



RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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Statewide Updates & News

[COVID-19 Hospital Data Coverage Report](#)

This report shows data completeness information on data submitted by hospitals for the previous week, from Friday to Thursday. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requires all hospitals licensed to provide 24-hour care to report certain data necessary to the all-of-America COVID-19 response. To view the report, please follow the header link above.

[FEDERAL HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE 2021 OPEN ENROLLMENT](#)

The six-week period during which consumers may enroll in a health insurance plan using the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace begins on Sunday and ends on Tuesday, December 15. Those without an employer-based plan may visit [HealthCare.gov](#) and [CuidadodeSalud.gov](#) to shop for plans that will begin coverage on January 1, 2021.

OPCRH Program Updates

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- The **Behavioral Health Workforce Reinvestment Initiative** is a new program funded by the State of Utah that provides educational loan repayment assistance to behavioral healthcare professionals who locate or continue to practice in underserved areas. Participation in the program requires a three-year service commitment to the state of Utah at an approved site, and the provider's site is required to match 10% of the award amount. Providers applications can be found online at <https://TINYURL.COM/BHWLRPPROVIDERAPP>. Sites can apply online at <https://TINYURL.COM/BHWLRPSITEAPP>. For more details, contact Robbin Williams (robbinwilliams@utah.gov) or visit <https://ruralhealth.health.utah.gov/behavioral-health-workforce-loan-repayment-program/>. Applications submitted by October 16 will be reviewed as part of the first cohort.
- **J-1 visa waivers:** The Conrad State 30/J-1 Visa Waiver Program exists to help recruit physicians to underserved areas. Utah annually has 20 visa waivers slots available for primary care physicians and 10 slots for physicians meeting the FLEX Slots requirements. Applications are accepted October 1st – September 30th 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) for more information.



National Rural Health Day & Utah Rural Health Photo Contest

Rural communities are wonderful places to live and work, which is why approximately 57 million people – one in five Americans – call them home. These rural communities also have unique healthcare needs. National Rural Health Day is an opportunity to celebrate the “Power of Rural”, highlighting the unique healthcare challenges that rural citizens face and showcasing the efforts of rural healthcare providers, State Offices of Rural Health and other rural stakeholders to address those challenges.

Visit www.PowerofRural.org for more information.

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is excited to continue our annual **Rural Photo Contest** in celebration of **Utah Rural Health Week!** For more information on this year's photo contest, please visit our Photo Contest page [here](#).

This Friday, 11/6, is the last day to submit photos!

University of Utah Project ECHO Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network



In partnership with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the ECHO Institute, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, the University of Utah Project ECHO team will provide training, mentorship, and support to nursing home staff on infection prevention and control to nursing homes across the state of Utah and the western region. Nursing Homes will be compensated for their participation in this 16 week program. Each participating facility will need to have two participating staff members join each week.

This education series has the following goals:

- Preventing COVID-19 from entering nursing homes via staff, visitors, and patients.
- Should the virus enter the nursing home, preventing greater spread among patients, staff, and visitors.
- Providing best-practice care and treatment for patients who test positive for COVID-19.
- Protecting staff from infection and ensuring best-practice safety measures.
- Helping staff build confidence in their work, feel safe from infection, and support staff retention.
- Ensuring that patients who are dying from COVID-19 can safely receive visitors.



Virtual CME/CE Event for Clinicians Who Serve Rural & Underserved Areas

The [2nd Annual Rural Health Clinical Congress](#), a free virtual live CME/CE conference, is just one month away! This unique educational event is designed specifically for clinicians serving patients in rural and underserved communities. It will be held on **Saturday, November 21, 2020**, in conjunction with NOSORH's National Rural Health Day. Clinicians can earn up to 5.5 complimentary CME/CE credits by participating.

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.

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

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