Az CRH Highlights

COVID-19

▶ On March 31, the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) announced allocation of up to $90,000 per hospital to support Coronavirus (COVID) care in 18 eligible Arizona rural & critical access hospitals (CAHs) via a streamlined Notice of Award (NoA) to the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) housed in the Arizona Center for Rural Health (AzCRH). HRSA anticipates issuing the NoA to AzCRH for the SHIP COVID care in April.

Existing AzCRH-SHIP contracts will be amended pending HRSA NoA for these 11
Arizona rural and critical access hospitals: Benson Hospital, Cobre Valley Regional Med. Center, Copper Queen Community Hospital, Gila River Healthcare Corp., La Paz Regional Hospital, Little Colorado Med. Center, Navajo Health Foundation Sage Memorial Hospital, San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corp., White Mt. Regional Med. Center and Wickenburg Community Hospital.

New AzCRH SHIP agreements will be executed pending HRSA NoA with Mt. Graham Regional Med. Center, Banner Payson Hospital, Banner Page Hospital, Carondolet Holy Cross Hospital, Sells Indian Hospital, Hopi Health Care Center (IHS), and Parker Indian Health Center (IHS).

Reliable Sources of Information on COVID-19

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html). This link includes information for homes, schools & childcare, colleges & universities, work, community and faith-based organizations, community events, homeless shelters, first responders, public health communicators.
  - Download [print resources](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html) from the CDC Website.
- **Arizona Department of Health Services:** [Updated Recommendations](https://www.azdhs.gov/coronavirus/)
- **COVID-19 Resources & Tips** - Arizona Town Hall
- **Rural Health Information Hub:** [Rural Response to Corona Virus Disease](https://www.ruralhealthinformationhub.org/)
- **Watch the recorded webinar:** [The Science of Social Distancing, Part 1](https://www.ruralhealthinformationhub.org/rural-response/coronavirus-disease)

From 3RNet

- For those on the front lines of combating the COVID pandemic in need of health workforce -resources are on our 3RNet website: [list of resources](https://www.3rnet.org/) or you can contact Michelle Varcho at varcho@3rnet.org or 1-800-787-2512.

8th Annual Interprofessional Rural Health Professions (Virtual) Conference
The 8th Annual Interprofessional Rural Health Professions Conference: Better Together through Interprofessional Education, sponsored by AzAHEC and the AZ Telemedicine Program, had over 300 participants online (via Zoom), April 3 & 4. Sessions included AHEC Scholars who presented their findings from rural communities around the state. » Click below to access the presentations and videos of each sessions.

Join our next AzCRH Webinar on April 16

CSPMP, Statutes, EPCS, and Resources for You with presenter, Lynn Curtis a marketing specialist for the Prescription Monitoring Program at the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy. His principal responsibility is education and outreach with the medical and public safety communities.

Registration now open - 47th Annual AZ Rural Health Conference

AzCRH will convene its 47th Annual Rural Health Conference July 30 and 31, 2020 virtually and if possible on site at the High Country Conference Center in Flagstaff, AZ. » Click below to view registration, exhibit and sponsorship fees, download forms and register!
Apr 10, 2020  :  Navajo Nation and Arizona’s Rural North Bear the Brunt of Its COVID-19 Deaths

Apr 09, 2020  :  Governor Ducey Announces 200 Internet Hotspots For Students In Rural Communities

Apr 08, 2020  :  AHCCCS to Provide Funding to Critical Access Hospitals

Apr 06, 2020  :  The covid-19 crisis is going to get much worse when it hits rural areas

Apr 02, 2020  :  Rural areas fear spread of virus as more hospitals close

Mar 24, 2020  :  Research Update: Why Coronavirus Could Hit Rural Areas Harder

Mar 20, 2020  :  Study: Arizona hospitals could be overwhelmed by COVID-19 case surge

Mar 19, 2020  :  The Clinic That Tested Graham County’s First COVID-19 Patient Has a Mask Shortage


NOTE: Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, in-person events have been cancelled, modified or postponed.

