



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH
AND PRIMARY CARE

Office of Rural Health and Primary Care News

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October 2022

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MDH news

Minnesota Earns National Public Health Award

Governor Walz recently announced that Minnesota is one of five states named a Pathogen Genomics Centers of Excellence by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The five-year, \$18 million award goes to the Minnesota Department of Health, the University of Minnesota, and the Mayo Clinic to develop, among other things, cutting-edge laboratory technology to enhance Minnesota's ability to prevent, control and respond to microbial public health threats.

National Rural Health Day 2022



Re-view it if you missed it: **Telling the stories of rural health**



The recording of this Master Class - [Telling the Stories of Rural Health In America](#) - was posted on Youtube so you can (re)view it if you missed it!

The class was held for communications and public relations professionals, journalists, bloggers, editors, and others interested in communicating and reporting on rural health and all it entails.

The Fall 2022 Rural Health Clinical Congress



The Fall 2022 Rural Health Clinical Congress event is designed specifically for primary care clinicians, registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses who care for patients from rural and underserved areas. This free and interactive, multi-topic CME/CE conference will be held on **Saturday, November 19** in conjunction with National Rural Health Day. Broadcasting starts at 8:00 AM CT.

Register for this event by clicking the registration tab located on the left side of the [registration page](#).

If you have questions about the event, please contact the RME Collaborative at 800-913-9370 or cme@cmeruralhealth.com.

Collaboration Carpool: Conversations with mission-minded rural stakeholders



You are invited to reserve your complimentary spot and come along for the ride during "Carpool Collaboration: Conversations with Mission-Minded Rural Stakeholders" on November 17, 2022, at 2:00 pm ET. The National Organization for State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) will welcome a dynamic group of guests, each driving change and sharing stories about the work they're doing to go the extra mile through collaboration.

Key messages and data points e-book


NOW AVAILABLE:

Key Messages & DATA POINTS E-BOOK

Discover and share key rural data and messages that help tell the story of rural health.

AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

PowerOfRural.org | #PowerOfRural



As a part of the ongoing **#PowerofRural** movement, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health gathered essential information in the [Key Messages & Data Points E-book](#) that can help educate various stakeholders about the realities of rural health through stories and data. This e-book is free and can be downloaded.

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Grants and other funding

NEW: Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)

[Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program \(SHIP\)](#) The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care (ORHPC) coordinates a state application to the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) on behalf of Minnesota's small rural hospitals (49 or fewer beds). Applications are due **October 24**. Q&A sessions will be held Tuesday, October 11, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM; and Thursday, October 20, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. For more information, please contact: health.ruralshipgrant@state.mn.us; or 651-201-3838.

NEW: Long-Term Care Workforce Capacity Building Project

[Long-Term Care Workforce Capacity Building Project](#) The Minnesota Department of Health seeks to identify and support projects focused on increasing the number of workers entering the long-term care (LTC) workforce by leveraging educational opportunities, highlighting professional/career pathways, and/or by promoting careers in long-term care (LTC) through public relations and marketing outreach efforts. Funding will be allocated through a competitive process. Applications are due **11:59 PM CST, Monday, November 7**. For more information, please contact: Health.seocltc@state.mn.us or 651-201-4233.

NEW: FY 2023 Quality Improvement Fund – Maternal Health

Fiscal year (FY) 2023 Quality Improvement Fund-Maternal Health (QIF-MH): One-time Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funding is available for HRSA-funded health centers to increase equitable access to maternal health care in underserved communities. The purpose of the QIF-MH funding is to support health centers to improve maternal health and reduce racial and ethnic maternal health disparities by developing and piloting innovative, patient-centered, scalable models of care delivery that address the clinical and health-related social needs of health center patients at highest risk of maternal morbidity and mortality. View the [FY 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#). Applications are due **11:59 PM ET, Monday, December 5**.

NEW: Primary Care Training & Enhancement-Residency Training (HRSA-23-099)

Primary Care Training and Enhancement-Residency Training in Mental and Behavioral Health (HRSA-23-099): this new program will train primary care residents in the prevention, identification, diagnosis, treatment, and referral of services for mental and behavioral health conditions. In particular, the program will benefit pediatric, adolescent, young adult, and other populations who are at-risk or have experienced abuse, trauma, or mental health and/or substance use disorders, including those related to the effects of gun violence. To be notified when this funding opportunity opens, [sign up](#) for Health Professions Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) updates.

