



RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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Statewide Updates & News

[Funding Opportunity: Rural Veterans Health Access Program Sub-grant](#)

The Utah Department of Health, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is accepting applications for the Rural Veterans Health Access Program (RVHAP) sub-grants. You may submit your application beginning **January 4, 2021 until February 8, 2021**.

The Rural Veterans Health Access Program (RVHAP) grant is designed to improve coordination of care between the VA and critical access hospitals (CAH), rural hospitals, and rural clinics to increase access to care, reduce barriers, and provide additional health care resources for veterans living in rural areas throughout Utah. For any questions, please email opcrh@utah.gov and to apply, [please follow the link here.](#)

[2021 Lillypad RHC Award Winner: Congratulations to Coalville Health Center](#)

The Utah Department of Health, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health would like to congratulate Coalville Health Center on being recognized with a 2021 Lillypad Award! Utilizing data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid program to calculate rural-relevant metrics across five domains, the Lillypad Awards provide a comprehensive and objective assessment of rural health clinic performance.

[Free COVID Testing Expanded Across Utah](#)

The Utah Department of Health is offering free rapid antigen testing at many locations throughout the state of Utah. Locations are chosen based on high positivity rates, lower numbers of tests conducted, untreated wastewater sampling, and other surveillance data. Anyone can get tested at these free testing clinics, even if they do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

Rural Locations:

- **Beaver County:** Beaver High School, 195 E Center St, Beaver, Friday, 1/8 - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, 1/9 - 12:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register [here.](#)
- **Cache County:** Hyrum Senior Center, 695 E Main St, Hyrum, Monday, 1/4 - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday, 1/5 - 12:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register [here.](#)

- **Carbon County:** Walmart, 255 S Hwy 55, Price, Monday, 1/4 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday, 1/5 – 12:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register [here](#)
- **Duchesne County:** Union High School, 850 E Lagoon St, Roosevelt, Friday, 1/8 - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, 1/9 – 12:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register [here](#).
- **Emery County:** Southeast Utah Health Department, 25 W Main St, Castle Dale, Wednesday, 1/6 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday, 1/7 – 12:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register [here](#).
- **Grand County:** Southeast Utah Health Department, 575 S Kane Creek, Moab, Monday, 1/4 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday, 1/5 – 12:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register [here](#).
- **Iron County:** Cedar High School, 703 West 600 South, Cedar City, Friday, 1/8 – 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 1/9 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register [here](#).
- **Juab County:** Juab High School, 802 N 650 E, Nephi, Friday, 1/8, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, 1/9, 12:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register [here](#).
- **San Juan County:** San Juan County Building, 117 S Main St, Monticello, Wednesday, 1/6 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday 1/7 – 12:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register [here](#).
- San Juan County Health Department, 735 S 200 W #2, Blanding, Friday 1/8 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday 1/9 – 12:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register [here](#).
- **Sanpete County:** North Sanpete Learning Center, 390 E 700 S, Mt Pleasant, Thursday 1/7 and Friday, 1/8 – 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (both days) Register [here](#).
- **Tooele County:** Stansbury Park High School, 5300 Aberdeen Ln, Stansbury Park, Tuesday 1/5 and Wednesday 1/6 – 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. (both days) Register [here](#).
- **Wasatch County:** Wasatch County Events Center, 415 Southfield Road, Heber City, Monday, 1/4 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday, 1/5 – 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register [here](#).

Rural Health Association of Utah (RHAU) Annual Report

The Rural Health Association of Utah (RHAU) has released their Annual Report for 2020. To view the report please follow the link [here](#).

OPCRH Program Updates

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health has received multiple

inquiries from people wanting to volunteer during the pandemic. If agencies, organizations, or people have availabilities, please email us at opcrh@utah.gov

- 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 February 26 will be reviewed as part of the first cohort.

Webinars & Upcoming Events



www.ruralhealthresearch.org

Rural Health Research & Policy Centers

Funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Using Rural Health Research to Inform Health Policy

About the webinar:

The team at the Rural Health Research Gateway is partnering with the **National Rural Health Association** to offer a conversation around where to find, and how to use, rural health research when working with members of Congress and the Executive Branch. This free, one-hour webinar will:

- Provide information on where to find free rural health research
- Identify pressing topics in rural health policy
- Describe how to use research when educating members of congress and other policymakers
- Offer a free resource on how to develop policy briefs, infographics, and fact sheets

Presenters:

Shawnda Schroeder, PhD
Director, Associate Professor of Research
Rural Health Research Gateway
Carrie Cochran-McClain, MPA
Vice President of Government Affairs and Policy
National Rural Health Association

Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Time: 11:00 am Pacific, 12:00 pm Mountain, 1:00 pm Central, 2:00 pm Eastern

Duration: Approximately 60 minutes

Website: ruralhealthresearch.org/webinars/health-policy-research/

Zoom Link: <https://und.zoom.us/j/92712618333>



Critical Access Hospital Billing & Coding Bootcamp

This VIRTUAL LIVE Bootcamp series covers information revenue cycle and coding/billing staff in CAHs and small rural hospitals (SRH) need to know related to their documentation, professional and facility coding, and medical billing processes.

We will describe the vital areas that affect all members of the CAH & SRH workforce related to CPT, HCPCS-II, & ICD-10-CM coding and billing; focusing on their impact on revenue, facility mission, population, and public health reporting.

- Coders/billers who have come from "traditional provider offices or hospitals" or are new to the unique nature of billing for the services Critical Access Hospitals and/or Small Rural Hospitals will benefit by gaining a better understanding of the CAH designation and PPS/CAH-specific rules for coding/billing.
- Managers who hire staff, manage people and policies, and supervise the coding/billing staff will benefit by gaining a high-level overview of CAH designation criteria and the systems/processes required to main CAH status with emphasis on coding/billing.
- Providers who create clinical documentation (e.g., MD/DO/PA/NP) will benefit by gaining a better understanding the coding/billing nuances that are specific to different hospital service areas.
- Click for full [agenda](#)

Date: January 12-13, 2021

Day 1: 8:30am - 4:30-pm, Day 2: 8:30am - 12:30-pm

Register: <https://www.archprocoding.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1440474&group=>

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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