

# RURAL HEALTH BRIEFING

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### Mark your calendars for the annual Arizona Rural and Public Health Policy Forum, Feb. 15

- Examine key health policy issues and their impact on Arizona's rural and tribal communities
  - Identify strategies to strengthen rural communities and public health systems
  - Learn about your state legislators' and policy makers' legislative priorities for the upcoming year
- Learn more and register online at <http://rho.arizona.edu/Events/PolicyForum/2011PolicyForum.aspx>

## ACROSS ARIZONA

### Analysis finds Arizona's Critical Access Hospitals are rural economic drivers

Rural hospitals play a special part in the provision of health care for the areas they serve. Hospitals comprise the health center "core" for rural Arizona's medical safety net; they are the engine that powers, and the anchor that stabilizes. A recent study funded by the Arizona Rural Health Office and conducted by the National Center for Rural Health Works explored the special relationship between the state's 14 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and their respective communities. In Arizona's small rural communities, CAHs are often the major employer that support the local economies. The 2010

study, conducted among ten Arizona CAHs, found that the hospitals directly employed 2,438 full and part-time employees and contributed more than \$150 million in wages, salaries, and benefits. When considering secondary impacts, (i.e. including jobs that arise from related business agreements), the ten CAHs were responsible for 4,681 jobs and contributed more than \$235 million to Arizona's local rural economies. Arizona's small rural hospitals are critical to both the health of rural residents and the economic wellbeing of rural communities.

- Kevin Driesen

### Arizona Rural Health Office seeks applicants for director position

The Director of the University of Arizona's Rural Health Office will be a full-time fiscal year faculty member, with year-to-year administrative responsibilities. The successful candidate will provide strategic leadership to carry out the Rural Health Office mission: "The Rural Health Office Works to Improve the Health of Rural People." To apply visit: <https://www.uacareertrack.com/applicants/jsp/shared/frameSet/FrameSet.jsp?time=1296500717554>

### Best wishes to Gabrielle Giffords

The Arizona Rural Health Office would like to wish our Representative Gabrielle Giffords, along with the other Tucson residents injured in the Jan. 8th attack, a speedy recovery. The deaths of six fine people and the injuries of so many others weigh on our hearts. During her tenure, Rep. Giffords has been a friend to those working to improve the health of rural Arizonans. We hope to work with her again in the future.



## CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

**2011 Annual Conference of the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs and Family Voices**

- **Presented by:** AMCHP and Family Voices
- **Dates:** Feb. 13-15
- **Location:** Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street NW, Washington, DC
- **Contact:** <http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=892520>



Courtesy Ken Miller

**Arizona Rural and Public Health Policy Forum**

- **Presented by:** UA MEZCOPH Arizona Rural Health Office and Arizona Rural Health Association, Inc.
- **Date:** Feb. 15
- **Location:** Arizona State Capitol, Executive Tower, Second Floor Conference Room, 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix
- **Contact:** (520) 626-2243

**Eighth Active Living Research Annual Conference**

- **Presented by:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- **Dates:** Feb. 22-24
- **Location:** Hard Rock Hotel San Diego, San Diego, CA
- **Contact:** (619) 260-5534 or [ALR@projects.sdsu.edu](mailto:ALR@projects.sdsu.edu)

## MARCH

**23rd Annual Arizona Indian Council on Aging Conference:****Strengthening our Culture through our Elders**

- **Presented by:** Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. Area Agency on Aging, Region 8
- **Date:** March 21-24
- **Location:** Radisson Ft. McDowell Resort & Casino, 10438 N. Ft. McDowell Road, Scottsdale/Fountain Hills
- **Contact:** (602) 258-4822

**Webinar: Pesticides and Farm Worker Health**

- **Presented by:** AgriSafe Network
- **Date:** March 23
- **Location:** Online, <http://agrisafe.org/training/webinars/>
- **Contact:** Stacey Jenkins, [sjenkins@agrisafe.org](mailto:sjenkins@agrisafe.org)

## APRIL

**UA Zuckerman College of Public Health Social Justice Symposium**

- **Presented by:** MEZCOPH
- **Date:** April 1
- **Location:** Drachman Hall, 1295 N. Martin Ave, Tucson
- **Contact:** Melissa Henderson at [henders2@email.arizona.edu](mailto:henders2@email.arizona.edu)

