

LORHN news & updates



March 2023

CHA's In Action



Bree and Sharon at the Belle Glade Housing Authority Health Fair on March 11, 2023.

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Sharon and Lenin at the 2023 Okeechobee Health & Safety Expo



Hello Karis,

Congratulations, we have nearly made it through the first 100 days of the year! The LORHN team is hard at work connecting with our rural communities and partners to share health information and resources, advocate for their needs, and link them to various health and human services.

As a 2023 NRHA Fellow, I attended the Rural Health Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. in February and look forward to sharpening my legislative advocacy skills to further support rural Floridians and their access to quality health services. LORHN's Network/Board members have a longstanding history of advocating for our rural communities at the local, regional, state, and national levels. We are prepared to strengthen these efforts to support the expansion of telehealth, the use of the community health worker model, training and workforce development, and more to improve access to quality health services for our rural communities.

Also, a huge thank you to our network members and community partners for your continued support via space to meet with clients, hosting presentations, invitations to community events and connections to resources for clients. We could not be successful without your collaboration.

We trust you will find the information, resources, and professional development opportunities shared in this newsletter helpful.

Be well and stay safe,

Andrea Stephenson, MBA, MHS, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer





Partner Spotlight: LORHN Network Members

The beginning of 2023 was a busy one, with our team attending several large community events around Lake Okeechobee sharing health information, and encouraging rural residents to stay up-to-date with their COVID vaccine and boosters. We want to say a big THANK YOU and spotlight the amazing network members that coordinated and supported these events.

Hendry Regional Medical Center

Hosted the Hendry/Glades Health Fair for the first time in five years - with free health screenings, food, vaccines, and access to dozens of health and human service organizations.

Florida Community Health Centers, Inc.

The Clewiston center also attended the Hendry/Glades Health Fair and coordinated with LORHN to provide COVID vaccine and boosters on-site, with residents receiving a \$35 grocery card courtesy of LORHN.

FCHC & LORHN team members at the 2023 Hendry Glades Community Health Fair worked together to get 25 residents vaccinated!

Florida Department of Health - Hendry/Glades Counties

Staff provided LORHN with Drug Deactivation and Disposal System bags that are safe, convenient, and permanent. LORHN will be distributing these to our clients and communities around the Lake at future outreach events. This product is perfect to use for medication that has expired or is no longer needed to help keep everyone in the household safe.





LORHN Community Programs

Preventing Opioid Overdose in Rural Western Palm Beach County

What are Opioids? Watch the 1-minute video to learn that and the warning signs of their use.

LORHN Community Health Advocates (CHAs) are providing Opioid education via live or virtual presentations, one-on-one meetings, and educational handouts during outreach. This program is funded by the CDC and aims to reduce opioid overdoses and related deaths in rural Western Palm Beach County.

If you, or someone you know, may be experiencing signs of addiction to opioid medication or other substances we are here for you. We have assisted many individuals to apply for unemployment, SNAP benefits, health insurance, and more. Whether you are ready to seek treatment or need help getting by, call us.

		
	<p>Opioid Prevention Handout</p>	
	<p>Refer to LORHN</p>	

There are no eligibility requirements for the program, it is open to all in Palm Beach County
Refer clients to our team via Unite Us, phone call (561) 557-9273, or [email](#).



COVID Vaccine + Booster Campaign

We also continue to promote and encourage everyone to get the COVID primary series vaccines and the updated **bivalent** booster that became available in Fall 2022. Bivalent boosters are recommended two months after their last dose (initial series or previous boosters).

CHAs are providing a \$35 Winn Dixie or Walmart gift card to vaccine-hesitant individuals. Additionally, we are helping individuals impacted apply for various public programs and financial assistance.

Call our team today to help find a vaccine near you or make an appointment at (863) 532-3099 or (561) 545-4751.

