

RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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What's New

NOSORH Grant Writing Institute OPCRH Sponsorship

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is sponsoring 4-5 staff from a Utah Rural Health Clinic to participate in National Organization of State Office of Rural Health's (NOSORH) Grant Writing Institute. For additional

information on the sponsorship, please contact amoretz@utah.gov or coltongordon@utah.gov

Registration is now open for the NOSORH Grant Writing Institute (GWI). GWI features a series of nine online learning sessions covering every aspect of grant writing with a unique rural health focus. The series is intended for beginners seeking to gain the skills to research and draft winning proposals from various agencies.

Class size is limited and registration deadline is *July 19th*. Group discounts are available. Sign up 4 students and get the 5th one free.

[Click here for a flyer](#) with detailed information on each session.

HHS Announces Enhanced Provider Portal, Relief Fund Payments for Safety Net Hospitals, Medicaid and CHIP Providers

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing additional distributions from the **Provider Relief Fund to eligible Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs**. HHS expects to distribute approximately \$15 billion to eligible providers that participate in state Medicaid and CHIP programs and have not received a payment from the Provider Relief Fund General Allocation. HHS is also announcing the distribution of \$10 billion in Provider Relief Funds to safety net hospitals that serve our most vulnerable citizens. The safety net distribution will occur this week.

HHS is also launching an enhanced Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal that will allow eligible Medicaid and CHIP providers to report their annual patient revenue, which will be used as a factor in determining their Provider Relief Fund payment. The payment to each provider will be at least 2 percent of reported gross revenue from patient care; the final amount each provider receives will be determined after the data is submitted, including information about the number of Medicaid patients providers serve.

For more information, please click [here](#).

NOSORH Identifying Vulnerable Rural Populations During COVID-19: The CDC's Social Vulnerability Index

In the current COVID-19 pandemic, particularly as we see a surge in new cases across the country, it's difficult to be proactive while being reactive. The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) offers an opportunity to quickly identify populations of rural residents that could most benefit from currently available resources - allowing you to address current need while also focusing on prevention.

With support from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, NOSORH developed this [Issue Brief](#) for State Offices of Rural Health and other rural health stakeholders as a means of using data to target resources where they are needed most during COVID-19.

The [issue brief](#) offers an overview of the SVI and how it's calculated, identifies indicators that highlights populations at high risk for *spread* of COVID-19 and indicators of those at high risk of infection.

NHSC Site Application is still OPEN

The 2020 [National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\) New Site Application](#) is open until Tuesday, July 21 at 11:59 p.m. ET. As an NHSC-approved site, your providers may apply for one of the [loan repayment programs](#) and you can take advantage of helpful recruitment tools like the Health Workforce Connector and Virtual Job Fairs. [Learn more](#) and [start your application today](#).

Eligible sites include health care facilities that provide outpatient, ambulatory and primary health care services (medical, dental, and behavioral and/or substance abuse treatment) to populations residing in high-need urban and rural areas. Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) are the only eligible inpatient facilities and must be affiliated with an NHSC-approved outpatient clinic.

For a complete list of eligible sites and requirements, visit the [NHSC website](#) and review the [2020 NHSC Site Reference Guide](#)

Upcoming Events

BRI Network Virtual Conference: 5th National Telehealth Summit

BRI Network creates conferences that get results and improve organizational performance. We bring together industry leaders and solution providers in healthcare and technology to present timely industry topics, news, research, and insight. We'll help you anticipate challenges and deliver actionable strategies that will increase productivity, reduce costs and improve ROI.

- Implementation of Virtual Urgent Care Across An Entire Health System
- Leveraging Telehealth to Optimize the Primary Care Model and Improve Patient Outcomes
- Updates in Telehealth Policy and Regulation
- AI and Telehealth
- Advancing Neonatal Care Through Telehealth Platforms

- Home Telehealth and Remote Patient Monitoring
- Key Factors to Consider When Implementing A Successful and Sustainable Telehealth Program
- Telemedicine in Pediatric Care
- Strategies to Advance Telehealth Adoption
- Updates on Telehealth Reimbursement
- Telemental Health Integration
- School-Based Telehealth
- Improving Transitions of Care Through Telehealth
- Leveraging Telehealth to Address Chronic Disease Management

July 16-17, 2020

[Register here.](#)

OPCRH Program Updates

HEALTH SYSTEMS SUPPORT

- ***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.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- The OPCRH team would like to thank the agencies who applied for the **State Primary Care Grant Program** for the upcoming year. We plan to announce **awards by the end of June 2020**.
- 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

Statewide Announcements

Masks required in public for Salt Lake, Summit counties

(Salt Lake Tribune June 23, 2020) People in Salt Lake and Summit counties will be required to wear a face mask in businesses starting Saturday, after Gov. Gary Herbert signed off on the plan. Summit County on Thursday afternoon asked for Herbert's authorization to implement a mask mandate, similar to Salt Lake County's request on Wednesday. Herbert's office confirmed the decision but did not comment further.

