

Next Steps and Future Direction

In order to support the vision and purpose of this VA-RHP, Virginia and its partners must collaborate to implement the recommendations found in this document. The OMHPHP will be partnering with the Virginia Rural Health Resource Center to promote a two-pronged campaign. The first part of the campaign will be to raise the awareness of rural stakeholders to the existence of the VA-RHP and to engage more stakeholders to become active supporters.



The second part of the campaign will be to encourage individuals, agencies/organizations and associations to officially “adopt” one or more of the recommendations from the VA-RHP and to work toward the implementation of that/those recommendation(s) over the course of the next 12 – 24 months. A mechanism will be put in place to track progress for each of the recommendations and to re-visit each of the recommendations on an annual basis during a spring Rural Health Summit.

This updated VA-RHP focuses primarily on four areas of rural health: performance and quality improvement, access, data/rural definitions and health care workforce. It is anticipated that in future updates, other areas of need will surface. Some of the areas that contribute to rural health that were only minimally touched on in this document include:

- Long-term care/aging,
- Health Information technology,
- Rural health funding,
- Education,
- Transportation and
- Economic development.