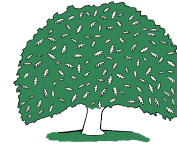


# CONNECTICUT RURAL HEALTH NEWS

Health care branching  
out



to rural  
communities

Connecticut State Office of Rural Health

Issue 14

Summer 2008

## Highlights from the Rural Health Office

Summer in rural Connecticut conjures up visions of swimming in lakes, having that ice cream cone from the local dairy farm, picking fruit and eating fresh picked corn. This list also reminds me summer means extra vigilance toward good health and safe activities.

The Connecticut Rural Health Office is continuing on with a number of projects that promote wellness and a safe environment for our rural residents. As the 2007-08 federal grant cycle for our office funding is wrapping up, many of our projects will continue into the next grant year, while a few will be completed.

Grant funding was awarded to the Northeast District Department of Health to develop a telemental health pilot project to enhance services to children and their families and secondly, to the Winsted Health Center to develop a pediatric school-based dental health services program. Both of these programs are in their development stage and have strong community support. This support will certainly give each of these programs the opportunity to be sustained once they are in place.

The rural health office was successful in writing a grant for Northwestern Connecticut Community College to offer a summer four-week health careers exploration workshop for high school juniors, seniors and 2008 high school graduates. The program has 21 enrolled students who come from nine different high schools. This program will assist students in learning

about many health care careers and providing an opportunity for students to enhance their math skills while examining various health care issues.

The need for non-emergency transportation continues to be a concern for the rural health office. There is continued need for additional services in the rural areas of the state to transport residents to health care services and appointments. The office is working with a large advisory group meeting under the guidance of the greater Torrington Senior Center to develop additional transportation services for the northwest corner.

The rural health office's web site has a wealth of information available to the public. The website, [www.ruralhealthct.org](http://www.ruralhealthct.org) is the location where the office announces new grant funding programs available from its office and from the federal Office of Rural Health Policy. The site also announces conferences and educational opportunities within the state, offered by the New England Rural Health Roundtable and from national organizations.

As the 2008-09-grant cycle begins, the office looks forward to continuing to serve the rural residents of the state. The rural health office's federal grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through the Office of Rural Health Policy governs our mission to support initiatives that enhance health care services for rural residents of the state.

# Small Grant Program Assists Rural Emergency Medical Services

The CT Office of Rural Health (CT-ORH), through the administration of its Rural Health Office grant made available a small grant awards to assist CT rural EMS provider groups with training initiatives. Five grants totaling \$6,600 were awarded for the purpose of initial EMT training, recertification or continuing education for rural emergency medical personnel. The following services received grants: Warren Volunteer Fire Co. to offset costs for a four-town continuing education class, Union Volunteer Fire Co. and Voluntown Fire Company No. 1 to re-certify EMTs, Middlefield Volunteer Fire Department to train 17-year-old Explorers as EMT-Bs and Salem Volunteer Fire Co. to update training materials.

As additional grant funding becomes available the grant announcement and application materials will be posted on the CT-ORH website:  
[www.ruralhealthct.org](http://www.ruralhealthct.org)

## Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program (RESEP) is launching a "National Outreach Campaign" to spread the word about resources for people who were exposed to radiation through nuclear arms testing or the uranium mining industry between 1942 and 1971.

Assistance is needed to spread the word about RESEP. Many people have moved away from the site of their

initial exposure and do not know that they are entitled to medical screening and financial compensation.

The RESEP program supports screening programs, medical referrals, and the preparation of medical documentation related to radiogenic illnesses. RESEP also refers individuals diagnosed with radiogenic cancers and chronic diseases to the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Program, administered by the Department of Justice, which provides payments in the amounts of \$50,000 to \$100,000.

It is important to identify individuals potentially adversely affected so that they are screened and evaluated by a health care professional.

A brochure has been developed that explains who is eligible, what RESEP offers, and how to receive benefits. The brochure is free of charge from the HRSA Information Center and may be obtained by calling 1-888-ASK-HRSA, or by downloading the booklet from the HRSA Web site at:  
<http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/radiationexposure/>.

## GRANTS

CT Office of Rural Health small grant program announcement and guidance will be out in mid-August. All grant information and materials will be found on the office website  
[www.ruralhealthct.org](http://www.ruralhealthct.org)



# Resources

## New Listserv of the Rural Health

Research Gateway Rural Health research findings from eight national research centers, supported by the federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP), are now featured at one convenient location, the Rural Health Research Gateway Listserv. New information is launched on the listserv and its corresponding web site ([www.ruralhealthresearch.org](http://www.ruralhealthresearch.org)) to provide easy and timely access to projects, research, and findings of these national research centers. The web site has abstracts of both current and completed research projects addressing issues such as rural health quality and behavioral health-related publications and information about the researchers and research centers.

To subscribe, go to <http://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/listserv/>.

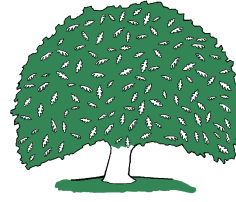
## National Pesticide Information Center

The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), provides unbiased, scientific-based information on pesticide use, health effects, and environmental impact. NPIC's toll free number (1-800-858-7378) is staffed by knowledgeable specialists with access to real-time current in-depth information seven days a week from 6:30 am – 4:30 pm PST. Questions can be addressed in 173 languages such as Spanish, Mandarin, Russian, Portuguese and Italian to name a few. NPIC is a cooperative effort between the US Environmental Protection Agency and Oregon State University. Call toll free 1-800-858-7378 or visit their web site [www.npic.orst.edu](http://www.npic.orst.edu)

## Cancer Connect

These free telephone education workshops are a way for people to learn about cancer-related issues from the convenience of their home or office. Leading experts in oncology provide the most up-to-date information. Participation is free. No phone charges are applied. To register call 1-800-813-HOPE (4673) or online at [www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org)

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## Announcement

*Beginning with the next issue, the CT Office of Rural Health will be publishing its newsletter in an electronic format. The newsletter will also be posted on the office website.*

*If you are interested in continuing to receive the newsletter either by mail or electronically please contact*

*Mary Winar at*

*[mwinar@nwcc.commnet.edu](mailto:mwinar@nwcc.commnet.edu).*

*The office will need your accurate email address for the newsletter list serve.*

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CT Office of Rural Health  
Northwestern CT Community College  
Park Place East  
Winsted, CT 06098

**SAVE THESE DATES**

**September, 2008**  
NERHRT Rural Oral Health  
Conference  
Concord, NH  
[www.newenglandruralhealth.org](http://www.newenglandruralhealth.org)

**October 16-17, 2008**  
New England Rural Health Roundtable  
Annual Symposium "Improving Rural Communities  
through Healthcare Reform and Advocacy"  
Radisson Nashua Hotel, Nashua, NH  
[www.http://nrharural.org/conferences](http://nrharural.org/conferences)

**October 28-30, 2008**  
Senior Resources Agency on Aging  
"Aging is Changing" Conference  
Water's Edge Resort & Spa  
Westbrook, CT  
[www.seniorresourcesec.org](http://www.seniorresourcesec.org)