GET VACCIN STAY BOO AGAINST C



Com

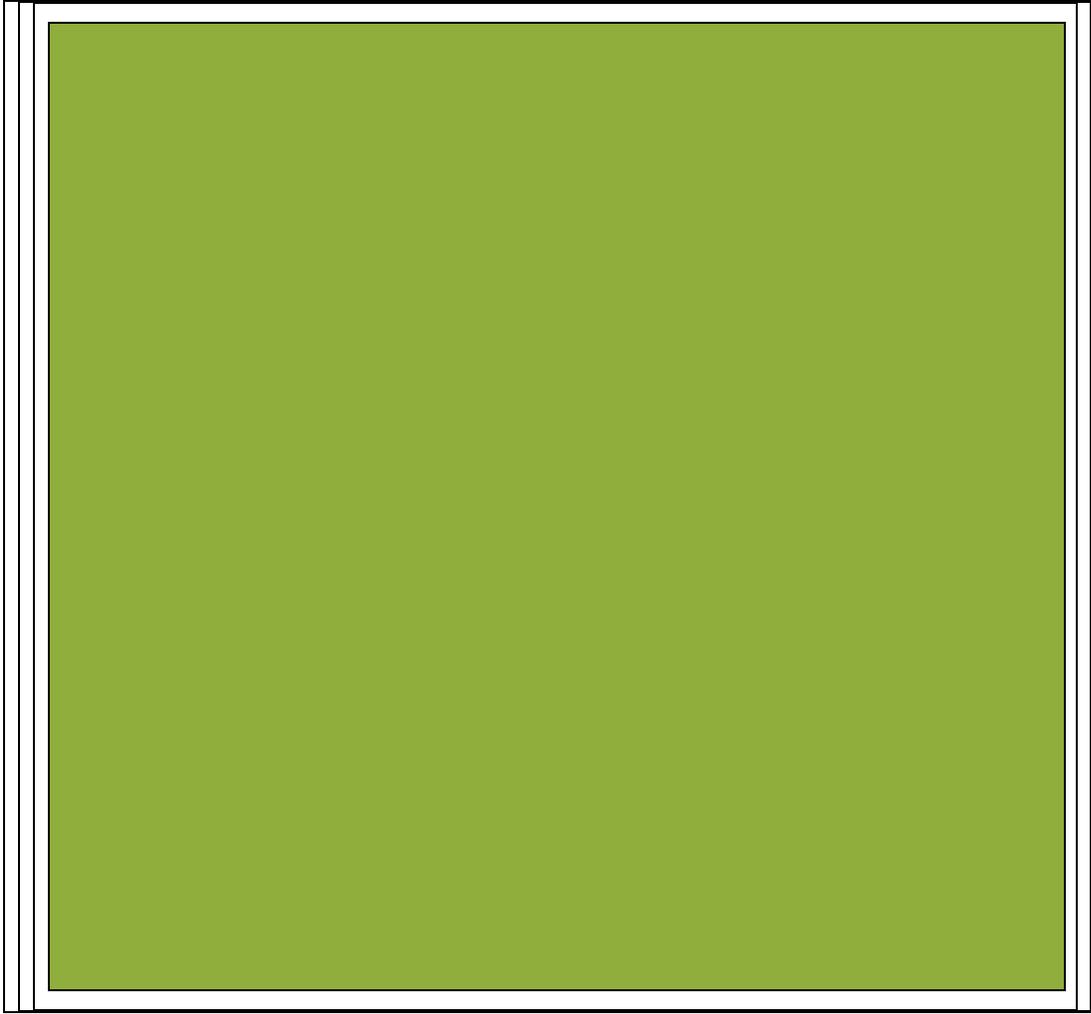
Stay
HEALTHY.
SUNSHINE



[Find Vaccines](#)

[When to Get Boosted](#)

[Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition Roadmap](#)



Rural News Articles



West Virginia Doctors Work to Bridge the Healthcare Gap in Rural Areas

PBS News Hour
March 22, 2023



DEA Proposed Regulations Post-PHE

(Video + Slide Deck)

Center for Connected Health Policy
March 20, 2023

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has published two proposed regulations to address how telehealth may be used to prescribe controlled substances in a post-PHE environment. The DEA is proposing new exceptions that along with what is already in current law, will open up more ways for telehealth to be used to prescribe a controlled substance, but they are highly specific. At this point, these are only proposed rules, but the **deadline to submit public comment is March 31st.**

[Read/ Listen](#)

When it comes to health, rural America lags far behind the country's urban and suburban areas. The reasons are complex and these challenges are the focus of a new series called Rural RX. With support from the Pulitzer Center and in collaboration with the Global Health Reporting Center, William Brangham starts our series in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

[Read/ Listen](#)



Upcoming Rural Health Events



Whats So Bad About “Mommy Brain”

April 13th, 2023 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Virtual

The term “Mommy Brain” is most often used in a derogatory way to describe how forgetful a new parent might be after the birth of their baby. Attendees will learn about how the maternal brain changes to support the newborn, especially in the 4th Trimester. When expecting parents, and those who support them in the childbearing year, are aware of these changes and can provide the necessary support these changes require, families can feel empowered and maybe even learn to celebrate “Mommy Brain.”



