News from the Az Center for Rural Health,
Arizona’s State Office of Rural Health

Az CRH Highlights

AZ Rural & Public Health Policy Forum

Registration is now open for the Arizona Rural and Public Health Policy Forum, Feb. 4, 2020!

The decisions of law makers have a profound effect on the health of rural Arizonans. Recognizing the key role public policy plays in health, the AzCRH sponsors the annual AZ Rural & Public Health Policy Forum at the state capitol in Phoenix. Each year the Forum focuses on the issues of the day that are affecting the health of rural and urban underserved Arizonans. We look forward to seeing you on Feb. 4!
Join us for our next AzCRH Webinar on Jan. 16

The 2020 Census and Rural Communities: What Healthcare Providers Should Know with Havala Schumacher, a Partnership Specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau. Learning Objectives:
1. Understand the importance of a complete decennial Census count to rural communities; 2. Learn why some individuals may be difficult to locate or reluctant to respond; 3. Discover ways that healthcare providers can help promote a complete count.

Key State and Federal Policy & Political Dates - 2020

- **Jan 13**: Arizona legislative session begins, Governor Ducey’s State of the State Address
- **Feb 3**: Arizona Senate bill introduction deadline AZ legislature
- **Feb 4**: POTUS State of the Union Address
- **Feb 4**: Iowa Caucus
- **Feb 4**: Center for Rural Health: Rural & Public Health Policy Conference at the state capitol
- **Feb 10**: House bill introduction deadline AZ legislature
- **Feb 11**: NH Primary
- **Feb 21**: Deadline to hear bills in first chamber committees AZ legislature
- **Mar 3**: Super Tuesday: AL, AR, CA, CO, ME, MA, NC, OK, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA primaries
- **Mar 10**: ID, MI, MS, MO, ND, WA primaries
- **Mar 17**: AZ Primary, also FL, IL, OH primaries
Mar 27: Deadline to hear bills in second chamber committees AZ legislature
Apr 21: 100th day of AZ legislative session
July 13 Democratic Convention (Milwaukee, WI)
Aug 24: Republican Convention (Charlotte, NC)
Aug 4: Arizona Statewide Primary Election
Nov 3: General Presidential Election

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cervical cancer occurs most often in women over the age of 30, and approximately 12,000 women in the U.S. get cervical cancer each year. More African American and Hispanic/Latina women get cervical cancer than women of other races or ethnicities due to their decreased access to Pap testing or follow-up treatment, and rates of new cases are higher in rural areas. See the events section below for an upcoming webinar on rural cancer control.
NRHA Rural Health Awards – February 24. The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) honors individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to rural health. Awards will be presented at the NRHA Rural Health Conference on May 21, 2020.

Seeking Nominations: National Advisory Committee on Migrant Health – Ongoing

UPCOMING RURAL EVENTS

Jan 21 2020 : Billing and Coding Course for Critical Access Hospitals
Jan 21 2020 : Webinar - Examining Rural Cancer Prevention and Control Efforts – Tuesday, 1/21 at 3:00 pm ET. Various factors contribute to lower rates of cancer in rural areas, but higher rates of mortality among rural regions for certain preventable cancers – specifically, lung, laryngeal, colorectal, and cervical cancer. National experts will present information on innovative and sustainable solutions to close the rural-urban mortality gap and reduce the disease burden nationally.
Jan 22 2020 : Arizona Base Hospital Workshop
Jan 24 2020 : Trauma Managers Group Quarterly meeting
Jan 27 2020 : Arizona Telemedicine Program - Developing a Telemedicine Program (Phoenix & Tucson)
Jan 29 2020 : Arizona’s Drug Epidemic: Understanding a Pharmacist’s Roles and Responsibilities
Feb 2 2020 : AHA Rural Health Care Leadership Conference
Feb 4 2020 : Arizona Rural & Public Health Policy Forum
Feb 6 2020 : 6th Annual Roundtable Creative Approaches to Healing Trauma for Diverse Populations
Feb 10 2020 : 2020 Annual Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers Conference
Rural Health Care Coordination Program: HRSA-20-30
Deadline: March 12, 2020
More information: click here.

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is pleased to announce the FY 2020 Rural Health Care Coordination Program, which is now open on grants.gov (announcement number: HRSA-20-030) and is accepting applications through March 12, 2020. A total of $7.5 million in funding is anticipated to be available for up to 10 awards to support rural health consortiums to improve patient care and disease outcomes using care coordination strategies. Applicants are required to coordinate the health care delivery services in rural communities through the following four focus areas of collaboration, leadership and workforce, improved outcomes, and sustainability. Additional program objectives include: enhanced integrated systems to collaborate and to share data among member organizations; effective care coordination workforce to meet needs within the rural communities; improved access, delivery, and quality of services and overall patients’ health outcomes; and increased program financial sustainability. For additional information about previously funded projects, please visit this link.

Eligibility for the program requires that applicants must be either public or nonprofit private rural entities who represent a consortium of at least three separate health care entities and must not previously have received a grant under this program for the same or similar project. Eligible applicants may request up to $250,000 annually for the program’s 3-year period of performance September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2023.

Audio – Burned Out on Burnout? Focus on Seeking Fulfillment. This 14-minute interview features radiologists explaining why allied health professionals are prone to burnout, but offers practical advice to anyone working hard with limited resources.
The audio was presented by the American Medical Association (AMA) Ed Hub, a resource providing education opportunities for physicians and other members of the health care team.

**The Rural Opportunity Map.** A unique collection of data and tools, the Rural Opportunity Map uses data sets on broadband infrastructure, education attainment, young companies, and other local assets. A map section for local leaders is designed to help them discover and learn from peer communities. Developing sections help decode the many definitions of rural across federal entities, help investors find options in rural Opportunity Zones, and track trends in rural health care.

**Overview of Behavioral Health in Rural America.** For a deeper examination of behavioral health in rural areas, the Rural Policy Research Institute provides an overview of mental health conditions and contributing factors, and proposes policy options to address them.

**CRS Report on Broadband Access in Rural Areas.** The Congressional Research Service (CRS) provides objective policy and legal analysis to committees and members of the U.S. House and Senate. For this report, researchers examine the characteristics of demand for fixed broadband in rural areas and how they affect private sector infrastructure investments.

The Center for Optimizing Rural Health (CORH) is hosting an upcoming webinar on January 14th at 12:00 PM CST: **“How to Win the Tyranny of Small Number: Coalitions, Collaborations and Networks”**. This one hour webinar will discuss how payors view rural, low volume providers and identify barriers and solutions for rural providers in the current value based climate. Speaker Shannon Calhoun will also explore collaborations, coalitions and networks as a way to engage in better payor relations and negotiations. There will be designated time at the end of the presentation for Q&A. Mrs. Calhoun is a distinguished healthcare executive with 24 years of experience in the industry. Mrs. Calhoun has spent the last five years in network and business development in value-based healthcare transformation and alternative payment models with an emphasis on Practice Transformation and Collaborative Accountable Care Organizations. Much of Shannon's work focuses on
programs that better position providers for healthcare payment and delivery reform with the goal of creating sustainable solutions for both the network and the network's healthcare members.

For questions about this webinar, contact Cassity Avila at cavila@tamu.edu.