



Top Stories

State and National Awards for Rural Health Day

Rural Health Day is an annual day of recognition for those who serve the vital health needs of nearly 60 million people residing in America's rural communities.



Today, several organizations and individuals are highlighted as innovative partners in advancing rural health in Wisconsin.

In Rhinelander, the "Ties That Bind Us" organization has been selected by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health to be one of seventy national Community Stars for its work to raise educational awareness about cancer and improve the lives of those struggling with the disease. [Read more.](#)

In addition, our office has awarded three **Outstanding Contribution to Rural Health Awards** to community efforts throughout the state this month.

In Merrill, Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital was recognized for igniting community coalitions on oral health, nutrition, mental health, and substance abuse, and for providing a convenient home for seven community resource agencies. In Ladysmith, Mary Schneider, RNC-CEN, was applauded for her excellence as a nurse at Marshfield Medical Center-Ladysmith, volunteerism and fundraising for emergency service providers, contribution to the community, and mentorship of others. In Adams, A-F County Market was lauded for a program that's providing low-income residents with opportunities for fresh food.

[Read more](#)

How Rural Hospitals Can Tackle Maternal Mortality

An **essay** in *The New England Journal of Medicine* contends that maternal death rates could go down if hospitals improve quality of care for three common complications in childbirth: heavy bleeding after delivery, problems with high blood pressure, and looking for blood clots before or after delivery. National Public Radio **speaks** with one of the authors of the essay about how to improve obstetric care in small, rural hospitals.



Janko Ferlic on Unsplash

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The State of Rural EMS

In honor of today's National Rural Health Day, our Director, John Eich, spoke with Amanda Riordan at the American Ambulance Association about the recent Rural EMS Listening Sessions we conducted across the state. Read the transcript [here](#), or watch the interview on YouTube [here](#).

And, this week's edition of the public affairs show "Newsmakers" from Wisconsin Public Radio highlighted the issue of rural EMS as well. Host Hope Kirwan spoke with members of the Wisconsin EMS Association, Rusk County EMS, and our office in an hour-long program that touched on volunteerism and staffing, licensing and standards, funding, broadband, and the culture of mental health in EMS. [Listen to the interview here](#).



More News

- An interactive graphic shows the **rates of insurer participation** in the Affordable Care Act's Marketplace. In 2019, the average state in the nation will have four insurers, but Wisconsin will have twelve. (Kaiser Family Foundation)
- In other insurance news, an **interactive map** tracks the percentage of people without health insurance in rural and nonrural areas, and in states that expanded Medicaid and those that didn't, as of 2016. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)
- A **survey** administered to Wisconsin high schoolers finds that the percentage of students who **currently** drink alcohol, currently use marijuana, or are currently sexually active has decreased over the past ten years. But the percent of students who report they **sat in front of screens** for three or more hours a day has more than doubled. (Sources: *The Post Crescent* / Youth Risk Behavior Survey)
- A **new resource** highlights the social and economic conditions in rural America for 2018, focusing on demographic trends and population growth, unemployment rates, poverty, and aging. (Source: US Department of Agriculture)
- A recent **poll** surveyed rural Americans about life in their communities. Last week, the same institutions that conducted the poll held a forum to contextualize the results of the poll. You can watch the forum [here](#), or [read the transcript](#). (Source: Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health)

Funding & Opportunities

- The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) will provide **mini-grants to improve community programs** in organizations that make long-term commitments to the implementation and delivery of selected programs. (Deadline: November 30th)
- The Academy of General Dentistry Foundation is accepting applications for grants of up to \$5,000 for nonprofit community-based **outreach programs that provide free oral cancer screenings and education** to the public, especially for underserved communities. (Deadline: December 1st)

- The Rural Broadband Association is offering **grants to support the development and implementation of broadband-enabled solutions** to support rural commerce, healthcare, public safety, economic development, and more. Application is limited to telco members of the Association. (Deadline: December 1st)
- The Department of Health Services will provide **grants to small businesses with fifty or fewer employees who create workplace wellness programs**. A workplace can only apply once for a grant which will provide thirty percent of wellness program costs for one year, up to \$15,000. (Deadline: December 31st, 2018)
- Funding is available for research projects designed to improve and increase the use of evidence-based **interventions in end-of-life and palliative care for American Indian individuals** with advanced illness and their families and communities. (Deadline: January 7th, 2019)

Events

- **November 15th:** Learn about post-acute transitional care **utilizing the swing bed program** in Critical Access Hospitals. 1 pm Central.
- **November 15th:** Two Open Door Forums from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid will explore final rule changes. The **CMS Rural Health Forum** (2:30 pm Central) will discuss the Outpatient Prospective Payment System Final Rule, and the **CMS Ambulance Open Door Forum** (1:00pm Central) will discuss changes to the regulations associated with the Ambulance Fee Schedule. Call in fifteen minutes prior.
- **November 28th:** Learn about the unique needs of children and youth with special health care needs in Medicaid managed care, and how policy changes impact their access to care, in a **webinar** from the National Academy for State Health Policy. 1 pm Central.



Wisconsin Office of Rural Health

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