2023 Florida Asthma Coalition Summit

June 16, 2023

Florida SouthWestern State College + Virtual Fort Myers, FL

“Using Shared Decision-Making in Asthma Care”

The Florida Asthma Coalition's mission is To reduce the overall burden of asthma, with a focus on minimizing the disproportionate impact of asthma in racial/ethnic and low-income populations, by promoting asthma awareness and disease prevention at the community level and expanding and improving the quality of asthma education, management, and services through system and policy changes. The agenda is still in progress, click the link below to learn more.

[More Info](#)

[Register](#)



**NTCA: The Rural Broadband Association
2023 Summer Symposium**

July 23 - 26, 2023

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

July 30 - August 3, 2023

Radisson Blu Mall of America

Bloomington, MN

Advance your rural broadband community through effective leadership. The Summer Symposium is the only conference of its

2023 ANNUAL CO



LEVERAGING THE PUBLIC
Bridging the Gap of Mu

FL Public Health Association Conference

July 25-26, 2023

The Florida Hotel and Conference
Center Orlando, FL

Florida Public Health Association would like to invite our members and other public health professionals from around the state to our 2023 Annual Educational Conference. Presentations and Posters will focus around Social & Economic Factors, Public Health Collective, and Public Health In Action. Click the button for opportunities to be an attendee, speaker, exhibitor, or sponsor.

kind—designed specifically for new and veteran board members in the rural telco industry. It provides strategic, forward-thinking insights on effective leadership and successful practices in governance.

[Register](#)



HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

**Advancing Health Equity among
Hispanic/Latino Populations Spanish**
April 4, 2023, 1:00 PM

[More Info](#)



SafeSide Framework for Suicide Prevention in Rural

Virtual | Session #2

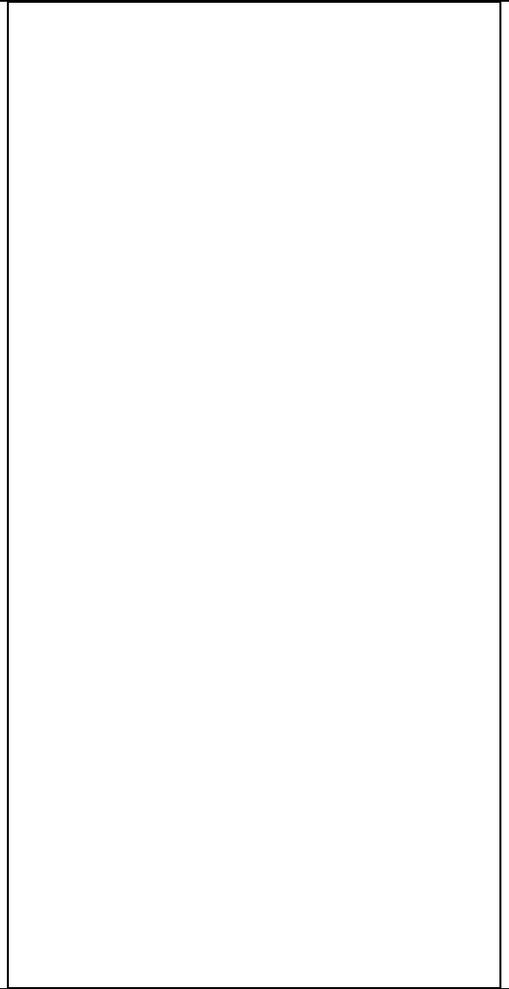
Presenters will describe what integrated care is and the impact of adversity on Latino/Hispanic patient health and address the importance of cultural competence and trauma-informed care in providing healthcare, especially mental health services, for this population. Patient education resources, outreach strategies and cultural considerations related to mental health with Latino/Hispanic youth and their families will be shared, including firsthand experiences from a Community Health Worker.

[Register](#)

