



Top Stories

Community Support Helps Keeps Mental Health Crises At Bay

A peer support agency in rural New Hampshire offers communities a unique way to keep mental health crises at bay. The non-medical program doesn't offer medication or psychotherapy, but its director—who agrees New Hampshire faces a shortage of mental health services for rural residents—says the agency offers something equally as important: community.



Joe Yates on Unsplash

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Building Infrastructure for Rural Broadband

Georgia lawmakers have **passed a bill** aimed at expanding rural broadband. The bill allows electric membership cooperatives to **build and manage** their own broadband infrastructure.

According to the latest FCC data, 24 million Americans live in households that do not have access to a fixed terrestrial broadband provider, and eighty percent of that population lives in a rural area. A **new report** outlines the crucial role broadband plays in economic development and quality of life in rural areas.

Now paging Wisconsin legislators...

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Projected Changes for Auto-HPSAs

The Health Resources and Services Administration is in the midst of automating the designation process of HPSA (Health Professional Shortage Area) scores. These scores are very important, as they determine what benefits a site is able to receive from the federal government. According to the **latest impact statement**, a significant number of Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers and Look Alikes in Wisconsin will become noncompetitive as a result of automation.

Several more impact statements are expected before the automatic designation process is finalized. Do you expect a significant impact to your facility as a result of the changes? [Contact us](#).

[Read more](#)

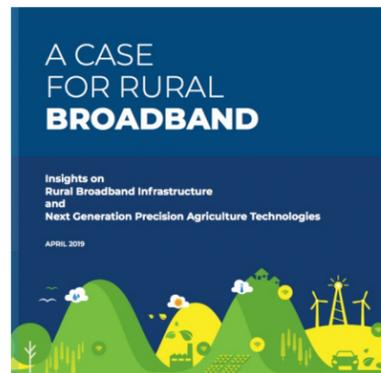
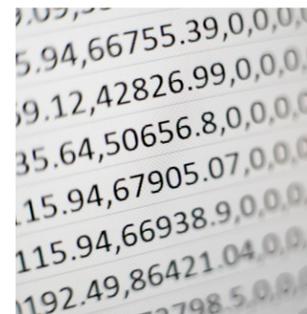


Photo: USDA



Mika Baumeister on Unsplash

More News

- A "**research recap**" crunches the numbers on rural obstetric care across the country.
- As Wisconsin plans to implement work requirements for Medicaid, other states are hitting **political and legal roadblocks** to implementation.
- Wisconsin lawmakers are considering a bill that would **remove the personal conviction waiver** for opting out of vaccinations.
- CEOs of seven rural North Carolina hospitals said that expanding Medicaid in their state **would help keep their hospital doors open**.

Funding & Opportunities

- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will provide grants for **action-oriented research that advances health equity** and informs policy making on income supports for low-income families. Submit a brief proposal by May 21.
- Grants for health networks in a pilot program to develop sustainable approaches to **coordinating maternal and obstetrics care within a rural region**. Deadline: May 24th.
- Loans and grants to help **expand broadband infrastructure** and services in rural areas. Deadline: May 31 for grants, June 21 for loan/grant combinations, and July 12 for low-interest loans.
- Grants to fund public food program service providers, tribal organizations, and private nonprofit entities to **enhance community food projects**. Deadline: June 3.
- Grants to help improve housing and community facilities and to spur community and economic **development in rural communities**. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that will combat substance use disorder in high-risk rural communities. Deadline: June 5.
- Two-year grants for **disseminating training and technical assistance** to rural communities addressing opioid abuse issues. Deadline: June 7.
- An initiative to **expand Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)** will grant an estimated eleven awards to those in rural counties. Webinar on May 16th. Deadline: June 10.
- An initiative to **establish three "Centers of Excellence"** that will provide information, best practices and more related to the treatment for and prevention of substance use disorders within rural communities. Deadline: June 10.
- Grants for **transportation infrastructure projects** that spur local economies. In 2018, the majority of grants awarded went to rural areas. Deadline: July 15.

A series of free collaborative learning sessions, hosted from the teleconference facilities at UW, will look at safer opioid prescribing practices. Sessions are targeted at specific prescribers: pediatric providers, emergency medicine providers, pre-hospital providers, and primary care providers. The series is available for free CME credit live and after the fact. [Register](#).



Events

- May 16: A **workshop series** in Wausau and Rhinelander will help attendees understand addiction and facilitate recovery.
- May 20-21: A **workshop** will train individuals on how to deliver the Matrix Model--an evidence-based outpatient substance use disorder treatment program. Register by May 10.
- June 12-14: The WHA Rural Health Conference is designed for hospital and rural health leadership. An [agenda](#) and [registration details](#) are now available.
- June 24: Risk managers in rural hospitals are invited to attend a **risk management workshop** in Sauk City. Register by June 3rd.

Moment of Rural



Photo: Colleen Gunderson on Instagram

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Colleen Gunderson writes on Instagram:

"It happens, and only they know why."

If you have an Instagram account, follow [Colleen, our office](#), and the [#ruralwisconsin](#) hashtag.

