Top Stories

More On A Potential Marshfield Clinic/Gundersen Health Merger
Two major Wisconsin health systems serving primarily rural areas are discussing a potential merger that would span about two-third of Wisconsin’s counties.
The potential merger between Marshfield Clinic Health System and Gundersen Health System was first announced earlier this month, and it’s still unclear what a union would mean for rural healthcare. But the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel delved deep into the specifics.

Legislation Would Help CAH Designation
Critical Access Hospitals are unique hospitals that are designed to sustain access to care in rural America. It’s a designation that provides rural hospitals benefits in recognition of the unique challenges they face.
Currently, a rural hospital must be at least 35 miles away from another hospital to receive the designation of Critical Access Hospital.
But newly introduced legislation would remove the mileage requirement for a state to designate a hospital as a CAH. The legislation is strongly endorsed by the National Rural Health Association.

Bill Would Boost Volunteer Workforce/EMS Workforce
Wisconsin’s rural areas face a chronic shortage of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians, but state legislators have introduced new legislation to boost the volunteer workforce for these professions.
The B.R.A.V.E. Act (Beginning Retention and Attraction for Volunteer Emergency personnel) would create three refundable tax credits aimed at attracting and retaining firefighters and emergency medical personnel.

More News

• An organization helps millennials strengthen their rural communities.
• Lawmakers have introduced legislation to expand the Conrad 30 Waiver program.
• The country's first trial over whether a pharmaceutical company is liable for the opioid crisis began this week in Oklahoma.
• A report outlines a way to find the rural counties in highest need of additional safety net providers and resources and primary care providers.

Funding & Opportunities

• Registered nurses can apply for projects that enhance knowledge and awareness of cancer prevention, detection, and treatment. Deadline: June 15.
Planning and implementation grants to support the consumption and access to locally and regionally produced food. Deadline: June 18.

Grants to construct, expand, or modernize small tribal ambulatory healthcare facilities. Deadline: June 28.

Grants to organizations that work to rehabilitate and preserve affordable housing for rural, low-income homeowners and renters. Deadline: July 8.

Grants to expand health and wellness in Indian Country. Deadline: July 12.

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Grants to expand health and wellness in Indian Country. Deadline: July 12.

Grants for projects that improve access to oral health care, including the purchase of equipment and supplies for low income clinics and oral health education programs. Deadline: July 31.

The application for our office’s Health Professions Loan Assistance Program is now open. Eligible health care professionals who agree to work in federally-defined health shortage areas are invited to apply. Deadline: September 12.

Events

- May 31: A webinar will focus on overcoming communication and strategy barriers for rural initiatives. 11am Central.

- June 4: A webinar will highlight how providers have incorporated trauma-informed care into their day-to-day practice treating substance use disorder.

- June 6: A free boot camp in Appleton will cover the basics of infection prevention. Deadline to register: May 31st.

- June 12-14: Say hello to us at the Wisconsin Rural Health Conference in the Wisconsin Dells. Find the agenda and registration details here.