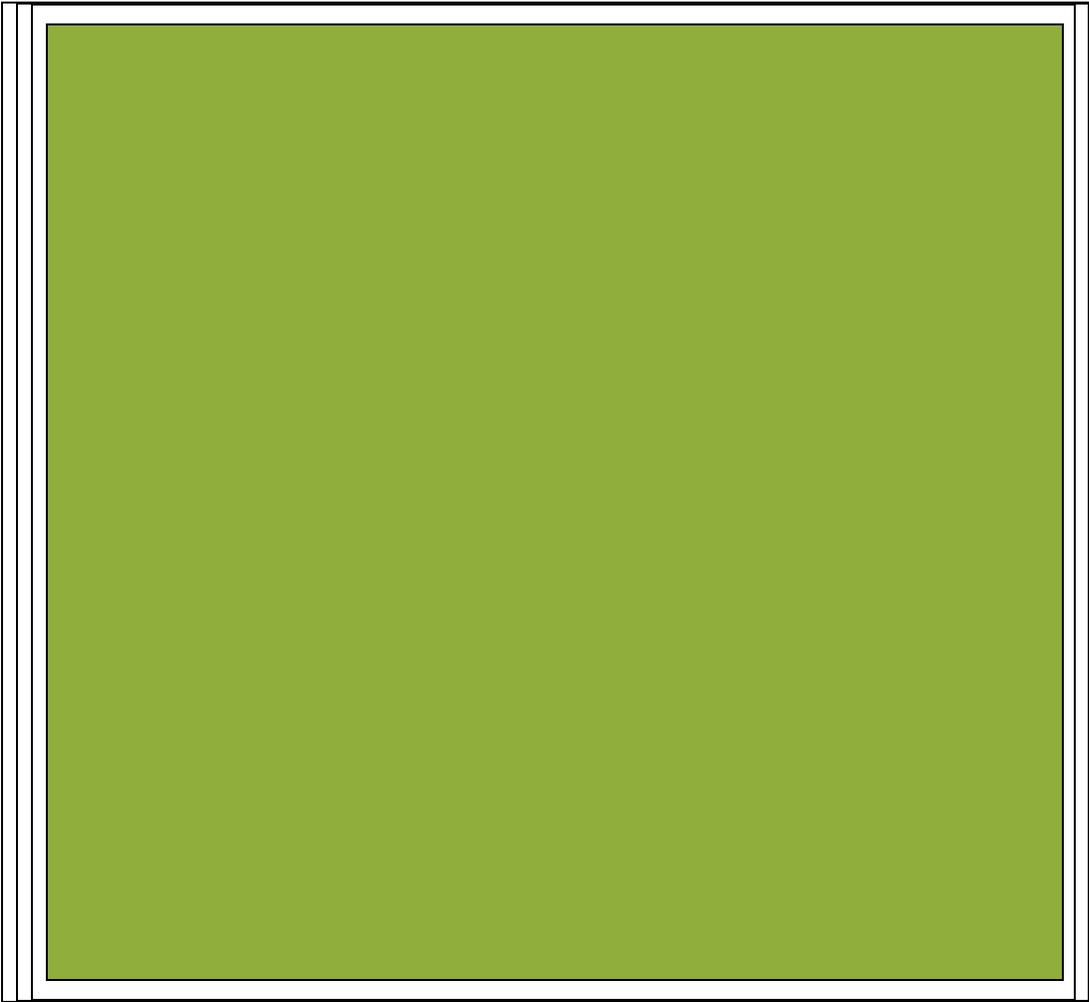
**Communities: Interactive
Workshop**

July 25th, 2023 from 12:00pm -
3:30pm

[The UR Medicine Recovery Center of Excellence](#), with funding from the [Health Resources & Services Administration](#) (HRSA) partnered with SafeSide Prevention to provide a workshop focused on suicide prevention training for service providers in rural communities at no cost to you.



[Register](#)



Health Equity Conference

May 15-16, 2023
San Diego, Calif.

Designed for those who are dedicated to bringing quality health care and health care services to underserved and often under-

Annual NRHA Conference

May 16-19, 2023
San Diego, Calif.

Each year, more than 200 individuals present over 85 concurrent educational sessions, 20 research papers and up to 100

