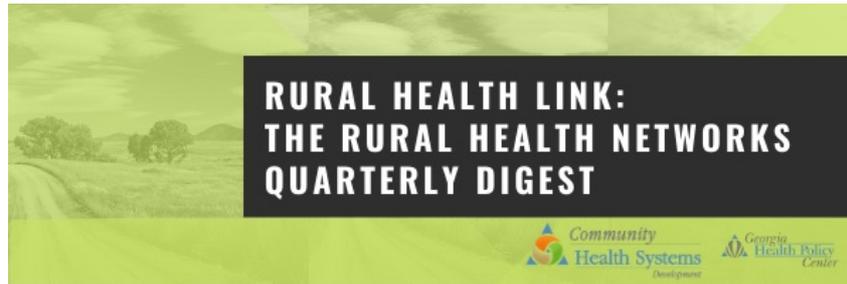


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Brought to you by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) and the Community Health Systems Development Team at the Georgia Health Policy Center

Grantee Spotlight



Grantee Profile: CATCH Network (Nebraska)

The Community Access to Coordinated Healthcare (CATCH) Network is a service delivery system made up of six local health departments and one Community Action Agency in Southeast Nebraska. It seeks to improve care coordination between primary care clinics and local health departments across 30 rural counties in Nebraska through building comprehensive screening capacity that meets the clinical, behavioral, and social needs of high-risk chronic care patients with heart failure, hypertension, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and depression.

The Georgia Health Policy Center recently interviewed Dave Palm, Ph.D., from the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Public Health and a consultant on this project, about participation in the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy's Network Development Program.

[Read more](#)

Schedule of Quarterly TA-Related Activities



Evaluation Plan Resources

If you haven't already, please email a copy of your completed evaluation plan to your technical assistance (TA) provider. The TA provider and project officer will review it with you on your monthly TA call in March or April. Thanks!

Follow-Up and Support for Use of the RHND Measures and Data Tracking Tool



- Hopefully, you have had time to review the recently released [Network Measures and Data Tracking Tool](#) developed for the 2020 Rural Health Network Development (RHND) grantees, and perhaps have viewed the [companion video tutorial](#). With the completion of your strategic and evaluation plans and the ongoing collection of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy's Performance Improvement Measurement System measures that will be reported annually, a data tracking tool might come in handy as you ramp up your data collection and analysis efforts. This tracking tool allows you to capture, record, and monitor not only funder-required measures but also may be customized to include network- and/or program-specific measures. Plus, it has the added bonus of a data dashboard feature that you may use to monitor measures that you deem most important. **(The use of this tool is optional.)**
- **Save the Date: A "Data Tracking Tool" Office Hours Session** will be held on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, from 2-3 p.m. ET with the creator of the Network Measures and Data Tracking Tool. During this session, the tool will be reviewed via the tutorial video at the top of the hour, and you may call in at any time to ask questions about the steps to customize the tool, use of this tool in general, etc. Here is the meeting [link](#).



Support for Data Sharing

Perhaps during your recent evaluation planning conversations, the need to develop or update a data sharing agreement has arisen. As you give this some thought, one of the resources below may be helpful. If you need additional resources, check with your TA Provider.

- [Sample Data Sharing Agreement](#)
- [Tips for Creating Data Sharing Agreements for Partnerships document](#)
- [Data Sharing and Communication Across Partnerships videos](#)
- [Data Sharing Toolkit for Communities](#) (Designed from educators' viewpoint so it may be especially helpful when talking with schools.)



Rural Health Network Development Peer Groups will meet again in April

RHND peer groups began meeting in early 2021. Going forward, these groups will meet quarterly, with the next meetings happening in April. If you have not heard from your peer group facilitator regarding the April date, feel free to reach out to the facilitator or ask your TA provider for assistance. Please note that you may still attend future peer group meetings even if you missed the first one.

