



## Announcements from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

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March 19, 2020

### **What's New**

**[HHS Expands Telehealth Access to Combat COVID-19](#)**. On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) announced new measures to allow patients and health care providers greater access to telehealth technologies. See the **Events section below for a webinar from the National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers**.

**[DEA Telehealth Guidance](#)**. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued new guidance to allow DEA-registered telehealth practitioners to issue prescriptions for controlled substances to patients for whom they have not conducted an in-person medical evaluation, for the duration of the public health emergency. All of the following conditions must be met: (1) The prescription is issued for a legitimate medical purpose by a practitioner acting in the usual course of his/her professional practice (2) The telemedicine communication is conducted using an audio-visual, real-time, two-way interactive communication system and (3) The practitioner is acting in accordance with applicable Federal and State law.

**[Rural Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)**. The Rural Health Information Hub has created a guide to help you learn about activities underway to address COVID-19.

**[CDC Updates on the Coronavirus](#)**. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides daily updates on the Coronavirus with guidance for health providers and local public health officials. **See the Events section below for a CDC webinar on Coronavirus response in rural communities**.

**[FAQs for Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation Funding](#)**. The deadline for applications for the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation is April 24. The Health Resources and Services Administration has provided answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on eligibility and application requirements (under the tab "Related Documents"). Additionally, you can view a [recording of the technical assistance webinar](#) for applicants. For questions beyond those in the link above, email [ruralopioidresponse@hrsa.gov](mailto:ruralopioidresponse@hrsa.gov).

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### **Funding and Opportunities**

**[Innovations in Accessible Mobility](#) – April 8**. The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center invites applications for "ready-to-launch" program innovations that increase accessible transportation options for older adults and people living with disabilities. Grants of up to \$30,000 each will be awarded to as many as ten communities for a six-month period.

**[ACL Grants for Alzheimer's Disease Programs](#) – April 22**. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) will make 24 awards with a total investment of more than \$19 million. Grants to states and communities will support development and expansion of dementia-capable home and community-based service systems.

**[Nurse Corps Scholarship Program](#) – April 30**. Students accepted or enrolled in nursing degree programs may qualify to receive funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration's Nurse Corps Scholarship Program. In exchange for tuition, fees, and other educational costs,

scholarship recipients will work at an eligible facility with a critical shortage of nurses upon graduation. This year, the program has set aside special funds for psychiatric nurse practitioners and nurse midwives.

**[SAMHSA Tribal Opioid Response Grants](#) – May 4.** The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will make approximately 200 awards of up to \$50,000 each for a two-year program to address the opioid crisis in tribal communities.

**[AmeriCorps Grants for Indian Tribes](#) – May 6.** [AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs](#) to improve lives and foster civic engagement. For this opportunity, federally-recognized tribes and tribal organizations can apply for funding for workforce development, education programs, substance use prevention and treatment, and efforts to improve lives for military families and veterans.

**[USDA Local Food Promotion Program](#) – May 11.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will make awards of up to \$500,000 per year for three-year projects that establish, improve, or expand local or regional food business enterprises. Smaller awards of up to \$100,000 each will go to local governments, non-profits and agriculture organizations for planning food promotion projects.

**[CDC Integrated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Prevention](#) – May 18.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will make 58 awards with an investment of \$321 million to support strategies for viral hepatitis outbreak planning and response. Eligible applicants are state, local, and special district governments.

**[USDA Grants for Household Water Well Systems](#) – May 31.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will help qualified nonprofits and tribes create a revolving loan fund to increase access to clean, reliable water for households in eligible rural areas.

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## **[Policy Updates](#)**

Visit the [FORHP Policy page](#) to see all recent updates and send questions to [ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov](mailto:ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov).

**[CMS Information Related to Coronavirus](#).** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has a website with guidance and information that is updated daily.

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## **Learning Events and Technical Assistance**

**[National TRC: Telehealth and COVID-19](#) – Thursday, March 19 at 2:00 pm ET.** The HRSA/FORHP-supported [National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers](#) (TRC) will host this 90-minute webinar to explore the uses and benefits of telehealth during the COVID-19 outbreak.

**[IHS COVID-19 All Tribal Leaders Call](#) – Thursday, March 19 at 3:30 pm ET.** The Indian Health Service (IHS) will hold an hour-long call for all Tribal and Urban Indian Organizations. Call-in: 800-857-5577; Passcode: 6703929; Participant Passcode: IHS123.

