

Virginia State Office of Rural Health (VA-SORH) Innovative Rural Programming Awards

- Awards consist of annual grants that range in value from **\$1,000 to \$20,000**. Recipients must reapply each year and will receive subsequent grants based on their progress and performance. Priority will be given to grantees that demonstrate a need for the funding, have a clear plan in place for using the funding, and can articulate the anticipated impact of the funding if received.
 - **The application cycle for grant year 2021-2022 will open on November 23rd, 2020.**
 - You may access application instructions and documents on [SORH's website](#).
 - **Application submissions must be received by 5 p.m. on January 8th, 2021.**
 - Funds will be dispersed during the fiscal year to start 07/01/2021 – 06/30/2022.
 - **Applications will be reviewed and awards will be announced March 15, 2021.**
 - If requested, awardees must submit an updated work plan/budget by April 30th before funding is awarded July 1st.
- Applicants should represent a public agency, tribal organization or private non-profit holding a 501(c)(3) tax-exemption in the Commonwealth of Virginia that is a designated rural service provider, Rural Health Clinic, Health Professional Shortage Area or a Medically Underserved Area/Population.
- The proposed project must be completed within 12 months from the date the grant money is awarded. If your organization is asking for partial funding of a larger project, the organization must include a total budget plan that clearly shows how the organization will complete the project within 12 months.
- The organization must have a program currently operating or impacting any of the following focus areas (may combine more than one focus area): Healthy Moms & Babies, Food Access & Nutrition, Workforce Development, Behavioral Health, and Telehealth.

Innovative Rural Programming Grant – up to \$20,000.00

- Provides funding for a 12-month period to support a variety of types of projects that support any of the five VA-SORH target areas. These topics were chosen by VA-SORH as programmatic target areas for the grant years 2021-2026 after facilitating *Community Conversations* in many of Virginia's rural communities. During those conversations, these topics were most frequently mentioned as integral to the overall health and well-being of Virginia's rural communities.
 - 1) **Healthy Moms & Babies**
 - 2) **Food Access & Nutrition**
 - 3) **Workforce Development**
 - 4) **Behavioral Health**
 - 5) **Telehealth**

Examples of Projects:

Healthy Moms & Babies Programming

- Provides funding for a 12-month period to support a variety of types of projects, including but not limited to: increasing access to prenatal and postpartum maternity care, community health worker/doula home visitor program, building trauma-informed communities, bridge or tunnel stipends for maternity care providers to travel to or from the Eastern Shore, etc.

Food Access & Nutrition Programming

- Provides funding for a 12-month period to support a variety of types of projects, including but not limited to: increasing food security, affordability and accessibility, educating how to grow, preserve and prepare food, community gardens, food hubs, training agricultural workforce, collaborating with local food retailers to reallocate surplus foods, etc.

Rural Workforce Development Programming

- Provides funding for a 12-month period to support a variety of types of projects, including but not limited to: community health worker, first responder classes, health career camps, veteran matriculation, certified health educator training, health career opportunity training or “pipeline” programs, etc.

Rural Provider Training

- Provides funding for a 12-month period to support a provider-training program that services rural clinics, hospitals, and health care systems in behavioral health, telehealth, substance abuse.

Behavioral Health Programming

- Provides funding for a 12-month period to support a variety of types of projects, including but not limited to: Veterans post-trauma referral programs, pediatric and adolescent adverse childhood experience’s referral programs for psychiatrists, addiction counselors, building recovery workforce, expanding peer support networks, etc.

Rural Substance Abuse Programming (Awareness-Focused)

- Provides funding for a 12-month period to support a variety of types of projects, including but not limited to: substance abuse training, Naloxone distribution training, opioid use prevention, treatment and reduction programs, peer counselors, Veterans post-trauma referral programs, pediatric and adolescent adverse childhood experience’s referral programs for psychiatrists, addiction counselors, etc.

Opioid Reduction Programming (Resource Distribution-Focused)

- Provides funding for a 12-month period to support a variety of types of projects, including but not limited to: Prescription disposal programs, opioid use prevention, treatment and reduction programs, opioid tool kits, Veterans post trauma referral programs, pediatric and adolescent adverse childhood experience’s referral programs for psychiatrists, addiction counselors, etc.

Telehealth Programming

- Provides funding for a 12-month period to support a variety of types of projects via telehealth, including but not limited to: Provider substance abuse consulting, veterans’ referral programs, pediatric and adolescent referral programs for psychiatrists, addiction counselors, etc.

What are the obligations of the recipients?

The organization awarded must publicize the VA-SORH sponsorship via logo in all the official documents related to the funded program (announcements, program, website, presentations, flyers etc.). All presentations must include a designated VA-SORH slide that will be provided upon request by the VA-SORH program manager. During public programming, a representative of VA-SORH must be allowed to attend if scheduling permits and VA-SORH must have the opportunity to advertise and have a vendor both if applicable. After the meeting, the organizers should submit a report to VA-SORH of the program’s summary of events and an attendance list each quarter when implemented.

VA-SORH Sub Recipient Grant Restrictions (Unallowable cost)

- The organization may request no more than the amount listed in the summary of funding. Awards to support projects beyond the first budget year will be contingent upon satisfactory progress in meeting the project's objectives, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of VA-SORH.
- Fund research projects that lack a direct linkage component addressing the following:
 - 1) Healthy Moms & Babies
 - 2) Food Access & Nutrition
 - 3) Workforce Development
 - 4) Behavioral Health
 - 5) Telehealth
- Fund travel expenses to conferences, food, completed projects, debt reduction campaigns, building an endowment, land acquisition projects, religious or church-sponsored facilities limited to church membership or projects that exclusively serve religious purposes, general operating costs, fundraisers or raffles, alcohol, entertainment cost, promotional items, advisory boards, honoraria, invention, patent, or licensing costs, lobbying, meals, pre-award costs, promotional items (SWAG,) etc.
- Underwrite sponsorships.
- An organization may not receive funding for more than one project until the completion or termination of a funded program.

Definitions

Annual – Occurring once every year.

Sub-recipient – A non-Federal entity that receives a sub award from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal program.

Financially Stable – Being able to maintain the proposed project without continued funding from VA-SORH.

How to Submit an Application

Applications may be submitted by one of the following ways:

- Email: sarah.oconnor@vdh.virginia.gov
- Mail: Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity
Attn: SORH Program Coordinator
109 Governor Street, Suite 714E
Richmond, VA 23219