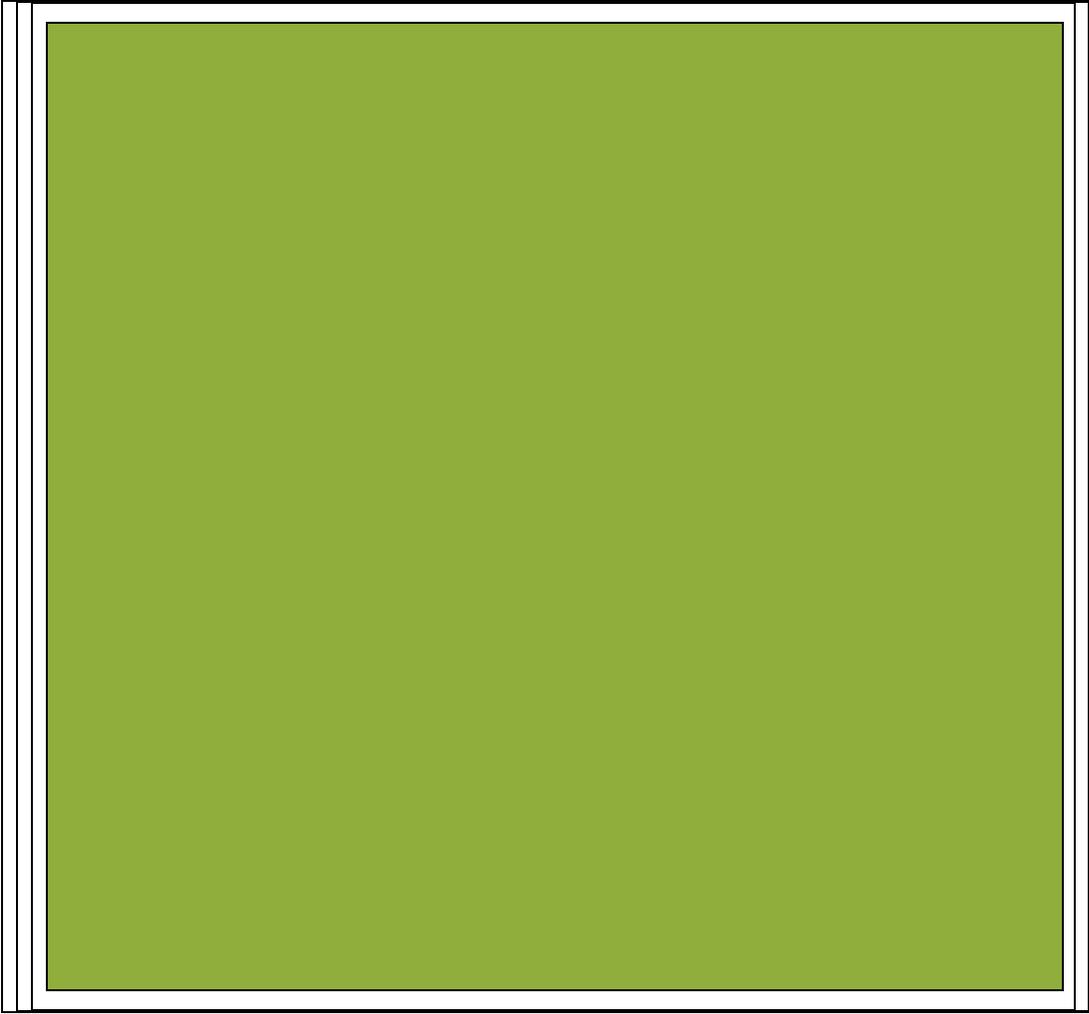
represented populations, including LGBTQIA+, veteran, and homeless rural residents as well as multiracial and multicultural members of rural communities.

[Register](#)

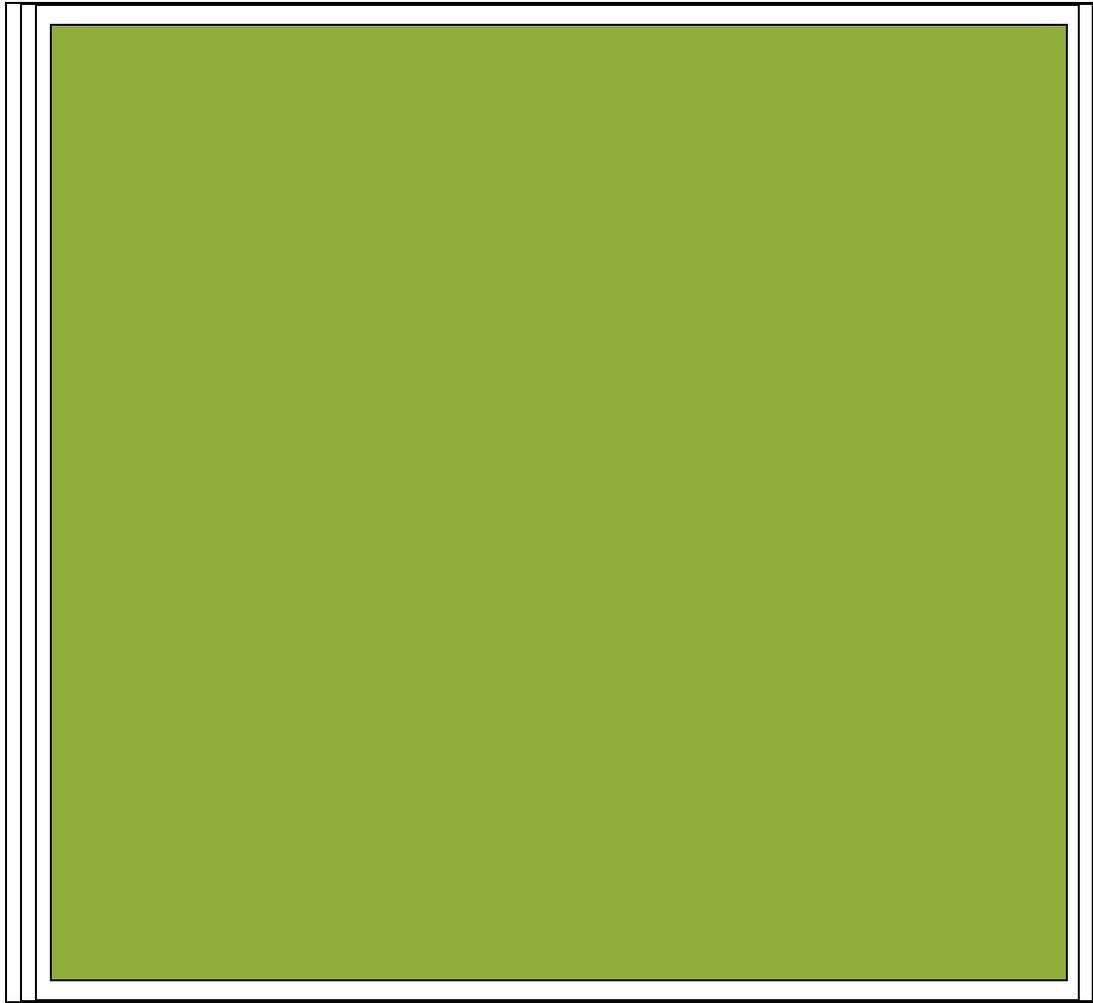
research and educational posters at NRHA's annual events, constituting the nation's largest, most inclusive rural health conference.

