



Top Stories

Prepare to Celebrate the Power of Rural!

We've been busy preparing awards, proclamations, and more for **Rural Health Day**, which comes your way on Thursday, November 15th. It's part of a national event designed to highlight the unique healthcare needs of rural communities: provider shortages, an older population, and lack of transportation. **Let us know** how you're planning to celebrate the Power of Rural (A health fair? Open house? Letter to the Editor?), and we'll help promote it.



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Listening Session Held in Boscobel

Last night, our office held the fifth listening session of our statewide EMS Listening Tour, this time in the southwestern Wisconsin town of Boscobel. We heard plenty of familiar concerns from the thirty or so folks that showed up, which included: little funding for equipment and personnel, issues with dwindling volunteerism and finding a clear path to staffing services, problems with the National Registry test, and curiosity about the use of WARDS data by the State.



Chali Pittman/WIORH

We also heard plenty of solutions, with ideas on how services can get more ambulances out the door and find funds for their departments.

Stay tuned in the coming weeks for highlight reels of the sessions, as well as a report on what we've heard at all sessions. But for now, a big thanks to Gundersen-Boscobel Area Health and Clinics and Boscobel High School for hosting us.

'The Pay Is Just Not Enough'

In many parts of the country, the going rate for an EMT or paramedic job is well below the threshold needed to meet the cost of living. Ambulance services barely get the funding they need to operate. And while everyone expects an ambulance to pick them up when they call 911, EMS is not defined as a an "essential service." This article looks at the

roots of the problem.
(Source: Money Magazine)



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More News

- The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a final rule that includes updates to payment policies, rates and provisions for services. Read their [fact sheet](#) on the changes.
- Health policy experts are wondering what the results of Wisconsin's election this Tuesday [could mean for Medicaid expansion](#). (Source: Kaiser Family Foundation)
- Electronic health record software promised to change the way doctors spend time with patients, and it's enabled patient access to their records. But some argue that [the switch from paper to computers](#) has resulted in redundancy, more screen time, and a higher burnout rate. (Source: The New Yorker)
- An advisory committee on drug safety under the Food and Drug Administration voted to approve a [new and more potent opioid painkiller](#). Opinions are mixed on whether the drug has a high potential for abuse. (Source: National Public Radio)

Funding & Opportunities

- Public or private nonprofit organizations forming a consortium of health providers in a rural community may be eligible to apply for federal funding to strengthen the rural health care system through community-level networks that can align resources and strategies. Wisconsin applicants are [required to notify our office](#). (Deadline: November 30th)
- Grants are available to [programs or partnerships that expand access to Early Head Start services](#). Public entities, private nonprofit organizations, and for-profit agencies can apply. Separate funding opportunities are available for [migrant and seasonal communities in rural areas](#), and [American Indian Native Communities in rural areas](#). (Deadline: November 30th)
- 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)

Events

- **November 9th:** A webcast will explore the public health and policy implications of a recent report on economic and health issues in rural communities. No registration, **just watch on this page**. 11 am Central.
- **November 14th:** A **webinar** from the National Rural Health Association will examine the impact of clinician burden and burnout. 2 pm Central.
- **November 15th:** Celebrate Wisconsin Rural Health Day! Our office has a **dedicated page** of celebration ideas and activities for your community to celebrate the power of rural.
- **November 15th:** Learn the power of developing post-acute transitional care in Critical Access Hospitals through a **webinar**. 2 pm Central.



Wisconsin Office of Rural Health

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