *Eric Packer, Cedar City Hospital*

Community Benefit/Engagement: *Lori Weston, CEO, Park City Hospital*

COVID-19 Response/Preparedness: *Brenda Bartholomew, CNO, Gunnison Valley Hospital*

To read additional statements written by colleagues of the awardees, please follow this link to our website [here](#)

Each awardee will receive a plaque from our office to commemorate this achievement. Please join us in congratulating the awardees, and thank you for the contribution each of you make to your hospitals and communities!

## Governor Issues Executive Order Adopting Updated Phased Guidelines

Governor Gary R. Herbert has issued an Executive Order adopting version 4.9 of the Phased Guidelines. The updates provide guidance for restaurants operating 24 hours per day and restaurants with buffet service. The order will remain in effect until August 7.

View the full Order [here](#).

View the updated guidelines [here](#).

## Tips for Safe & Responsible Recreation

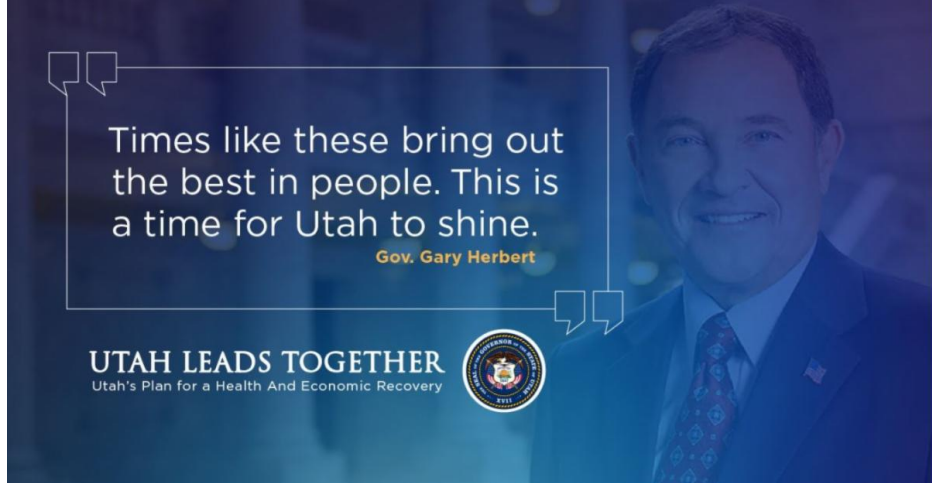
The Utah Office of Tourism has released guidance for responsible recreation during COVID-19:

The first step is researching and understanding the risks associated with travel. Refer to the CDC's up-to-date travel guidelines, [as well as Visit Utah's coronavirus travel updates](#). Then, as you plan your next trip to Utah consider branching off the beaten path. Although Utah's national and state parks are open (with some limitations), many are under significant pressure from large groups of travelers. Instead, [plan a road trip](#) along The All-American Road: Scenic Byway 12, or hike a new trail in the local favorite [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument](#) region. Now is the time to gain new perspectives, to focus on thoughtfulness as you travel and to make a positive impact on communities along the way.

Like so many locally-owned businesses around the world, the coronavirus pandemic has put tremendous pressure on Utah's restaurants, boutiques, guides and numerous other businesses. While working together to control the spread of the coronavirus is paramount, we also have the opportunity to restore strength to these local businesses. Small but mighty changes in where you shop, the places you stay and the way you interact with a community can make a world of difference.

[More information about supporting local, along with inspiration and travel discounts can be found here.](#)

For more information and inspiration from The Utah Office of Tourism, go to <https://www.visitutah.com/>



Times like these bring out the best in people. This is a time for Utah to shine.

Gov. Gary Herbert

UTAH LEADS TOGETHER  
Utah's Plan for a Health And Economic Recovery



## Uninsured COVID-19 Testing Assistance

If you are uninsured and meet residency/citizenship guidelines, you may be eligible to receive coverage for COVID-19 testing and other related services. This coverage can also help pay for any COVID-19 testing you may have already received. The Utah Department of Health and other medical providers will provide you more information on this coverage and determine if you qualify. Click [here](#) to apply for the COVID-19 Uninsured Testing Coverage.

## Webinars

### University of Utah: PROJECT ECHO



University of Utah Project ECHO



Please join us as we relaunch our COVID-19 ECHO series. On August 10<sup>th</sup> we will hear from Sydnee Dickson, PhD. She is the Superintendent of Public Instruction for The Utah State Board of Education. She will discuss protocols and information about Utah students returning safely during COVID-19.

August 10, 2020  
Noon – 1:00 pm (Mountain Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: 780-365-174  
Held weekly on Mondays from  
Noon - 1:00 PM

To learn more, please follow the link [here](#).

For questions email:  
Sarah Day  
[sarah.day@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:sarah.day@hsc.utah.edu)

## Free Rural Health COVID-19 “Call First” Communications Toolkit



As rural health leaders, you've been working diligently on communications regarding important issues such as social distancing, hand washing and overall messaging around practices to flatten the curve. An additional concern is taking all steps possible to not overburden our rural health facilities, while demonstrating leadership in our communities to promote a sense of vigilance, but also an environment of security and calmness.

In this spirit, National Rural Health Association (NRHA) through donated services of partner Legato Healthcare Marketing, is providing NRHA members free access to a communications toolkit with messaging focused on:

- Calling first to determine if you should be seen
- The leadership role your hospital/clinic is taking to protect your community

Toolkit components – designed to allow customization and branding for your facility -- include items such as print and digital ads, radio scripts, social media posts and media materials. Legato is donating its services not only for the production and use of these materials, based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) messaging and input from a rural health taskforce, but also for complimentary assistance in helping to download materials. [Visit here](#). When entering this site, you will be asked to provide your email so that updates to the toolkit can be sent to you immediately, allowing you to respond promptly to this ever-changing situation.

[To register, please follow the link here.](#)

## COVID-19 Toolkit for



## Rural Facilities

As leaders in rural healthcare, we recognize how critical it is for you to protect your care teams and the patients in your community amid the COVID-19 crisis.



In response, CPSI, through our family of companies is pleased to share that we are offering, **free of charge**, a set of tools to assist all rural hospitals and community providers with [COVID-19 readiness](#) along with a comprehensive telehealth solution that goes beyond COVID-19. That offering is expected to be available by the end of April 2020.

For more information on how your healthcare facility can take advantage of these telehealth tools, email us at [info@cpsi.com](mailto:info@cpsi.com)

[To access the toolkit, please follow the link here.](#)

## Rural Suicide Prevention Toolkit



The Rural Suicide Prevention Toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations implementing suicide prevention programs in rural communities across the United States. The modules in the toolkit contain resources and information focused on developing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining rural suicide prevention programs. There are more resources on general community health strategies available in the [Rural Community Health Toolkit](#).

[To access the toolkit, please follow the link here.](#)

## Funding Opportunities

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 801-230-6570, [coltongordon@utah.gov](mailto:coltongordon@utah.gov)

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