[Register](#)





Funding Opportunities



[Berkley Rural MPH Program + Scholarship](#)

Public health providers in rural areas face very different challenges than those in urban areas. Yet most public health master's programs lack programming focused specifically on rural public health. This is why Berkeley Public Health Online has launched the Rural Health Innovation Program. With backing from the Barr-Campbell Family Foundation, the initiative will offer 25 fully paid scholarships per year to eligible online MPH students.



[Learn More](#)

[Sign up](#) for LORHN's bi-weekly distribution of the GrantStation Insider Content e-newsletter or view LORHN's GrantStation Insider Content e-newsletter [archive page](#) for previous funding opportunities.

Funding for Individual & Family Assistance

[Glades Electric Charitable Trust, Inc. \(Glades, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee\)](#)

Almost 70 percent of Glades Electric Cooperative members participate in Operation Round-Up, which helps people in GEC's service area who have exhausted normal avenues of financial assistance. The fund is for deserving individuals and organizations. If you know of people who need and deserve assistance and live within the Glades Electric service area (Glades, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee counties), encourage or [help them to complete an application](#).

[The Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. \(ALPI\) \(Collier, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Martin, Polk and St. Lucie\)](#)

All applicants applying for services must have a total household income of no more than 150% Federal Poverty guidelines; be responsible for paying their home heating or cooling bills; and be a U.S. citizen, qualified alien, or permanent resident of the U.S. Programs are available for individuals, children, and families.

[Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.](#)

This non-profit agency provides case management for families, education programs, community health education and healthcare coordination, food, clothing, diaper and toiletry distributions, financial literacy, transportation, translation and interpretation, emergency rental, and more.

[Affordable Connectivity Program](#)

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that replaces the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program) to help low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices. Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household. To receive the connected device discount, consumers need to enroll in the ACP with a participating provider that offers connected devices (Note: not all internet companies offer device discounts.) The internet company will provide a discount to the consumer.

State & National Grants

[NIH Strategies for Managing SUD in Primary Care and Ambulatory Settings](#)

Purpose: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) will provide funding to develop and test strategies to improve the capacity of primary care and ambulatory care settings to provide evidence-based, patient-centered care for people who misuse opioids and other substances. Priority populations include inner city, rural, low income, minority, women, children and elderly, among others.

Deadline: April 14, 2023

Florida Blue: Food Security Grant

Florida Blue Foundation enables healthy communities by making grants, building coalitions, and embracing solutions that create a meaningful impact in our communities. We are committed to improve health equity by impacting food security, advancing mental well-being, growing healthy communities, and addressing health disparities. The goal of the Food Security program is to improve access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food in underserved communities in Florida. Areas of interest include 1) Improving access to healthy food and 2) neighborhood markets in rural communities, food deserts, and urban areas. Watch the application clarification [webinar](#).

