



## WY Office of Rural Health Newsletter



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### In This Issue

- Wyoming Office of Rural Health Updates
- Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities
- Events and Training Opportunities
- Telehealth Updates
- Jobs and Service Opportunities
- Resources

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## Wyoming Office of Rural Health Updates

### What is the Wyoming Office of Rural Health (ORH)?:

The WY-ORH is a program within the Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division, that seeks to enhance access to healthcare services, support the development of an adequate healthcare workforce, and promote collaboration in expanding comprehensive, community-based healthcare in

rural Wyoming. The WY-ORH houses the Wyoming Primary Care Office, the State Loan Repayment Program, the Wyoming Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program, and the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP). Additionally, WY-ORH provides funding and support for the Wyoming Telehealth Network, the Wyoming Telehealth Consortium, and the Research and Explore Awesome Careers in Healthcare (REACH) Program, and provides technical assistance for a variety of activities including grant writing, provider recruitment, and community assessment development. *If you have questions about the ORH and its programs, please feel free to reach out to Alyssa Kennett at [alyssa.kennett@wyo.gov](mailto:alyssa.kennett@wyo.gov).*

### **November 21, 2019 is National Rural Health Day!**

The Office of Rural Health will be celebrating National Rural Health Day (NRHD), and we invite you to celebrate with us. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved in NRHD and celebrate all that rural Wyoming has to offer.



## **Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities**

### **Garden Grant Program**

This funding opportunity is offered by the Whole Kids Foundation. They believe that the more kids know and feel connected to their food, the more curious they become about how things grow or taste, and the more willing they are to try new foods. The Whole Kids Foundation is funding edible garden learning spaces. Increasing access to opportunities for our rural kids to learn about nutrition is a great way to set them up for healthy choices early on. Visit their [website](#) to learn more about the Foundation and their funding opportunity.

- **Maximum Award:** \$2,000
- **Eligible Applicants:** K-12 school or a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- **Application Deadline:** October 15, 2019
- **Apply** [Here](#)

### **Rural Health Network Development Planning Program**

This funding opportunity is offered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and supports funding for a one year planning period for healthcare organizations who wish to form a healthcare network in order to deliver better, more efficient care to their communities. Follow this [link](#) for more details regarding an applicant technical assistance webinar and application instructions.

- **Maximum Award:** \$100,000
- **Eligible Applicants:** rural nonprofit organizations, public entities, federally recognized tribes (an applicant must represent a consortium of three or more collaboration organizations).
- **Project Period:** 1 Year
- **Application Deadline:** November 29, 2019

*Technical assistance is available to interested applicants through the Wyoming Office of Rural Health.*

## Research and Explore Awesome Careers in Healthcare (REACH)



The Research and Explore Awesome Careers in Healthcare (REACH) Program is an exciting program supported by the WY-ORH focusing on rural students in grades 5-10. The purpose of the program is to increase students' awareness, interest, and understanding of healthcare careers available in rural Wyoming. Grant award recipients host day camps in a healthcare setting where students are introduced to rural healthcare careers through a variety of innovative activities.

Learn more about the REACH Program and access the grant application on our [website](#).

- **Maximum Award:** \$1,490
- **Eligible Applicants:** rural healthcare organizations, rural schools or school districts, non profit organizations, and other organizations per ORH approval.
- **Project Period:** August 2019-June 2020
- **Application Deadline:** January 31, 2020 or until all awards are distributed

*Technical assistance is available to interested applicants through the Wyoming Office of Rural Health.*

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### Helmsley Charitable Trust Grant Opportunity

Some critical access hospitals may be eligible for grant funding to implement eCARE Pharmacy and/or eCARE Emergency through the Helmsley Charitable Trust. To discover opportunities for potential funding, contact Stacey Tait-Goodale at [Stacey.taitgoodale@aver.org](mailto:Stacey.taitgoodale@aver.org) or 605-595-5591. For more information on Avera eCARE, visit [AveraeCARE.org](http://AveraeCARE.org).

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### Business Council Accepting Community Review Applications

The [Wyoming Business Council](#) and the [University of Wyoming Extension](#) invite you to apply for a community review to benefit your community in 2020.

A community review is a strategic planning process designed and conducted in coordination with leaders, business owners and residents in your community. The centerpiece of the program is a one- to three-day visit to your community by a team of community and economic development professionals. The members of this "visiting team" volunteer their time and talents to support your community in developing a plan to manage change and pursue your goals on your terms.

- **Deadline:** October 30, 2019
- **Application:** Click [Here](#) for Application Packet

*Please review the application packet, then contact your Wyoming Business Council [regional director](#) to express your interest in applying or to ask any questions you may have.*

## Vulnerable Rural Hospitals Assistance Program

This Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) Cooperative Agreement is designed to offer technical assistance to rural hospitals at risk of closure. The program provides Tier 1 assistance to five hospitals, which includes site visits from the Center for Optimizing Rural Health (CORH) Team and Tier 2 assistance to twenty-five hospitals, which involves phone calls and other targeted assistance.