Apr 8 2020  :  CDC Webinar: Update for Rural Partners, Stakeholders, and Communities on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Response (Recorded)

Apr 15 2020  :  POSTPONED - 2020 11th Annual Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families

Apr 16 2020  :  AzCRH Webinar: CSPMP, Statutes, EPCS, and Resources for You

Apr 20 2020  :  POSTPONED - Annual Integrated HIV/HCV Symposium

Apr 21 2020  :  National Rural EMS Conference 2020 (cancelled)

Apr 22 2020  :  Arizona Native American & Rural EMS Conference (Postponed)

May 3 2020  :  ATA20 Annual Conference and Expo

Jun 3 2020  :  2020 Region D SORH Regional Partnership Meeting

Jun 4 2020  :  5th Annual Rural Women’s Health Symposium
Jun 9 2020: 18th Annual Western Regional Flex Conference (Postponed)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES


This emergency funding opportunity is designed to fund federally recognized tribes that contract or compact with the Indian Health Service under Title I and Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, or consortia of these tribes, or their bona fide agents. All federally recognized tribes, tribal organizations, consortia of federally recognized tribes, or their bona fide agents should apply for this announcement to be considered for future funding under this announcement. During a national emergency, these organizations are uniquely positioned to provide emergency preparedness and response support for tribal health departments and other components of the tribal public health system.

- **Publication Date:** April 1, 2020
- **Application Deadline:** May 31, 2020, 11:59 pm (EDT)
- **Webinar:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 1:00–2:00 pm (EDT). CDC encourages all eligible tribal nations interested in applying for this opportunity to participate in this informational conference call.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Don’t forget to fill out the Census today!
The Census is safe and easy to fill out. To fill out the Census electronically visit [the Census website](https://census.gov). To fill out the Census over the phone, call (844) 330-2020 for English or (844) 468-2020 for Spanish.

The Census is an important tool for distributing resources and redistributing legislative representation. Funding at the federal and state level for
many programs is determined by population counts through the Census.

The COVID-19 crisis reinforces just how important it is to fill out the Census. Much of the federal funding being distributed to states is distributed based on population.

**FCC Expands Broadband Access in Response to COVID-19.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced waivers to its Rural Health Care and E-Rate programs to allow for improved internet capacity, Wi-Fi hotspots, networking gear, or other equipment or services during the coronavirus outbreak. Other actions by the FCC related to COVID-19 include more funding for the Rural Health Care program and efforts to keep low-income consumers connected.

**Interactive Map: Arizona Households with Computer and Broadband Internet** This GIS interactive map uses U.S. Census, American Community Survey data from 2017 to map access to household computers, broadband internet access, and smartphones. This is at the census tract level, so zoom in to see the data for metropolitan areas. This map created by Kara Haberstock Tanoue, Community Research, Evaluation, & Development (CRED) Team, Norton School of Family & Consumer Sciences, University of Arizona.

**SAMHSA Lists Online Resources for Treatment and Recovery.** The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides a list of help lines, websites, and virtual meeting options to support substance use treatment, as well as resources and information for mental health response to COVID-19.

**COVID-19 Toolkit from the National Telehealth Resource Centers.** The toolkit explains how telehealth can be used to provide care remotely, as well as what’s covered through public and private insurance.

**COVID-19 Resources for Emergency Medical Personnel.** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has a website with resources for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel. Separately, the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice updated the Interstate Licensing Compact to allow EMS operations to cross state borders in response to the crisis.
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.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employer Paid Leave Requirements
Wondering what your requirements are as an employer This is easy to understand explanation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act from the U.S. Department of Labor: https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employer-paid-leave

Coronavirus and COVID-19 Resources from the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM)
This resources and tools page from SHRM has a number of resources for employers to prepare their workforce for issues involving the COVID-19 crisis. If you have issues with accessing any of the resources, please contact Michelle Varcho at varcho@3rnet.org.
https://www.shrm.org/ResourcesAndTools/Pages/communicable-diseases.aspx

National Rural Health Association (NRHA) COVID-19 Resources
NRHA has compiled information and resources specific to health professionals, safety net facilities, and rural health: https://www.ruralhealthweb.org/programs/resources/covid-19-resources

NARHC has compiled numerous articles and PDFs with information to keep Rural Health Clinics up to date on the changes due to Covid-19 at the national level. Many are present on their home page (view scrolling images): https://narhc.org/

NARCH has also put together a page outlining Rural Health Clinic Relevant Provisions in the CARES Act: https://www.web.narhc.org/News/28268/Rural-Health-Clinic-Relevant-Provisions-in-the-CARES-Act
HUB International Coronavirus Resource Center
HUB International is an insurance/risk management company that has put together some good resources in a lot of different areas that employers may find useful: https://www.hubinternational.com/products/risk-services/hub-crisis-resources/coronavirus-resource-center/

NACHC’s Coronavirus Information and Resources for Community Health Centers
NACHC’s novel coronavirus resource page is a hub for information Community Health Centers can use to strengthen readiness efforts and educate their communities: http://www.nachc.org/coronavirus/ or email preparedness@nachc.org