Program-Specific Updates

Upcoming Deliverables

- The Non-Competing Continuation Report (NCC) is a deliverable that allows HRSA to renew your budget period and release the continuation funding for your ongoing award. The due date for the NCC is Friday April 2, 2021, submitted in the EHBs. Program specific instructions were sent out by your Program Officers (PO) last month. If you did not receive the instructions, please contact your HRSA PO.
 - Please note that a complete NCC report will include: SF-PPR, Performance Narrative, and 4 Attachments.
 - This is not a vehicle to request significant changes of scope or

- budget. If these changes are necessary, please speak with your PO.
- The Data Dashboard will be due on June 30, 2021 through the EHBs. Further instructions will be provided later this month.

HRSA Resources

If you are a new Program Director or would like additional resources on how to manage your grant effectively, please visit HRSA's Manage Your Grant website.

- The Office of Federal Assistance Management provides trainings and technical assistance that highlight additional resources and answer questions regarding grant-related issues. Here are the [dates](#) of the upcoming events.
- If you are learning how to navigate the Electronic Handbooks (EHBs) [here](#) are a series of interactive [videos](#) that help answer common questions.
- The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy releases weekly announcements that are a terrific resource for learning more about new federal funding opportunities, COVID-19, and policy updates. Be sure to sign up [here](#).
- The Rural Health Information Hub produces step-by-step, evidence-based toolkits that showcase program approaches you can adapt to fit your community and the people you serve. The most recent focus areas include Early Childhood Health Promotion, Community Health Workers, and Community Paramedicine. For a full list of over 20 Evidence-Based toolkits, please visit [RHlhub](#).

Articles

[ACA Open Enrollment Matters for Medicaid Coverage Too](#)

President Biden signed an executive order to reopen the Affordable Care Act Marketplace enrollment period. The open enrollment period will start on Feb. 15, 2021, and end on May 15, 2021. The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that the new enrollment period could benefit close to 9 million uninsured individuals and lead eligible low-income individuals to enroll in Medicaid coverage. The article details how the Marketplace enrollment period can bring awareness and promote Medicaid enrollment. Click [here](#) to access the article.

[Biden Wants to Partner with Health Centers to Promote More Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

As a national strategy, the Biden Administration plans to partner with community health centers and use them as key distribution points for COVID-19 vaccinations. This is an effort to increase access to the vaccination for hard-to-reach communities and populations that have been hit the hardest during the pandemic, including communities of color. Additionally, the administration plans to use the community health centers as mass distribution sites and deploy mobile clinics. The article also highlights key challenges to deploying the COVID-19 vaccines as reported by health centers. Click [here](#) to access the article.

Resources, News, and Other Updates

[Advancing Health, Equity, and Well-being through Community-State Data Sharing Partnership: Thought Leader Insight](#)

Community-based organizations, health systems, and governmental entities across the nation are leveraging multisector partnerships as a strategy to address the needs of their communities and ultimately improve the health of their residents. This report highlights opportunities for success, key themes (current priorities, emerging opportunities, and key success factors), and implications for program design for community-state data-sharing partnerships that will aid in advancing health equity and the overall well-being of the communities the partnership serves.

Click [here](#) to access the report.

[Community Needs Assessment COVID-19 Update Template](#)

The National Community Action Partnership has updated their COVID-19 Community Needs Assessment template. The template should be used to supplement an already existing community needs assessment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The template guides readers to think about:

- The immediate impact on the community including on health, employment, education, human services, and community resources
- Anticipated short- and long-term impacts such as prolonged service disruptions; prolonged issues around employment, community resources, and coordination; and exacerbated housing issues
- Addressing equity implications

Click [here](#) to access the template.

[Government Accountability Office Report on Rural Hospital Closures](#)

The latest report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office addresses the effects of hospital closures on residents in rural areas. Among other objectives, the report examines how closures affected the number of health care providers and the distance residents traveled for health care services. Click [here](#) to

access the report.

[Hallways to Health: Creating a School-Wide Culture of Wellness](#)

The Hallways to Health Model toolkit guides schools in adopting school-wide wellness initiatives and provides readers with additional resources and tools.

The toolkit covers:

- Building a wellness team
- Building buy-in and engaging stakeholders
- Engaging the community, youth, parents, guardians, and school partners
- Assessing conditions for wellness
- Creating and implementing an action plan
- Sustaining efforts

Click [here](#) to access the toolkit.

