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

AzCRH Highlights
Registration is continuing for the 48th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference! Visit the conference web page for the agenda and other information.

Click to Register

One Health
The emerging field of **One Health** builds from the knowledge that human health is deeply interconnected with environmental health and animal health. Federal funding agencies are increasingly looking to a One Health approach to solve complex health challenges, and the One Health Symposium, organized by UArizona Health Sciences, promoted collaboration across disciplines to propel our leadership in One Health research.

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**AzCRH Health Insurance Navigators go Above & Beyond**

AzCRH staff members, **Maria Losoya, Gabriela Sanchez, Dina Suarez** are **certified assisters** working in rural Arizona to increase health insurance coverage for populations served by the rural health care system.

Recently we heard from one of the individuals (with a serious health matter) who was having difficulty securing coverage, and who offered this testimonial, **"Maria again was able to go over and beyond and call AHCCCS for me to get an approval with help of her supervisor. Finally after several months of trying to get medical insurance I finally did with much help from Maria."**
May 02, 2022 : 100s of US urban areas will become rural with new criteria
Mar 23, 2022 : Here’s why an estimated 500,000 Arizonans are at risk of losing their Medicaid coverage
Mar 16, 2022 : COVID-19 vaccination coverage higher in urban U.S. counties — except in Arizona
Jan 25, 2022 : HRSA Health Center COVID-19 N95 Mask Program
Jan 22, 2022 : Arizona’s rural areas, primary-care needs hit hardest by doctor shortage
Dec 17, 2021 : Dr. Ronald Weinstein, telemedicine innovator at University of Arizona, dies at 83
Nov 17, 2021 : President Biden’s Proclamation for National Rural Health Day
Nov 02, 2021 : Indian Country ECHO Launches New Website

UPCOMING RURAL EVENTS

May 19 2022 : The use of Market Analytics to Drive Decision-Making Webinar
Jun 13 2022 : Rural Health Clinic Summit
Jun 14 2022 : 48th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference
Jun 16 2022 : Cost Report Opportunities and Common Pitfalls Webinar
Jul 14 2022 : 7th Annual Rural Women’s Health Symposium
Jul 28 2022 : Transitioning to a Performance Improvement Executive Committee
Aug 18 2022 : Provider Contracts – A Changing Environment Webinar
Oct 24 2022 : 2022 NARHC Fall Institute

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Arizona Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Programs
Loan repayment for specific healthcare professionals who agree to provide primary care services in a Health Professional Shortage Area or Medically Underserved Area of Arizona.
Geographic coverage: Arizona  
Application Deadline: Jun 1, 2022  
Sponsors: Arizona Bureau of Health Systems Development, Arizona Department of Health Services

**Apply for New Community Health Worker Training Program** – Deadline June 11. On Friday, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services announced availability of $226.5 million for a new program building the pipeline of public health workers at the community level. The multiyear effort will support training and apprenticeship programs for the critical role of trusted messenger connecting people to care and support. Administered through HRSA’s Bureau of Health Workforce, the program will train as many as 13,000 community health workers who will address needs in rural and underserved communities. These roles, providing culturally competent and individualized services, are critical in rural areas where health services are limited.

**Department of Interior Indian Business Incubator Grants** – June 17. The Office of Indian Economic Development at the U.S. Department of the Interior will make 10-15 awards to establish business incubators in Tribal reservation communities. Awardees will receive up to $300,000 per year for a three year project. Eligible applicants include tribal organizations and federally recognized tribes listed as Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs at 87 FR 4636 (January 28, 2022).

**HHS Renews Public Health Emergency.** On April 12, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) extended the current Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration for another 90 days. The most recent continuation of the PHE was set to expire on April 16, 2022. The extension of the PHE means the continuation of flexibilities for health care providers, such as the Coronavirus Waivers issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

**Recommended Resources**

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**Online Resource for Licensure of Occupational Therapists, Physical**
**Therapists, Psychologists and Social Workers.** The site provides up-to-date information on emergency regulation and licensing in each state.

**CMS Requests Information on Issues of Health Equity.** In addition to seeking feedback from the public on maternal health, CMS also included other requests for information in the [Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) proposed rule](https://mailchi.mp/4004e89b1de5/may-news-from-the-arizona-center-for-rural-health?e=8b317590a7). This includes requests for information on how health care providers may prepare for climate change, social determinants of health (particularly related to homelessness), and measurement of health care quality disparities. Additionally, CMS is seeking feedback and comments on the appropriateness of payment adjustments that would account for additional resource costs associated with the procurement of surgical N95 respirators that are wholly domestically made. Rural stakeholders interested in providing input to CMS can review the full details, along with instructions on how to respond, in the [Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) proposed rule](https://mailchi.mp/4004e89b1de5/may-news-from-the-arizona-center-for-rural-health?e=8b317590a7).

**ACF Bringing Safe Water to Rural Communities.** The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) provides this background brief on the Rural Community Development Program and its grants to create safe water systems for unincorporated areas and communities with high and persistent poverty. Get more details of successful outcomes in a series of videos that include the story of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.
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