- **Deadline:** October 31, 2019
- **Application Portal:** [Click Here](#)

*To learn more about the Center for Optimizing Rural Health, this technical assistance opportunity, or to access application FAQs, follow the above link to the application portal.*

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## Events and Training Opportunities

### Wyoming Residents Invited to Help Set Public Health Priorities



The Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division, in partnership with a multi-sector steering committee, are leading efforts to develop a state health improvement plan (SHIP). A SHIP is a data-driven roadmap for multiple partners to actively work together to improve population health. We invite community members across the state to actively participate in the priority-setting process for the SHIP. Community meetings are being scheduled around the state through mid-October. We encourage you to view the [schedule](#) and participate as you're able. Please feel free to share this information with others as well. If you have questions or want to learn more, please contact Feliciano Turner, performance improvement manager, at 307-777-8946 or by email at [feliciano.turner@wyo.gov](mailto:feliciano.turner@wyo.gov).

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### Effective Grant Writing for Rural Hospitals

The Center for Optimizing rural Health is hosting a free webinar on October 8, 2019 from 12p-1pm CST. To participate, register [here](#).

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### Crucial Conversations Training in Powell, WY

*Powell Valley Healthcare is pleased to offer  
A One-Day Crucial Conversations Conference  
for Healthcare Organizations*

*"Tools for Talking When the Stakes are High"  
Presented by Vital Smarts*

Northwest College Yellowstone Building in Powell, WY  
Thursday, November 7, 2019, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
\$100 per participant includes breakfast, lunch and materials

For more information and registration contact Tami Lineback, Staff Educator at Powell Valley Healthcare at [tami.lineback@pvhc.org](mailto:tami.lineback@pvhc.org) or 307.754.1133. For scholarship information contact Kyle Cameron, Program Manager at [kyle.cameron@wyo.gov](mailto:kyle.cameron@wyo.gov) or 307.777.8902.

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# Telehealth Updates

## Telehealth services may increase access to healthcare for Wyoming's aging Baby Boomers.

The [Telehealth Index: 2019 Consumer Survey](#) recently published by American Well, revealed that 61% of Baby Boomers are "willing to try virtual care visits", and that this age group was the least concerned of all age groups about technology barriers when it comes to accessing healthcare services. According to a [report](#) released in 2018 by AARP, Wyoming's population is aging faster than any other state, and it ranks second in the number of persons over the age of 65 who live in rural areas. Along with an aging population comes increased healthcare costs. Difficulty in accessing health care services in rural areas often means that the aging cannot stay in their own homes or communities. Increasing telehealth adoption by Wyoming's rural primary care providers and other health care providers may aid in increasing healthcare access for the elderly, while reducing healthcare costs. Wyoming's Baby Boomers may be even more ready for telehealth than we think--and we ought not stand in their way.

*If you are a provider, and you are interested in learning more about providing telehealth services, please reach out to the [Wyoming Telehealth Network](#) for resources and technical assistance.*

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### Upcoming WyTN Webinar

**October Session:**

**Telegenetics in Public Health Nursing  
Offices  
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm MST**

**[\\*Click Here to pre-register for this session\\*](#)**

*Recordings of Previous Webinar sessions can be found on the [Wyoming Telehealth Network Website](#)*



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### Participate in mapping Wyoming's broadband coverage

Broadband coverage is critical to the implementation and utilization of telehealth in Wyoming's rural communities. The Wyoming Business Council and its Wyoming State Broadband Program is working to map broadband coverage in Wyoming, and you can help! The Broadband Program is asking Wyoming residents to take the broadband speed test in order to contribute as many data points as possible to Wyoming's innovative [broadband map](#).

**Take the Broadband Test today! Click [Here](#).**

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## Jobs and Opportunities

**ORH Seeking Americorp VISTA**

The WY-ORH is seeking an Americorp Vista to join our team! If you, or someone you know, is interested in applying or learning more about this opportunity to serve rural Wyoming, please follow this [link](#) to the position application.

## CEMS now available at Casper College



### Community EMS Courses Offered this Fall.

The Casper College School of Health Science Paramedic Technology Department will offer a number of Community EMS courses during the Fall 2019 semester. The courses are designed for currently practicing EMTs and paramedics who are interested in expanding their skill set in order to serve their community in new ways such as assisting patients in navigating healthcare challenges, and providing non-traditional EMS services such as preventive care.

Click here to learn more about the CEMS Program!

## Resources

Sign up to receive news from the [Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center \(MHTCC\)](#)

Here is why you should consider [Joining the Listserv](#):

- Be the first to get information about free trainings and webinars
- Learn about new products developed for working with rural populations
- Access trainings and videos on: ACES, First Episode Psychosis, School Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, and more
- Find out when new MP-MHTCC curriculum infusion packets, podcasts, and videos are released

### Rural Health Information Hub



About RHiHub: "The Rural Health Information Hub, formerly the Rural Assistance Center, is funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy to be a national clearinghouse on rural health issues."-- RHiHub Website

RHiHub is a valuable resource for a large variety of rural relevant topics including funding opportunities, rural relevant research, and rural best practices.

Click on the logo to visit the RHiHub website.

### Rural Health Research Gateway

Rural Health Research Gateway is a federally-funded Rural Health Research Center. Visit their [website](#) to learn more.

Join our mailing list!