NEW: Preventive Medicine Residency (HRSA-23-004)

[Preventive Medicine Residency \(HRSA-23-004\)](#): The purpose of this grant is to increase the number, quality, and diversity of preventive medicine residents and physicians to: a) support access to preventive medicine; and b) integrate population health with primary care in order to improve the health of communities. The application deadline is **Monday, November 21**.

REMINDER: Dental Safety Net Grant

[The Dental Safety Net Grant](#) MDH is soliciting proposals for grants to eligible dental

providers who serve the uninsured. Funds will be awarded each year proportionally among all eligible programs, based on the total number of uninsured patients under the age of 21 served by the provider. The Legislature appropriates up to \$113,000 each Fiscal Year. Annual funding will be allocated by formula, among eligible applicants over a 3-year project period. The grant project period will be January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2025. Applications are due **11:59 p.m., Friday, November 11**. For more information please contact: health.SafetyNetGrants@state.mn.us.

REMINDER: Mental Safety Net Grant

[The Mental Safety Net Grant](#) MDH is soliciting proposals for grants to eligible dental providers who serve the uninsured. Funds will be awarded each year proportionally among all eligible programs, based on the total number of uninsured patients under the age of 21 served by the provider. The Legislature appropriates up to \$113,000 each Fiscal Year. Annual funding will be allocated by formula, among eligible applicants over a 3-year project period. The grant project period will be January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2025. Applications are due **11:59 p.m., Friday, November 11**. For more information please contact: health.SafetyNetGrants@state.mn.us.

REMINDER: Federally Qualified Health Center Subsidy Grant

[Federally Qualified Health Center Subsidy Grant](#) Federally Qualified Health Centers are community-based and patient-directed organizations that deliver comprehensive, culturally competent, high-quality primary health care services. The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health is empowered to distribute grants to FQHCs and FQHC Look-Alikes "operating in Minnesota to continue, expand, and improve federally qualified health center services to low-income populations." Funding will be allocated by formula, among eligible applicants over a 3-year project period. Applications are due **11:59 p.m., Monday, November 14**. For more information, please contact: health.PrimaryCarePrograms@state.mn.us

REMINDER: J1 Visa and Waiver

[J-1 Visa and Waiver](#) The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is committed to improving access to health care in underserved areas of the state. The Minnesota J-1 Visa Waiver Program is one strategy to address the shortage of physicians in rural and urban areas. Due to the difficulties some areas experience recruiting and retaining physicians, many communities turn to International Medical Graduates (IMG) and J-1 Visa Waivers to fill their physician vacancies. The current application process is open and will close **4:30 p.m. CT, November 30**, unless fewer than 30 applications have been received. Please submit your questions to MN_health.J1NHW@state.mn.us

Opportunities

Flex Health Equity Learning Collaborative

Stratis Health will support critical access hospitals in a 15-month initiative to develop or strengthen efforts to improve health equity and reduce health disparities in their communities. The initiative will begin in December and include a combination of learning and coaching sessions that are provided free of charge and cover topics such as:

- Using data to identify and understand health disparities
- Building an organizational culture that supports health equity
- Screening and making referrals for social determinants of health

There is no fee to participate and organizations may participate at the frequency and level of capacity that works for them. While organizations are not required to participate in every session, ongoing participation is recommended to maximize learning and impact. Please contact Kim McCoy at kmccoy@stratishealth.org for more information or to indicate interest in participating.

State of the healthcare industry: Market updates for rural webinar

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health is holding this webinar from **2:00 to 3:00 PM, ET, Wednesday, October 19**. The keynote speaker will present an up-to-date analysis of current trends, news, and legislative action in the health care industry, and how that may affect rural health care. [Registration is required for this event](#). You will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. For more information, please contact [Beth Kolf](#), 586-745-7458.

