



RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Statewide Updates & News:
 - STAR LRP Application
 - UDOH Free Rapid COVID-19 Testing
 - CDC Telehealth Trends
- OPCRH Program Updates:
 - Workforce Development
 - Health Systems Support
- Webinars/Upcoming Events:
 - U of U Project ECHO Webinars
 - Utah Million Hearts Coalition
- Toolkits:
 - NOSORH: Connections for Community Care
 - NRTRC: Free Telehealth Courses
 - RHlhub: Rural Suicide Prevention Toolkit
- Announcements/Reports from:
 - RHlhub
 - HRSA
 - 3RNet

Statewide Updates & News

[Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program](#)

The Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program

(STAR) offers funding to:

- A United States citizen, national, or permanent resident;
- Fully licensed, credentialed in an eligible discipline or a registered SUD professional; and
- A full-time employee at a STAR LRP-approved facility.

APPLICATION OPENS 2021

For more information, please click the header-link above.

[Free Rapid COVID-19 Testing](#)

The Utah Department of Health is increasing its free testing capacity throughout much of Utah. Click the link above for the KSL article on locations and information on registering.

[CDC: Trends in Use of Telehealth Among Health Centers During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention conducted a study using data from 245 health centers that completed a voluntary weekly Health Center COVID-19 Survey. The CDC reviewed trends in telehealth use, including by U.S. Census region and urban/rural classifications, during a 20-week period. The study underscores the need to sustain expanded telehealth use among health centers and to continue to address barriers to telehealth adoption, particularly in the South and rural geographies.

OPCRH Program Updates

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- The State Primary Care Grant application window is opening this coming April. The OPCRH will be releasing information regarding dates and application criteria in next month's newsletter.

Webinars & Upcoming Events

University of Utah Project ECHO

Project ECHO Webinars for March 2021

The University of Utah's Project ECHO team is hosting a series of webinars to cover the following objectives:

- [Behavioral Health](#)
 - March 18: Acupuncture
 - March 25: Resiliency Center
- [Endocrinology](#)
 - March 9: Osteoporosis by Vishnu Sundaresh, MD, CCD, Director of the Utah Diabetes and Endocrinology Center.
- [Pediatrics](#)
 - March 3: The Role of Primary Care Providers in Our Response to Maltreatment — Building a Medical Home for Vulnerable Children, Kristine Campbell, MD
 - March 10: Hypothyroidism, Allison Smego, MD
 - March 17: TBD
 - March 24: Failure to Thrive, Zoe Raleigh, MD
 - March 31: TBD
- [Pregnancy Care](#)
 - March 12: Twins, Shannon Son, MD
 - March 26: Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) Screening Alternative, Ashley Benson, MD

For more information, please download the [attachment here](#).



[Utah Million Hearts Coalition](#)

In this 4-part webinar series, Dr. Barry Stults, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine at University of Utah Health covers a broad range of hypertension topics including:

- The burden of hypertension and the contributions it has towards death/disability, cardiovascular disease, renal disease, dementia, and healthcare expenses.
- The benefits of hypertension control and epidemiology of hypertension.
- How to properly measure blood pressure including the use of validated devices, correct measurement technique, AOBP use, and home blood pressure monitoring.
- How to improve blood pressure control through lifestyle therapy, pharmacologic therapy, and team-based care.

Funding Opportunities

[Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program](#)

Toolkit Highlight



Free Telehealth Certification Courses

The Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center is offering multiple telehealth certification courses for free. You can find the resources by following the link [here](#).



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, OPCRH Program Specialist 801-230-6570, coltongordon@utah.gov

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