**[CDC Update on COVID-19 for Rural Partners](#) – Monday, March 23 at 1:00 pm ET.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will hold a webinar specifically for rural stakeholders to share guidance with partners, public health practitioners, healthcare providers, and others working to protect the health of rural communities. Email [eocevent337@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent337@cdc.gov) to submit questions in advance and indicate that questions are for the March 23<sup>rd</sup> call. Questions not answered during the session may be sent to [ruralhealth@cdc.gov](mailto:ruralhealth@cdc.gov).

**[Application Assistance for Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program](#) – Monday, March 23 at 3:00 pm ET.** This program supports training to increase the number of peer support specialists and other behavioral health-related paraprofessionals providing services to children whose parents are impacted by substance use disorders. This 90-minute call for application assistance was moved from

its original date of March 17.

**[Tele-Dentistry in the Northeast](#) – Wednesday, March 25 at 10:00 am ET.** Region 1 of the Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Regional Operations (ORO) will hold a one-hour webinar to provide an overview of tele-dentistry across the northeast states and identify regional resources, including the Northeast Telehealth Resource Center. For more information about the webinar, contact Veronica Roa at [vroat@hrsa.gov](mailto:vroat@hrsa.gov). To learn more about [which states across the country allow the practice of tele-dentistry services](#), the National Conference of State Legislatures created an interactive map.

**[Rural PREP Grand Rounds: Why Do I Teach in Rural Practice?](#) – Thursday, March 26 at 1:00 pm ET.** In this one-hour webinar from Rural PREP – the Collaborative for Rural Primary care, Research, Education and Practice – experts will discuss one-on-one teaching and mentorship in rural clinical practice.

**[SAMHSA Treatment and Recovery for Older Adults](#) – Thursday, March 26 at 2:00 pm ET.** The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) invites you to join national experts in a conversation about treatment and recovery services that can best meet the needs of older adults.

**[Register for National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, March 30 - April 5.](#)** This week-long event is aimed at raising teenagers' awareness and knowledge of facts about drug and alcohol. Launched in 2010 by scientists at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the annual observance relies on locally-planned school and community events that present scientific facts about drug and alcohol use, what causes addiction, and evidence-based strategies for helping friends or family. NIDA provides an online guide for planning and promoting events, as well as free booklets and other resources for teens. Research from 2016 showed that [roughly 10% of rural teens meet criteria for alcohol use disorder](#).

**[NIH Linking Research to Rural Communities](#) – Tuesday, March 31 at 1:00 pm ET.** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences was established to transform the translational science process so that patients with illness and disease can receive new treatments, no matter where they live. In this one-hour session, speakers will describe their efforts to tackle rural health disparities by including rural communities in clinical and public health research.

**[NACo Addressing Youth Substance Use at the County Level](#) – Tuesday, March 31 at 3:00 pm ET.** The National Association of Counties (NACo) will discuss how counties are implementing local-level policy and practice to lower substance-use rates among young people.

**[AgriSafe: What Ag Producers Need to Know About COVID19](#) – Thursday, April 2 at 1:00 pm ET.** The AgriSafe Network will host a one-hour webinar with experts in public health and infectious disease providing information and resources for agricultural workers and rural health care providers. At the end of the webinar, participants will better understand the signs and symptoms of the Coronavirus, appropriate strategies for limiting disease transmission, and how to find local resources.

**[NOSORH Rural Health Data Institute](#) – Register by May 1.** The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) will hold **a series of 90-minute webinars each week from May 12 to June 30**. Designed for those with limited knowledge of how to use data, the learning sessions will move through the process of collecting data, cleaning it up, and analyzing it in a way that everyone can understand. The Institute is open to rural health professionals, including clinical, administrative and academic personnel.

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## **[Resource of the Week](#)**

**[New Toolkit: Social Determinants of Health In Rural Communities.](#)** The toolkit from the Rural Health Information Hub was produced in collaboration with the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis. It compiles evidence-based and promising models to help rural communities implement programs that address social determinants of health.

## **Approaching Deadlines**

[USDA Rural Broadband Loan and Grant Program](#) – EXTENDED to March 31

[Comments Requested: Guidance for Federal Grants and Agreements](#) – March 23

[Comments Requested: Coordinating Out-of-State Care for Chronically Ill Children](#) – March 23

[SAMSHA Grants to Implement National Strategy for Suicide Prevention](#) – March 23

[CDC Programs to Support Ending the HIV Epidemic](#) – March 25

[HRSA Capacity Development for Ryan White/HIV AIDS Program](#) – March 26

[DOJ Alaska Native Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project](#) – March 30