The Region V Public Health Leadership Institute

The [Region V Public Health Leadership Institute \(RVPHLI\)](#) is an opportunity for professionals in public health and primary care to cultivate their capacity to influence change in their organizations and communities. This six-month virtual program is grounded in theory, coupled with practical application and peer-to-peer learning. Participants will come from a range of disciplines within public health and primary care. RVPHLI is intended for those who are:

- Mid-career (5+ years in public health or primary care) or executive professionals;
- Involved in some way in workforce development, community health strategy, and/or performance management;
- In managerial, administrative, or clinical roles;
- Working within state/local/tribal health departments or FQHCs & look-alikes;
- Serving Medically Underserved Communities, rural areas, Health Professions Shortage Areas, or other high-need areas (e.g., identified by the Social Vulnerability Index).

Participants apply as individuals. To apply, please complete the [brief survey](#) to describe your interest in participating. Applications should be completed by **5:00 PM ET, October 31**.

Introduction to Refugee Resettlement

In partnership with ECHO Colorado, the Minnesota Center of Excellence will be hosting a [monthly training on newcomer health](#) on the last Tuesday of each month, **between October 25 and November 28, 2023**. This ECHO series is designed to increase medical providers' knowledge of the resettlement and health issues of newcomers, including refugee, immigrant, and migrant (RIM) populations. It will review resettlement pathways, evidence-based screening recommendations, and more common diagnoses and treatment approaches for pediatric and adult populations. Sessions include brief didactic presentations by immigrant health experts and discussion of participant-submitted cases. [Registration](#) is ongoing and participants can attend any sessions they wish.

[It's Not Easy Being a Rural Pharmacy: Services, Payments, Closures, and Deserts](#): This one hour webinar will be held 12:00-1:00 PM CT, **Monday, November 14**. The speaker will share recent research from the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis and discuss key findings on the availability of pharmacy services, payment models, the impact of pharmacy closures, and the creation of new pharmacy deserts. [Registration is free and required](#).

The [2022 MN HIMSS and Minnesota e-Health Initiative Virtual Series](#) This year's theme is *Using Health Information for Community Impact*. Occurring at noon on four consecutive Wednesdays **beginning October 26 and ending November 16**, each 90-minute session in the series is free to attend and will highlight relevant topics intended to advance e-health thinking in Minnesota and beyond. [Register here](#) to attend one or more sessions.

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Read This

[Review of Rural U.S. Economic and Health Care Trends](#). This Center for Economic Analysis of Rural Health (CEARH) report reviews recent literature and publicly available data to explore important issues at the nexus of health care and local economic vibrancy. The report also explores the economic implications associated with COVID-19.

[Health Workforce Implications for the Rural Emergency Hospital Model](#). This Health Affairs article from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)-funded Rural Residency Planning and Development (RRPD) Technical Assistance Program discusses approaches rural hospitals may take to address health workforce challenges as they consider converting to the new Rural Emergency Hospital designation.

[Does Training Physicians in Rural Areas Lead to Rural Practice?](#) Researchers analyzed data on training and placement of 12,162 clinically active physicians who completed an accredited family medicine residency between 2008 and 2012. They found that more than 90 percent of residents had no rural training during that time and only 14 percent practiced in a rural location by 2018. But the data showed that rural exposure during family medicine

residency training is associated with a 5- to 6-fold increase in subsequent rural practice. The recent Rural Health Equity and Quality Summit convened nationally recognized content experts in rural health care policy, health equity, value-based care, and clinical quality to explore the role small rural hospitals and rural health clinics play in achieving health equity. The resulting document, Rural Health Equity and Quality Summit Report Summit Report, will assist rural hospitals, clinics, and network leaders on their path to value-based care and alternative payment models by offering actionable steps on how to maximize available resources and data, and provide solutions for achieving rural health equity.

Rural Health Equity and Quality Summit Report: The recent Rural Health Equity and Quality Summit convened nationally recognized content experts in rural health care policy, health equity, value-based care, and clinical quality to explore the role small rural hospitals and rural health clinics play in achieving health equity. The resulting document, Rural Health Equity and Quality Summit Report Summit Report, will assist rural hospitals, clinics, and network leaders on their path to value-based care and alternative payment models by offering actionable steps on how to maximize available resources and data, and provide solutions for achieving rural health equity.

Save the date

Medical Assistant Week is **October 17-21**.

October is National Physical Therapy Month.

This year's National Rural Health Day is **Thursday, November 17**



health.orhpc@state.mn.us

651-201-3838

#mnruralhealth @mnhealth

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/index.html>



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