[Podcast: Engaging Staff to Be Equity-Minded](#)

Engaging Staff to be Equity-Minded is the fourth episode of the Leadership Forward podcast and blog series developed by the Public Sector Leadership Consortium. The podcast and blog series delves into the consortium's Framework for Public Health Leadership. This episode features special guests, Womazetta Jones, secretary of Rhode Island's Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and Karen Kimsey, director of the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services. Each guest shares leadership strategies they have implemented to create a culture of equity within their organizations, engagements with stakeholders, and the communities they serve. Click [here](#) to access this episode.

[School-Based Health: The Blueprint](#)

Created by the School-Based Health Alliance, the Blueprint provides readers with the tools, guides, and other resources to plan and implement a school-based health center (SBHC) or program. The toolkit also provides examples of successful SBHCs and programs. The toolkit offers various resources on the following topics:

- The planning process (checklists, readiness assessments, engaging stakeholders, etc.)
- Building partnership (contract templates, MOUs, MOAs, bylaws, etc.)
- Communication (marketing, advocacy, outreach, etc.)
- Business (operations improvement plan, sustainability plan, billing, etc.)
- Facilities (design guidelines, considerations, supply lists, etc.)
- Health information (release of information, HIPPA, FERPA, etc.)
- Care management (mental health screenings, oral health, clinical assessments, etc.)
- Program evaluation and quality (performance measures, academic reporting, quality improvement plans, etc.)
- Policies and procedures (emergency preparedness, best practice protocols, mental health emergencies, etc.)

Click [here](#) to access the toolkit.

[Telehealth Sample Forms and Templates](#)

The Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center provides a list of sample forms and templates for telehealth planning, implementation, and practice. Sample forms and templates are provided on:

- Telehealth job descriptions
- Telemedicine consultation consent forms
- Consent for treatment and release of information
- Information needs and use survey
- Readiness assessment forms
- Survey of physician and computer technology form
- Telehealth appointment log template
- Telehealth encounter and protocol forms
- Telehealth video conferencing agreement form

Click [here](#) to access the forms and templates.

[Toolkits for Telehealth Planning and Practice:](#)

The National Telehealth Technology Assessment Resource Center provides interactive toolkits that allow users to learn the fundamentals of various technological devices, platforms, and apps and assess their use for their respective telehealth programs. Additional toolkits assist users with identifying their needs and aligning technology with clinical requirements. A few of the toolkits are:

- Technology assessment 101
- Clinician's guide to video platforms
- Patient exam cameras
- Home telehealth
- Mobile blood pressure

Click [here](#) to access the toolkits.

Upcoming Events

[Virtual: 2021 Annual National Association of Community Health Centers Policy and Issues Forum](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Community Health Centers

March 15-18, 2021

Please join the National Association of Community Health Centers as they host their 2021 Policy and Issues Forum in a virtual format. The forum will focus on funding, resources, and COVID-19 vaccination planning issues. Click [here](#) for more information.



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PRACTICES

[Virtual: 2021 Rural Child Hunger Summit](#)

March 23, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. EDT & March 24, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. EDT

Please join No Kid Hungry as they host their third annual Rural Child Hunger Summit. The summit will cover the topics of disparities exacerbating child hunger in rural communities, identifying practices and policies that increase the impact of existing nutrition assistance programs, and reducing rural child hunger incidences. Additionally, the summit will highlight community-based, user-centered, and evidence-based innovations. Click [here](#) for more information.



[Virtual: 2021 Critical Access Hospital Conference](#)

April 8-9, 2021 11:00 a.m-1:30 p.m.

Please join the Eide Bailly Alliance as they host their annual Critical Access Hospital Conference. This year's conference will focus on cost reporting and provide attendees with strategies to enhance their overall financial performance. The conference will host two key sessions that focus on the Medicare cost report and the revenue cycle. Click [here](#) for more information



[Virtual: 2021 Collective Impact Action Summit](#)

April 27-29, 2021

Please join FSG and the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions as they host their first annual Collective Impact Action Summit. The summit will highlight innovative thinking and lessons learned on the role of cross-sector collaboration in contributing to COVID-19 response and rebuilding, advancing racial justice, and addressing other currently pressing challenges. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in breakout sessions and network with other attendees. Click [here](#) for more information.

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