



RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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Statewide Updates & News

J-1 Visa Waiver Amendment

The Utah Department of Health, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, in response to feedback from stakeholders, has recently amended the J-1 Visa Waiver program's Administrative Rule, R434-100. Employers are no longer required to recruit for one year before considering J-1 candidates since this presented an obstacle to Utah's health facilities ability to get the best available physicians. To expand the range of potential facilities that may employ J-1 visa waiver physicians, the rule now allows physicians to serve in a Medically-Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/P) or a federally-designated Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). Finally, the requirement that limited health care facilities to two requests per federal fiscal year was eliminated. Collectively, these updates should help Utah's health facilities attract the highest quality physicians to serve their patients.

Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program increases award amount and announces new Advisory Committee Chair:

Effective December 23, 2021, the rule governing the Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program (RPLRP), R434-45-4, was amended to increase the program's annual awards from \$15,000 to \$20,000. In addition, the length of time physicians have to apply after starting work at a new site was increased from 12 to 18 months. Finally, Jeremy Lyman, CEO of Blue Mountain Hospital, was appointed as the new RPLRP Advisory Committee Chairman. Congratulates, Jeremy and thank you for your willingness to lead the Advisory Committee!

Workforce Listening Sessions

The Utah Department of Health, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, consistent with Governor Cox's One Utah Roadmap, the FY 23 Budget Recommendations identified an opportunity to streamline grant administration through consolidation of the Behavioral Health Workforce and Health Care Workforce Loan Repayment Programs. The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health will be holding stakeholder listening sessions prior to amending the administrative rules governing these programs. The changes to the program are expected to become effective in FY 23 (July 1, 2022).

[Download the Listening Session Flier here.](#)

CALL UP Program

CALL-UP is a legislative funded program designed to address the limited number of psychiatric services in Utah and improve access to psychiatric consultations. The program, which is implemented by the Huntsman Mental Health Institute and University of Utah Health, serves primary care physicians throughout the state of Utah at no cost.

HOW WE CAN HELP:

- Consult on psychotropic medication questions
- Optimize primary care providers' ability and confidence to diagnose and treat mild to moderate mental health issues in the primary care setting
- Improve quality of care and health outcomes for patients by affording early interventions
- Promote and improve behavioral health and physical health integration
- Ensure appropriate referrals for individuals with serious health concerns

CALL-UP Phone Number: 801-587-3636

Psychiatrist available Monday to Friday 12:00 PM – 4:30 PM

[More details can be found here.](#)

OPCRH Program Updates

OPCRH Hair Care Donation Drive

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is hosting a donation drive for Salt Lake area vulnerable youth. To learn more, share and participate, please download the flier below.

[To download the full flier, please click here.](#)



THE HYGIENE GAP
Hair Care Packs

THE OFFICE OF PRIMARY CARE AND RURAL HEALTH IS PARTNERING WITH REACH OUT TODAY TO COLLECT DONATIONS FOR HAIR CARE PACKS FOR THE SALT LAKE AREA VULNERABLE YOUTH.

WE OFTEN TAKE THESE THINGS FOR GRANTED WHILE SOME CHILDREN GO WEEKS WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO WASH THEIR HAIR.

GIVING THEM THESE HAIR CARE PACKS ALLOWS THEM TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR HAIR, HYGIENE, AND CONFIDENCE!

Please bring items to this drop off location or contact ktoups@utah.gov for more information on how to donate!

Going until January 23rd, 2022

Webinars & Upcoming Events

HRSA

Health Resources & Services Administration

NHSC Three LRPs, One Application Facebook Chat

Dear Rural Health Stakeholders,

The National Health Service Corps will host a Facebook Chat for those interested in applying to one of the three National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Programs. Join NHSC members, NHSC staff, and other applicants for a Facebook chat Thursday, January 6, 2022 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. ET. Get your questions answered, learn more about the application process, and why this is a great year to apply.

Don't miss this opportunity to get connected! Join us on the [National Health Service Corps Facebook Page](#) for our live, interactive chat.

RSVP through our [event page](#). You can also post questions in advance on the event page.

[Click here for more information on:](#)
Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network
Program

Toolkit Highlight



Booster Messaging Toolkit: We Can Do This

Health and Human Services (HHS) is expanding its vaccine toolkit for community messaging to include new materials available to educate your community about who is eligible for a booster (all adults!) and when they are eligible.

To access the toolkit materials, please follow the link [here](#).



Rural Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Toolkit

This toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations implementation of rural MOUD programs across the United States.

The modules in the toolkit contain resources and information focused on how to develop, implement, evaluate, and sustain a rural MOUD program.

The target audiences for this toolkit are rural organizations including: healthcare providers, such as hospitals and clinics; non-profit organizations; faith-based organizations; businesses; and community-based organizations.

There are more resources on general community health strategies available in the [Rural Community Health Toolkit](#).

[To access this toolkit please click here.](#)



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](#).

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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