[DOJ Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program](#) – March 30

[SAMHSA Grants to Implement Zero Suicide Model](#) – March 30

[SAMHSA Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women](#) – March 30

[FTA Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities](#) – March 30

[SAMHSA Rural Emergency Services Training](#) – March 30

[USDA Grants for Food Distribution/Education on Indian Reservations](#) – March 30

[PCORI Convening Stakeholders for Patient-Centered Research](#) – April 1

[ACL Programs for Older Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians](#) – April 3

[CDC Drug Free Communities](#) – April 3

[HRSA Ryan White HIV/AIDS – Dental Reimbursement Program](#) – April 3

[Comments Requested: Changes to Medicare Advantage \(MA\) Network Adequacy](#) – April 6

[DOJ Tribal Children's Advocacy Center Expansion for Initiative for Child Abuse Victims](#) – April 7

[Innovations in Accessible Mobility](#) – April 8

[AHRQ Patient-Centered Evidence for Preventing Heart Disease/Stroke](#) – Letters of Intent April 10

[USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants](#) – April 10

[Request for Information Regarding Maternal and Infant Health Care in Rural Communities](#) – April 12

[HRSA Support for Opioid-Impacted Families](#) – April 13

[HRSA Telehealth Network Grant Program](#) – April 13

[Host Sites for the CDC Public Health Associate Program](#) – April 14

[NIH Funding for Clinical and Translational Science](#) – April 15

[HRSA Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project](#) – April 17

[Department of Treasury Support for Native Community Development](#) – April 21

[Department of Treasury Support for Rural Community Development](#) – April 21

[ACL Grants for Alzheimer’s Disease Programs](#) – April 22

[National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Programs](#) – April 23

[National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program](#) – April 23

[CDC National Center of Excellence for Prevention of Childhood Agricultural Injury](#) – April 24

[Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation](#) – April 24

[Comments Requested: DEA Proposes Registration Changes for Mobile Narcotic Treatment Programs](#) – April 27

[DOJ Reentry, Education and Employment for Incarcerated Adults](#) – April 27

[DOJ Improving Reentry for Adults with Substance Use Disorders](#) – April 27

[DOJ Strategies to Support Children Exposed to Violence](#) – April 27

[Application Filing Window for FCC Rural Telecommunications and Healthcare Connect Programs](#) – April 30

[CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention](#) – April 30

[Nurse Corps Scholarship Program](#) – April 30

[USDA Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grants](#) – April 30

[HRSA Telehealth-Focused Rural Health Research Center Program](#) – May 1

[Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health Scholarship](#) – May 1

[DOJ Support for Children of Addiction-Related Crime](#) – May 4

[DOT Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone Program](#) – May 4

[SAMHSA Tribal Opioid Response Grants](#) – May 4

[CDC Research to Prevent Firearm-Related Violence and Injuries](#) – May 5

[PCORI Grants for Research Addressing Disparities](#) – May 5

[AmeriCorps Grants for Indian Tribes](#) – May 6

[NIH: Research for Disparities Among Minority/Underserved Children](#) – May 7

[Nominations: HRSA Tribal Advisory Council](#) – May 7

[Bureau of Indian Affairs National Tribal Broadband Grant](#) – May 8

[USDA Local Food Promotion Program](#) – May 11

[USDA Rural Community Development Initiative](#) – May 13

[DOJ Adult Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court Program](#) – May 14

[CDC Integrated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Prevention](#) – May 18

[DOJ Comprehensive Substance Abuse Site-Based Program](#) – May 21

[AHRQ Patient-Centered Evidence for Preventing Heart Disease/Stroke](#) – May 22

[USDA Grants for Household Water Well Systems](#) – May 31

[CMS Minority Research Grant Program](#) – June 2

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## Ongoing Opportunities

[Guaranteed Loans for Rural Rental Housing](#) – Ongoing through 2021

[AHRQ Research to Improve Patient Transitions through HIT](#) – Ongoing through December 2022

[Certified Rural Health Clinic Professional Course](#)

[Community Facilities Program](#)

[Community Food Projects Technical Assistance](#)

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)

[Drinking Water and Waste Disposal for Rural and Native Alaskan Villages](#)

[Funding for Rural Water and Waste Disposal Projects](#)

[HIT to Improve Health Care Quality and Outcomes](#)

[HIT Strategies for Patient-Reported Outcome Measures](#)

[HUD Hospital Mortgage Insurance Program](#)

[Nominations for Federal Advisory Commission on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#)

[Nominations for National Advisory Committee on Migrant Health](#)

[RWJF Investigator-Initiated Research to Build a Culture of Health](#)

[SBA Guaranteed Loans for Small Business](#)

[Summer Food Service Program](#)

[Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans](#)

[USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants](#)


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