



RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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Statewide Updates & News

New NEPQR Courses

The University of Utah Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention Program has released two new courses available on their [website](#). The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion course provides a foundation for continued learning and growth to effectively communicate and care for patients and the Nurse-Led Women's Well Visit Modules to discuss preventative care and counsel on ways your client can improve their health.

Download each flier below with the registration information:

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Course Flier](#)

[Nurse Led Women's Well Visit](#)

HHS Announces the Availability of \$25.5 Billion in COVID-19 Provider Funding

The Biden-Harris Administration announced on September 10, 2021 that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is making \$25.5 billion in new funding available for health care providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding includes \$8.5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) resources for providers who serve rural Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or Medicare patients, and an additional \$17 billion for Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 for a broad range of providers who can document revenue loss and expenses associated with the pandemic.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/09/10/hhs-announces-the-availability-of-25-point-5-billion-in-covid-19-provider-funding.html>

National Rural Health Day – Photo Contest

You have one month to submit your photos for the NRHD Photo Contest! In recognition of National Rural Health Day, the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is opening submissions for our annual [Rural Health Photo Contest](#). Contestants are welcome to submit up to eight photos beginning **September 10, until 5 p.m. November 5, 2021**.

Please submit up to eight photos in a JPEG format, up to size 5MB per picture to opcrh@utah.gov.

Please complete and include the [Media Consent](#) Form/Photo Entry with your submission.

If you have any questions, please email coltongordon@utah.gov or opcrh@utah.gov. We look forward to your submissions!

OPCRH Program Updates

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- **Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program (HCWFAP)** awards entire SFY2022 appropriation: In the 2021 General Session, the HCWFAP received a \$300,000 appropriation for the first time in three years. The state funds are matched 1:1 by the federal State Loan Repayment program. The Review Committee recommended 16 applicants for awards valued at \$549,850.
- **Behavioral Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program (BHWLRP)** provides educational loan repayment assistance to behavioral healthcare professionals who locate or continue to practice in underserved areas.

HEALTH SYSTEM SUPPORT TEAM

- **Rural Veterans Health Access Program (RVHAP)** awards small grants: OPCRH awarded \$250,000 in sub-grants to four rural organizations who are working to provide services to veterans living in rural areas of the state. Projects ranged from directly providing dental care to veterans to supporting increased staffing to provide VA-certified providers and case management services to veterans.

Webinars & Upcoming Events



"Navigating Beyond the Pandemic: Hope for Rural Health" November 12, 2021 St. George, Utah

The Rural Health Association of Utah is hosting their annual conference in partnership with the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health.

"The past 18 months have been unprecedented. COVID-19 has devastated families, organizations, and communities globally. Emerging back from the disruption of COVID-19 into a "new normal" has not been a smooth transition. The only way to excel in today's environment is together. The Utah Rural Health Association 2021 Conference is designed to bring together individuals from around the state to discuss what we have learned through these difficult times, and how we can use that knowledge and experience to lift rural Utah communities moving forward. The conference will include topics such as Telehealth, the COVID-19 Vaccine Reluctance, COVID Disparities, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder updates, Oral Health, and more. All panelists have been chosen for their expertise as well as their ability to teach and to listen. Please join us on November 12, 2021, at Dixie State University and bring your own experience and knowledge to the table as we work together to navigate beyond the pandemic."

We are open for registration for attendees and for sponsors. For more information and registration, please [click here](#).

Please click here for the [Save the Date flier](#)



National Rural Health Leadership Virtual Residency Program

The National Rural Health Leadership Virtual Residency Program is a one-year leadership training experience that brings together new healthcare leaders to increase the likelihood of success in their leadership roles. The program is designed to help organizations attract, develop, and retain new rural health leaders.

Training will consist of:

- Monthly interactive virtual learning sessions focused on a practical skill-building topic
- Approximately 30-60 minutes of self-directed video work per month
- Scheduled coaching calls with program facilitators
- Networking and support through an email listserv. For program details - http://www.rwhc.com/Portals/0/email/NRH_LR_Program_Overview_Details_o



National Network of
STD Clinical Prevention
Training Centers

Virtual Sexual Health Summit

The Utah Sexual Health Summit is a 2-day conference covering CDC STI/HIV Treatment Guidelines updates, emerging issues in STI care and HIV Prevention. This conference is focused on topics for providers (MDs, DOs, NPs, PAs, RNs, DIS) and other professionals that serve sexually active adults and adolescents in Utah. Training topics include:

- Anti-Racist Clinical Care,
- Sexual Health in Rural Settings,
- PrEP in Primary Care, Rapid Start ART,
- STI/HIV Prevention Strategies, and
- American Indian/Alaskan Native Affirming Care.

Dates: 10/12/2021 - 10/13/2021

Location: Live Web Stream,

Cost: FREE

Register [here](#)



RISE for Rural Telementoring Virtual Launch Week

This week celebrates the release of an array of tools and resources to support the implementation and evaluation of telementoring for rural health care. Over the course of 5 days, the Rural Telementoring Training Center (RTTC) will host multiple virtual events to highlight the theme of Emerging Voices in Rural Telementoring. Events including microlectures from leaders in telementoring, stories from community members and rural health workers, and an image competition featuring the theme "What Rural Means to Me" with prizes for the winner and runner-up. Join us for discussion, connection, and community. All events are virtual and free to attend.

Dates: October 25, 2021-October 29, 2021

To register, please follow the link [here](#)

Funding Opportunities

[Emergency Rural Health Care Grant 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.](#)

[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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