Deadline: May 10, 2023 (5:00 PM)

[Southeast Rural Community Assistance Loan Fund Program](#)

Community development loans to local governments, public service authorities, user associations, nonprofit organizations, and other community entities for the development and/or construction of large-scale community projects. *Deadline: ongoing basis*

[Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees](#)

USDA Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees provide financing for telephone and broadband infrastructure in rural areas. Funds may be used to finance broadband-capable telecommunications services, including improvements, expansions, construction, acquisitions, and refinancing.

Applications accepted year-round

www.grants.gov

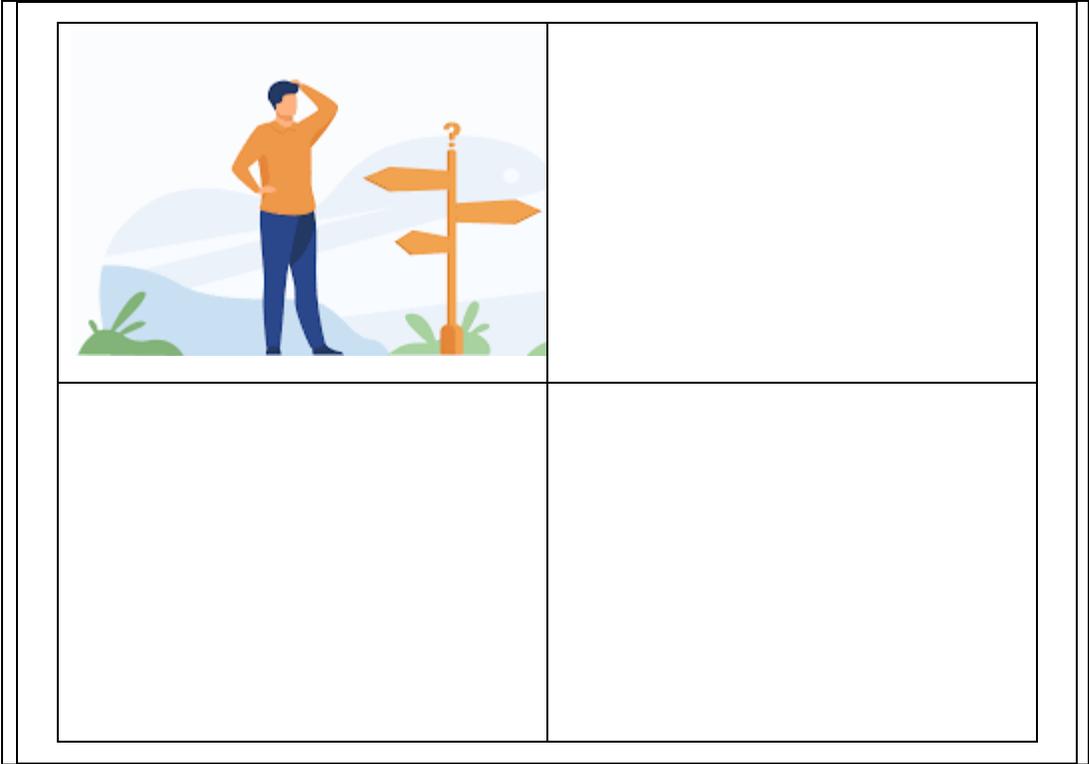
Learn about Federal Grant forecasted, posted, and archived grants available via various Federal Government Programs. Grants Learning Center provides information about eligibility, writing, reporting, policies, systems, and more.