**7th Annual American Indian Disability Summit**

- **Presented by:** Native American Connections
- **Date:** April 1
- **Location:** Sheraton Phoenix Airport Hotel, Tempe
- **Contact:** <http://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/index.php?q=calendar/seventh-annual-american-indian-disability-summit>

**Arizona Public Health Association Spring Conference**

- **Presented by:** Arizona Public Health Association
- **Date:** April 7
- **Location:** To be determined
- **Contact:** [jennifer@azpha.org](mailto:jennifer@azpha.org)

## MAY

**Rural Medical Educators Conference**

- **Presented by:** National Rural Health Association
- **Date:** May 3
- **Location:** Austin, TX
- **Contact:** <http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/go/events/rural-medical-educators-conference>

**34th NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference**

- **Presented by:** National Rural Health Association
- **Date:** May 3-6
- **Location:** Austin, TX
- **Contact:** <http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/annual>

## JUNE

**3rd National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care: Improving Preconception Health in a New Era of Health Care**

- **Presented by:** Florida Department of Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Resources and Services Administration and the national Preconception Health and Health Care Initiative steering committee
- **Dates:** June 12-14
- **Location:** Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida
- **Contact:** <http://beforeandbeyond.org/?page=preconception-summit#>

**2011 National Association for Rural Mental Health Conference**

- **Presented by:** National Association for Rural Mental Health
- **Date:** June 22-25
- **Location:** Grand Harbor Hotel and Grand River Conference Center, Dubuque, IA
- **Contact:** <http://www.narmh.org/>

## GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

*Technical assistance is available for the development of grant proposals and other funding applications from the professional staff of the Rural Health Office and the State Office of Rural Health Program. Please contact Jennifer Peters, [petersjs@u.arizona.edu](mailto:petersjs@u.arizona.edu)*

### Health Center Planning Grants

- **Deadline:** March 18
- **Purpose:** The purpose of planning grants is to demonstrate the need for health services in the community from public or non-profit organizations seeking a grant to plan for the development of a comprehensive primary care health center.
- **Eligibility:** Public and non-profit private entities, including tribes and tribal organizations, faith-based and community-based organizations. Applicant may not be a current section 330 funded health center. Preference will be given to eligible applications proposing to serve sparsely populated areas (i.e., entire proposed service area has seven or less persons per square mile).
- **Amount:** Average award size of \$80,000
- **More information:** <https://grants.hrsa.gov/webExternal/FundingOppDetails.asp?FundingCycleId=FC476C74-CD9D-420B-9563-7D42952B70B1&ViewMode=EU&GoBack=&PrintMode=&OnlineAvailabilityFlag=&pageNumber=&version=&NC=&Popup=>

### First Things First Cochise Regional Partnership Council: Food and Insecurity Grant

- **Deadline:** Feb. 24
- **Purpose:** The Cochise Regional Partnership Council has identified the need for regional implementation of the strategy to expand the provision of food boxes for families of children birth through age five. Other potential strategies will also be considered.
- **Eligibility:** Non-profit 501c3 organizations providing services in Arizona, units of Arizona government (local, county

and state entities as well as schools and school districts), federally recognized Tribal governments or entities providing services within Arizona, Arizona institutions of higher learning (colleges and universities), and private organizations providing services in Arizona.

- **Amount:** \$200,000
- **More information:** <http://azftf.gov/WHATWEDO/FUNDING/PAGES/RFGADetail.aspx?RFGAID=FTF-RC002-11-0318-00>

### Learn and Serve America School-Based Indian Tribes and U.S. Territories FY 2011

- **Deadline:** March 3
- **Purpose:** To enhance and/or expand effective service-learning programs already underway; or develop new service-learning programs in tribal communities or areas within the U.S. Grants are designed to involve school-age youth in service-learning projects that simultaneously support student development and meet community needs in areas such as the environment, education, and public safety.
- **Eligibility:** Federally recognized Native American tribal governments
- **Amount:** Up to \$250,000 per grant
- **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=95GTNLqpZRGsQGvbDzlPkxCzS2zFn1C4tx2WY105kj1rzksyypgjz!1018814583?oppld=67374&mode=VIEW>

### Drug Free Communities Support Program

- **Deadline:** March 18
- **Purpose:** To establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, pub-

lic and private non-profit agencies, and Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to support the efforts of community coalitions working to prevent and reduce substance use among youth.

