



RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID-19 Data Tracker](#)

The newly released CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker contains Maps, charts, and data provided by the CDC. It also enables users to break down data by population size, demographics, and be able to forecast trends.

[NHSC Site Recertification Deadline Extended to October 13](#)

The deadline for the **National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Site Recertification** cycle has been extended until **Tuesday, October 13 at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Don't miss this opportunity to recertify your NHSC site, so you may continue to take advantage of the [loan repayment](#) opportunities and use other recruitment resources such as [Health Workforce Connector](#) and [Virtual Job Fairs](#).

[NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program](#)

The application for the National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program is now open and has expanded to nursing disciplines. The program now includes Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs). The application cycle closes **November 5 at 7:30 p.m. ET**. For more information, click the header above.

Southern Utah University Online Community Health Worker Certificate Program

For more information, please visit suu.edu/learnandwork



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AT SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

Do you have a love for your community and a desire to help others get the help they may need? Are you looking to develop new skills in the health care field? Our Community Health Worker program is for you.

- The "Learn & Work In Utah" initiative was launched by the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) and its Talent Ready Utah team, in partnership with the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE).
- This certificate program may be completed online
- Program starts September 23, 2020
- Space is limited
- For more information and to register for this no cost certificate program visit suu.edu/learnandwork

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& WORK** **IN
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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/BHWRPPROVIDERAPP>. Sites can apply online at <https://TINYURL.COM/BHWRPSSITEAPP>. 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.
- **3RNet Academy 2020** started on October 6, but you still can join for the rest of the series. OPCRH is pleased to provide access to the 2020 3RNet Academy at no cost to participants! This is the only online training specific to recruiting in rural and underserved communities. You and any of your staff can join 3RNet for the six-part webinar series by using the free registration code: **20UT3RN**. Contact Mason Payne (mapayne@utah.gov) with any questions.
- **Rural Physicians Loan Repayment Program (RPLRP) accepting applications:** The RPLRP provides education loan repayment assistance to physicians who contract to work in a rural hospital for a minimum of two years of service. The program will award providers in primary care, ob/gyn, general surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, pediatrics and internal medicine throughout rural Utah hospitals. See <https://ruralhealth.health.utah.gov/workforce-development/rural-physician-loan-repayment-program-rplrp/> or contact Robbin Williams (robbinwilliams@utah.gov) for more details.

- **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.

HEALTH SYSTEMS SUPPORT

- The OPCRH team is proud to deliver the FLEX Summit Awards to **Eric Packer**, CEO of Cedar City Hospital, for *CEO of the Year*; **Lori Weston**, CEO of Park City Hospital, for *Community Benefit & Engagement*; and **Brenda Bartholomew**, CNO of Gunnison Valley Memorial Hospital, for *COVID Response and Preparedness*. To view the awards and comments in full, please visit our awards page [here](#).
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the second **Utah Rural Veteran Coalition (URVC)** virtual meeting! The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health appreciate your experience and knowledge to make Utah the healthiest state.

Webinars & Upcoming Events



Utah Rural Health Photo Contest & National Rural Health Day

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is excited to announce 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](#).

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.

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.](#)

Funding Opportunities

[Rural Health Network Development Planning \(Network Planning\) Program](#)

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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