



# RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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## Utah State Office of Rural Health (SORH) Listening Sessions

The Utah State Office of Rural Health (SORH) will be hosting listening sessions to better understand rural Utah's health care stakeholders' current priorities and ways the Utah SORH can provide assistance and resources to our rural health care providers. The Utah SORH will be reaching out to rural public health and clinical stakeholders this month to understand current conditions and prepare for the listening sessions. Below are the dates, times, and Google Meeting links for the listening sessions:

### **Clinical:**

[December 9th 12pm - 1pm](#)

[December 15th 9am - 10am](#)

### **Public Health:**

[December 10th 12pm - 1pm](#)

[December 17th 9am - 10am](#)

## Chartis Center for Rural Health: Performance Leadership Awards 2020

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is excited to announce that multiple Utah Critical Access Hospitals and rural hospitals have been awarded the Chartis [Top 100 Critical Access Hospital Award](#) and the [Top 100 Rural and Community Hospital Award](#). Each year, rural hospitals are analyzed through the lens of the Hospital Strength INDEX, the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance in the United States. Below are the recognized Utah hospitals:

### **Critical Access Hospitals:**

GUNNISON VALLEY HOSPITAL

KANE COUNTY HOSPITAL

SANPETE VALLEY HOSPITAL

### **Rural and Community Hospitals:**

ASHLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER CASTLEVIEW HOSPITAL

CEDAR CITY HOSPITAL

SEVIER VALLEY HOSPITAL

## OPCRH Program Updates

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health have received multiple inquiries from people wanting to volunteer during the pandemic, and if agencies, organizations, or people have availabilities, please email us at [opcrh@utah.gov](mailto:opcrh@utah.gov)
- **J-1 visa waivers:** The Conrad State 30/J-1 Visa Waiver Program exists to help recruit physicians to underserved areas. Each year Utah has 20 visa waivers slots available for primary care physicians and 10 slots for physicians meeting the FLEX Slots requirements. Applications are accepted October 1 – September 30 until all slots are filled. We review applications on a first-come, first-served basis. See <https://ruralhealth.health.utah.gov/workforce-development/primary-care-office-pco/j-1-visa-waivers/> or contact Mason Payne ([mapayne@utah.gov](mailto:m Payne@utah.gov)) for more information.

### HEALTH SYSTEM SUPPORT TEAM

- The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is excited to announce the release of the second-round application cycle for the Rural Veterans Health Access Program Sub-grant Application Cycle. The purpose of the Rural Veterans Health Access Program grant is to work with providers and rural partners to improve access to health care services and improve the coordination of care for veterans living in rural areas. During the creation of the sub-grant funding opportunity wanted to provide rural organizations flexibility to submit an application for new or existing projects that assist rural veterans in their community.

## Webinars & Upcoming Events



## Congratulations to our Utah Rural Health Photo Contest Winners!

Thank you for celebrating National Rural Health Day and the beauty of rural Utah. The OPCRH team wishes you all a safe and healthy holiday season, and

encourages you to continue to celebrate the Power of Rural!

1st Place: Jolyn Smith



2nd Place: Matt McCullough



3rd Place: Kayla Olson



The University of Utah College of Nursing - NEPQR will deliver a three-part 75 minute ECHO session covering a full range of telehealth topics for the primary care setting.

The second and third project ECHO session will be occurring in December and January:

Mastering the Techno-Human Aspects of a

## Telehealth Visit

Date: Dec 8, 2020 Noon – 1:15 pm

## The Nuts and Bolts of Telehealth Regulations, Billing and Revenue Capture

Date: Jan 14, 2021 Noon – 1:15 pm

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

### Funding Opportunities

[Indian Health Service Community Opioid Intervention Pilot Projects](#)

### Toolkit Highlight



## Connections for Community Care Project

Funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), this project will provide Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) across the nation with easy access to and technical assistance (TA) for comprehensive, community-centric COVID-19 onsite testing and is *available at no cost*.

National Organization of State Office of Rural Health (NOSORH) will work with State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) to develop and implement strategies to enhance local, state, and national collaboration as well as provide targeted, individualized, community centric technical assistance (TA) to participating RHCs.

Accessing additional information or getting started with the program is as simple as sending an email expressing interest to [rhccovidtestinginfo@nosorh.org](mailto:rhccovidtestinginfo@nosorh.org).



## 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.](#)

## 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](#)



## [CONTACT US](#)

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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