To view the Salt Lake Tribune Article, please click [here](#)

To view the Salt Lake County Order, please click [here](#).

To view the Summit County Order, please click [here](#).

Governor Issues Executive Order Moving Sections of Rural Utah to Green Health Risk Status

June 18, 2020

In close consultation with local health authorities and with the Utah Department of Health, Gov. Gary R. Herbert has approved requests for the following counties to transition to Green, or New Normal Health Risk Status: Beaver, Daggett, Duchesne, Emery, Garfield, Millard, Piute, Uintah and Wayne beginning June 19, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

Gov. Herbert issued the following statement:

"Limiting the spread of the coronavirus, even as we reactivate the economy, has required data-informed judgment and prudent decision making," said Gov. Herbert. "As we move from stabilization to recovery, the health guidance in our communities will vary because of differing conditions across the state."

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

Governor Maintains Current Health Risk Guidance

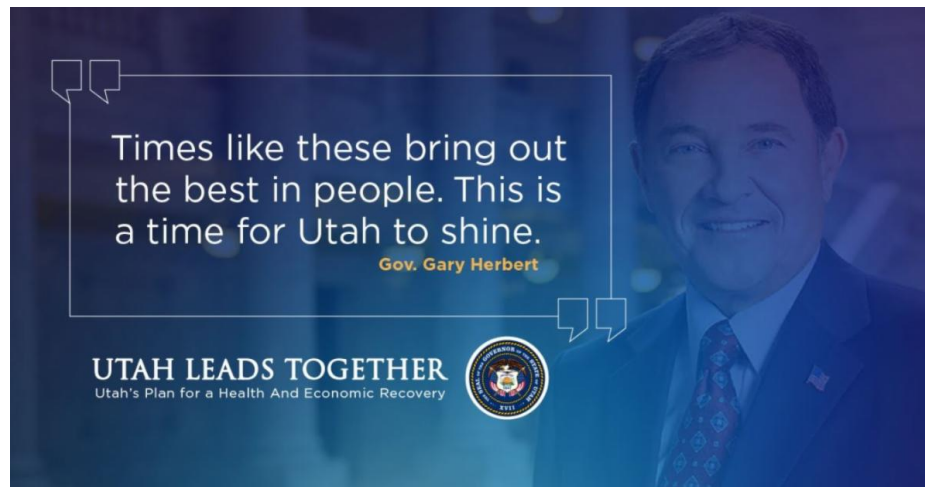
June 5, 2020

Gov. Gary R. Herbert extended to June 12, 2020 his Utah COVID-19 health risk status order of May 29, 2020. All current health risk guidance for the state remains unchanged. Specifically, the COVID-19 public

health risk status remains Orange (Moderate Risk) in Salt Lake City, Bluff and Mexican Hat, and in all other areas of the state the status remains Yellow (Low Risk).

Governor Herbert acknowledges the recommendation of the Public Health and Economic Emergency Commission for a data-informed plan to move the state's health risk status to Green ("New Normal") as rapidly as possible. That plan continues to be the cumulative versions of the Utah Leads Together plan.

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



A Mask for Every Utahn

Governor Herbert announced 'A Mask for Every Utahn,' a public-private partnership to provide a free face mask to Utahns who don't have one. Masks, along with social distancing, will play an important role as more people return to work and everyday activities, and we all work to reactivate Utah's economy.

The state of Utah, through an arrangement with the Utah Manufacturers Association and Cotopaxi, purchased two million face masks to help protect the health of Utahns during the global COVID-19 pandemic. The state's order for masks helped employ more than 200 Utahns by keeping local manufacturers open. The federal CARES Act provided funding for the masks.

"We want to do everything we can as we work together as a state to combat COVID-19," said Gov. Herbert. "Wearing a mask when we are out in public may not be convenient, but it can help slow the spread of the virus. Let's all do our part in stopping the spread and helping to protect those around us."

[For more information, please follow the link here.](#)

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

The Path Forward: Reimagining Primary Care During and Beyond the Pandemic



As the nation struggles with the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racism, the moment upon us to deeply examine and reshape the primary care delivery system for underserved communities. Community Health Center, Inc. and its Weitzman Institute have begun to address the challenge of creating a new system of care for those historically disenfranchised due to race, ethnicity, gender, orientation and poverty, among other factors limiting access and equity.

Join us as we introduce a series of free, interactive webinars: The Path Forward.

First webinar was held June 25, 2020, the next session will be posted shortly.

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



[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

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