



Top Stories

Farm Bill Passed By Congress

Congress has passed the 2018 Farm Bill, which sets spending and policy for agriculture, nutrition programs and forestry for the next five years. It now heads to President Trump's desk for him to sign. The bill includes **key provisions devoted to rural health**, including measures to:

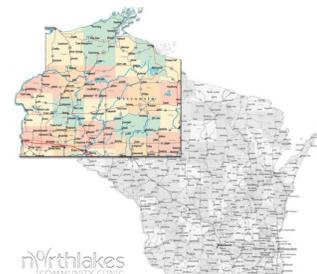


- enhance **rural substance abuse prevention**, treatment, and recovery efforts,
- increase **funding for telehealth**,
- provide greater **fiscal flexibility for rural hospitals**, and
- widen the **availability of broadband**.

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For One Rural Wisconsin Community, Fighting Addiction Started with Recruiting the Right Doctor

Many rural communities struggle with finding nearby resources to fight substance abuse. The NorthLakes Community Clinic in Wisconsin is modeling a comprehensive addiction treatment program that addresses all the substances people in the area struggle with-including opioids, meth, and alcohol. Central to that effort was the hire of a physician who had a comprehensive vision for treatment programs. (Source: National Public Radio)



northlakes
COMMUNITY CLINIC

NorthLakes Community
Clinic

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Improving Access to Maternity Care Act Passes Congress

A bill that aims to address a lack of maternity care in rural areas has passed the Senate and is awaiting President Trump's signature. The **Improving Access to Maternity Care Act** would bring maternity care services to underserved and rural areas. The bill was introduced by Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin and Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski. Listen to Senator Baldwin discuss the state of maternal healthcare in American and explain what we can expect from the legislation. (Source: Wisconsin Public Radio)



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More News

- Federal offices are **seeking feedback from the public** on how to improve HIPAA

privacy guidance around care coordination. The request for information **comes in response** to stakeholder requests for a HIPAA update that reflects the digital nature of the healthcare sector. (Source: HealthIT Security)

- The US Census Bureau has released the results of its **American Community Survey**, which details five-year county-level estimates on topics like poverty and access to broadband. *The Daily Yonder* breaks down what the data can show us about **who is, and who is not, getting broadband**. (Sources: US Census and The Daily Yonder)
- How are volunteer first responders in rural US and Canada **grappling to provide vital emergency services** to citizens? *Vice* takes a look at how rural first responders tasked with protecting their communities are getting stretched. (Source: Vice)

Funding & Opportunities

- Rural hospitals, rural community-based care centers, community mental health centers, Rural Health Clinics, and more can apply for **grants to develop new rural residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine, and psychiatry** to support expansion of the rural physician workforce. (**Deadline: March 4th, 2019; Applicant Webinar: December 17th, 1pm Central**)
- Matching grants of up to \$20,000 are available to **support community-based initiatives that provide dental homes to children** who are underserved and/or have limited access to oral healthcare. (**Deadline: December 21st**)
- The **Tribal Behavioral Health Grant Program** aims to prevent and reduce suicidal behavior and substance abuse, reduce the impact of trauma, and promote mental health for American Indian youth. (**Deadline: January 4th**)
- **Connecting Kids to Coverage Outreach and Enrollment** grants will provide funding to organizations that help families with children enroll in health coverage opportunities, including Medicaid, CHIP, and insurance affordability programs. (**Required Letter of Intent: January 4th; Application Deadline: January 28th**)
- Accredited and academically-affiliated Physician Assistant training programs can apply for **funding to increase the number of primary care physician assistants**, particularly in rural and underserved settings. (**Deadline: January 14th**)
- Schools of nursing, nurse managed health centers, governments, and appropriate nonprofits can apply for **grants to prepare new nurse practitioners in primary care for practice in community-based settings** through twelve-month residency programs, with a preference for projects serving rural or underserved populations. (**Deadline: March 4th**)

Events

- **December 18th: Learn about the new Rural Health Clinic service expansion** that was recently finalized and is now scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2019. Presenters will be available to answer questions about Medicare payment policy and RHC services. 1:30 Central.
- **January 16th-20th: Registration** is now open for the Double Header Annual Conference and Expo from the Wisconsin EMS Association. **Find the schedule here.**

Our Office: Now Hiring

We are now seeking candidates to fill our Physician Recruiter position to head our New Physicians for Wisconsin program and assist healthcare employers around the state (both rural and urban sites) with sourcing and recruiting physicians.



Visit the UW-Madison [job posting](#) for the full position description and application information. Applications are now open, and will close on December 26th, 2018.



Wisconsin Office of Rural Health

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