- **Eligibility** See program web site for eligibility details.
- **Amount:** Up to \$125,000 per year
- **More information:** [http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/2011/sp\\_11\\_002.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/2011/sp_11_002.aspx)

### Grant to Enhance Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Program

- **Deadlines:** March 15
- **Purpose:** The Grants to Enhance Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking supports community-based organizations in providing culturally and linguistically relevant services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.
- **Eligibility:** Community-based programs whose primary purpose is providing culturally and linguistically specific services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; and Community-based programs whose primary purpose is providing culturally and linguistically specific services and who can partner with a program having demonstrated expertise in serving victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.
- **Amount:** \$300,000 ceiling
- **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=66433>

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

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### UA study seeks seniors recently diagnosed with epilepsy for study

The University of Arizona Department of Neurology is conducting a study in Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise Counties to determine how many seniors (aged 65 years and older) experienced seizures for the first time, or have just been diagnosed with epilepsy in the past six months. The project is also interested in the impact of the seizure and/or diagnosis on the individual and his or her family, as well as the individual's utilization of health care services. If you or anyone you know has had such an experience, please call 520 991 4742 to find out if you are eligible for this study.

### USDA announces award of grants to Arizona sites

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that two sites in Arizona are among 106 projects in 38 states and one territory have been selected to receive more than \$34.7 million in grants to fund educational projects and expand access to health care services in rural areas through USDA's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program. The Cochise Technology District received \$246,586 and the Coconino Community College District gains \$305,833. The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program provides access to education, training and health care resources in rural areas. "Too many rural

areas cannot take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by broadband for improved education and health care. These funds will help communities enhance their educational and training programs and deliver improved health care services for their residents," Vilsack said.

### ADHS launches new online behavioral health tool

The Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health has created a behavioral health decision tool. This online tool is designed to help members of the public decide when and how to help someone they feel may have a mental health concern. The tool also includes resources and peer support groups that can help intervene. <http://www.azdhs.gov/bhs/pdf/WhatToDoWhenConcernedFlowchart.pdf>

### ADHS releases 10-year report on teen pregnancy

A new report from the Bureau of Public Health Statistics examines the trends in teen pregnancies in Arizona from 1999-2009. The report found that the overall teen pregnancy rate dropped 34 percent during the last ten years. This decrease was especially pronounced for the 15-17 year-old age group. Among that group the rate declined by almost 45 percent. The complete report is available at <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/tp/teen09/teenpregnancy2009.pdf>

## IMPORTANT LINKS

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- Administration on Aging
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- America's Health Rankings: Our Nation at a Glance
- American Indian and Alaska Native Information (CMS)
- Arizona Critical Access Hospital Program
- AHCCCS
- Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
- Arizona Rural Health Association, Inc.
- Critical Access Hospital Information (CMS)
- Critical Access Hospitals Financial Performance Indicators by State
- Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI)
- Federal Funding Opportunities
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (CMS)
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Health Services Advisory Group
- HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse
- Indian Health Service, Navajo Area Office
- Indian Health Service, Phoenix Area Office
- Indian Health Service, Tucson Area Office
- Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- Kaiser Family Foundation: Fast Facts
- Local Community Resource Finder
- Medicare Learning Network (CMS)
- National Association of Community Health Centers
- National Association of Rural Health Clinics
- National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health
- National Rural Health Association
- Office of Rural Health Policy, HHS
- Rural Assistance Center
- Rural Health Information (CMS)
- Rural Health Research Gateway
- Rural Health Resource Center - TASC
- RUPRI State Profiles
- State Health Facts Online
- State Offices of Rural Health Grant Program
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

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This newsletter is a joint project of the Rural Health Office housed at the UA Zuckerman College of Public Health, and the Arizona Rural Health Association, Inc. The Arizona Rural Health Office works to improve the health of rural people. The Arizona Rural Health Association, Inc. advocates on behalf of the health needs of rural Arizonans at national, state and local levels. Your input is always welcome. Contact Renee Fullerton, RHO publications coordinator, at [rfullert@email.arizona.edu](mailto:rfullert@email.arizona.edu)