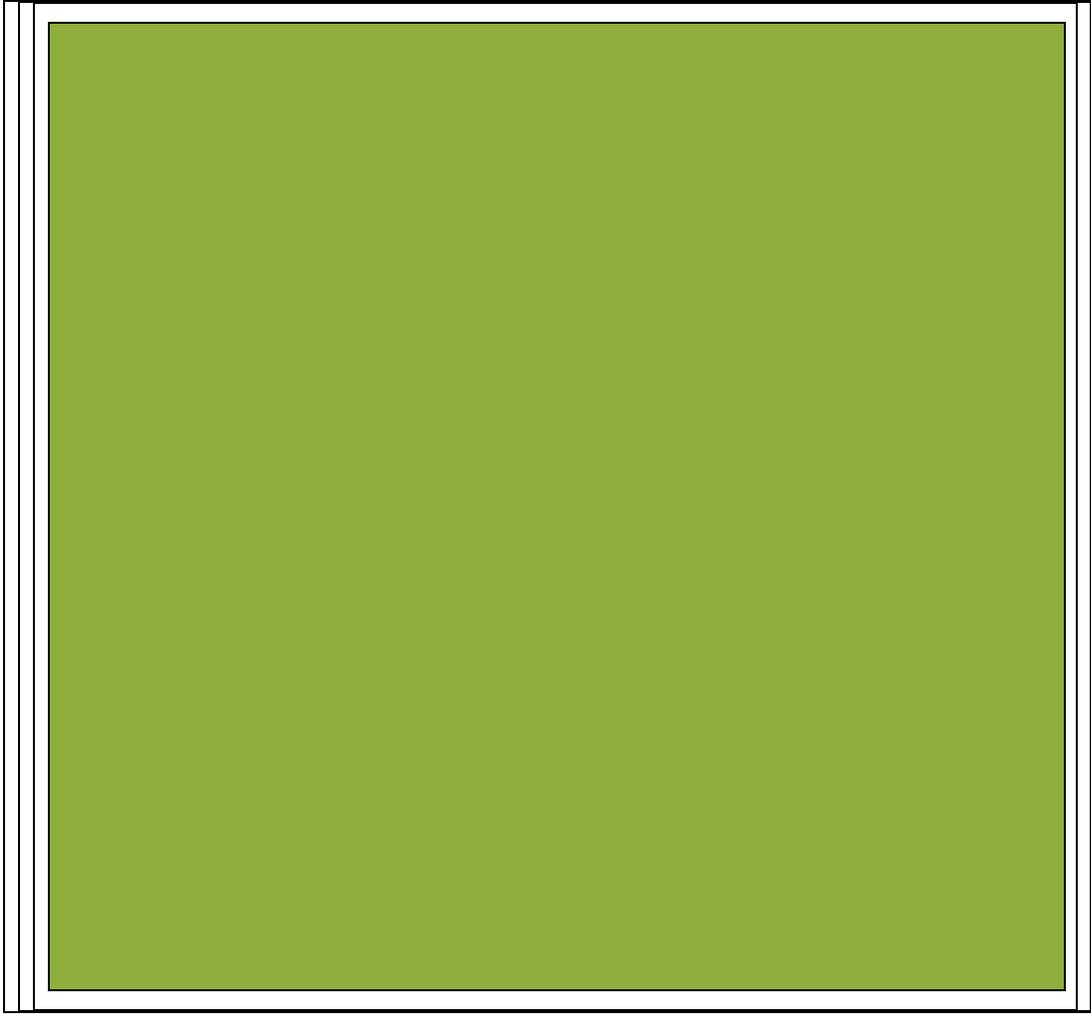
LORHN Community Resource Guides

Knowing where to start looking for help for yourself, a friend, family member, or client can be overwhelming. LORHN has developed a community resource guide for each community of our service area. Every guide includes phone numbers for various county services as well as local medical services, senior services, medical and social support services, food, housing and utilities, pregnancy and childcare, mental health services, and employment services.

Click each geographic area below to download the community guide. Please share them! Notice something missing? Let us know!



<u>Western</u> <u>PBC</u>	<u>Okeechobe</u> <u>e</u>	<u>Hendry</u>	<u>Glades</u>	<u>Indiantown</u>
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Community Meetings

Hendry & Glades	Western Palm Beach

<p><i>Community Collaborative Meetings</i> Contact: Lisa Sands 1st Friday of each month 8:30 am - 11:30 am</p> <p>Okeechobee <i>Community Collaborative Council (CCC)</i> Contact: Jessica Parrish 4th Tuesday of each month 10:00 am - 11:00 am</p>	<p><i>P.A.T.C.H.</i> Contact: Marcia Bahia 3rd Tuesday of each month 9:00 am - 10:45 am</p> <p>Martin County <i>InterAgency Coalition</i> Contact: Chelsey Matheson 2nd Wednesday of each month 8:30 am - 10:00 am</p>
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	<p>Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network, Inc. (LORHN) was formed in 1994 as a non-profit corporation designed to provide for the special and specific health-related needs of the residents, visitors, and businesses in the Lake Okeechobee area; with extended services to Glades, Hendry, Okeechobee, Western Martin, and Western Palm Beach counties.</p> <p>LORHN was established through Florida legislation (Statute 381.0406) and is one of nine local rural health networks covering the state of Florida. As per Florida statute, the goal of the networks shall be to ensure that quality health care is available and efficiently delivered to all persons in rural areas. Our vision is to promote/provide for the special and specific health needs of the residents, visitors, and businesses in the Lake Okeechobee area.</p>	
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LAKE OKEECHOBEE RURAL HEALTH NETWORK | 888-880-8242 | www.LORHN.org