



RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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Statewide Updates & News

Join the Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program Advisory Committee

The Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program (RPLRP) is committed to providing competitive loan repayment funds to eligible physicians working in rural areas in Utah. Responsibilities include reviewing up to 20 applications per year and participation in review meetings. RPLRP members are appointed for a 4-year term. Must be willing to sign conflict of interest form.

Qualifications: A physician practicing in a rural area. Ability to determine relevance & experience of applicant to meet objective of the awards.

For more information, email Jazmin Letamendi jletamendi@utah.gov

RHC Productivity Standard Exception Requests

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health recommends all Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) review and submit a Productivity Standard Exception Request to their MAC. With the on-going COVID-19 public health emergency, RHCs have had to change the way clinics are staffed and bill for RHC services. Some of the RHCs may have had difficulty meeting the productivity standards. As a result, National Government Services is allowed to use discretion to make an exception to the productivity standards for a one-year period based on individual circumstances. The RHC must submit a written request for the exception after the provider's fiscal year end and provide justification for not meeting the productivity requirements. Click [here](#) for an Excel file containing the standard format for RHCs to apply for the minimum productivity exemption from their MAC.

If you need additional information, please contact Colton Gordon at 801-230-6570 or coltongordon@utah.gov

National Rural Health Day – Photo Contest

It's that time of year again! 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 10th 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. Our application cycle will close Tuesday, September 7, 2021. To submit your application please visit the link [here](#)

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



Rural Health Research & Policy Centers

Funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

www.ruralhealthresearch.org

Availability of Post-acute Care and Long-term Care Services in Rural Areas

Registration is free and required. Attendance of the live webinar is limited to 500

persons. If you are unable to attend, you will be able to access the recording, archived on the Gateway website.

In this webinar, Hari Sharma, PhD, will discuss the availability of post-acute care and long-term care services in rural areas, focusing on nursing homes. Dr. Sharma will examine the trends in nursing home closures and identify areas without nursing home services. He will then explore the extent to which hospitals with swing beds provide coverage for post-acute care and long-term care services in rural areas and assess the availability of home health care services in areas without nursing homes.

Date: September 14, 2021

Time: 10:00 am Pacific, 11:00 am Mountain, 12:00 pm Central, 1:00 pm Eastern

Duration: Approximately 60 minutes

[Website](#)

[Zoom Link](#)

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.](#)

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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