

Hello Northwest Regional, Northwest Region:

NRTRC Receives Third Consecutive TRC Grant from HRSA

The University of Utah and the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (<u>UETN</u>) have once again been awarded the Regional Telehealth Resource Center (<u>TRC</u>) grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (<u>HRSA</u>), Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (<u>OAT</u>). This four-year award marks the third consecutive grant cycle awarded to the Utah Telehealth Network (<u>UTN</u>), continuing a successful seven-year track record. UTN is part of UETN, which provides critical broadband



infrastructure and services to education, healthcare, and broadcast sites throughout Utah.

This renewed award reinforces UTN's national leadership in advancing telehealth innovation, fostering collaboration, and building healthcare capacity, ensuring patients across the region receive timely, effective care regardless of location. It also supports UTN's continued operation of the Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center (NRTRC), one of 14 federally designated TRCs nationwide. To learn more about the NRTRC and its services, visit www.nrtrc.org.

Join Us for a Webinar on the Potential of Wearables



NRTRC presents a webinar on the changes wearable devices are making in bridging data and disease management. Presenters Jordan Berg, Stasi Kasianchuk, and Pattie Carr will share their insights about the power of these new technologies.

Date: Thursday, August 27, 2025

Time: 12 p.m.–1 p.m. MDT Where: Zoom webinar

Register now to explore how wearable technology, like rings, watches, and smart devices, is revolutionizing chronic disease prevention and management by providing real-time, patient-generated data. Hear from registered dietitians and telehealth technology experts on the risks and rewards of how persondriven data is shaping behavior changes, improving nutrition and fitness strategies, and potentially reducing long-term disease risk.

News

States: Act Now to Access Federal Funds for Rural Health Care

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, enacted on July 4, 2025, established the \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program to support rural healthcare providers affected by broader health reforms. Funds will be distributed to states over five years (2026–2030), with one half allocated equally among applicants approved by CMS and the other half distributed based on rural population size, facility presence, and other factors.

States must submit a one-time application to CMS by the projected deadline of December 31, 2025 that includes a rural health transformation plan addressing access, outcomes, workforce recruitment, financial solvency, and technology adoption. Funding can support activities such as chronic disease management, clinician recruitment, value-based care, and rural hospital sustainability. States must use funds within the following fiscal year and report annually to CMS,

with strict oversight and limitations on administrative spending. If you haven't already reached out to your state's Department of Health and Human Services or Office of Rural Health to provide feedback on the plan, please do so today. You can also contact us at info@nrtrc.org.

Regional News



Coming in November: The Rural Health Association of Utah Annual Conference

Join the NRTRC and UTN at the 2025 <u>Annual Rural Health Association of Utah (RHAU) Conference</u> on November 12–13. This year's conference theme is "The Rural Advantage: Collaboration, Community, and Innovation." The two-day conference is the state's leading gathering focused on improving the health and well-being of rural communities. Spend two days connecting with professionals from all disciplines, care settings, and corners of Utah. Explore new ideas, gain practical insights, and build lasting partnerships to advance rural health. See more in our Events section below.

Nominate a Utah Colleague for the Deborah LaMarche Telehealth Excellence Award



UTN presents the <u>Deborah LaMarche</u> <u>Telehealth Excellence Award</u> each year to an individual or organization in Utah that has accomplished outstanding work in the field of telehealth, including the areas of policy development, innovative programs and activities, technology, patient and or provider support, education, and training. Please submit your nominations for this award here!

Last year's award recipient was <u>Kelsie</u> <u>Green</u>, Assistant Vice President of HCA

Healthcare's Virtual Patient Logistic Center. Green contributed to telehealth across Utah, particularly through the implementation of AI technologies.



Nominate a Wyoming Colleague for the Dr. James Bush Award for Excellence in Telehealth

Nominations are open for the Dr. James Bush Award for Excellence in Telehealth, presented by the Wyoming Telehealth Network. This annual award was established in 2022 to recognize a telehealth champion in Wyoming who has accomplished outstanding work in the field of telehealth, including helping to remove barriers to implementation and adoption, innovative programs and activities, technology, patient and/or provider support, education, and training.

Nomination forms must be submitted via email to Kristen Glennie (kglennie@uwyo.edu) by 5 p.m. MT Monday, August 25, 2025.

Last year's award recipient was Dr. David Nickerson. Read more about his efforts to advance access to care through telehealth.



Events to Bookmark in 2025

August

NCTRC Webinar—Facilitating Use of Telehealth for Metabolic Dietitians Aug 21 @ 12 p.m.-1 p.m.

Organizer: National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers

Join NCTRC for a webinar designed for metabolic dietitians interested in using telehealth in their practice. Whether you are just starting or are looking to expand your virtual care services, this session is your opportunity to ask questions, explore best practices, and learn about resources and tools available to support your work.

The Potential of Wearables: Bridging Data and Disease Management Aug 27 @ 12 p.m.-1 p.m.

Organizer: Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center

This webinar highlights the latest wearable technology and health management tools that are reshaping chronic disease prevention. Learn how clinicians and patients use real-time data to drive meaningful outcomes in nutrition, fitness, and long-term health.

September

Telepsychiatry Webinar

Sep 10 @ 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Organizer: Southwest Telehealth Resource Center

The practice and delivery of healthcare is changing, with an emphasis on improving quality, safety, efficiency, and access to care. The Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center invite you to a free, one-hour CME webinar on the implementation and practice of telemedicine. CME provided by the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson.

Sep 18–Sep 21

Seattle, WA

Organizer: Association of American Indian Physicians

The Association of American Indian Physicians will hold the 53rd Annual Meeting and Health Conference in Seattle, Washington, at the Hyatt Regency Seattle, September 18–21, 2025. This year's conference will gather American Indian and Alaska Native physicians, healthcare professionals, students, and community leaders from across the country. Join us as we come together to share knowledge, celebrate our cultures, and advance health equity for AIAN communities. This event offers meaningful dialogue, cultural connection, and professional growth.

<u>TeleBehavioral Health 2025: Low Barrier Treatment at Scale—The Development and Growth of a Telebupe Hotline</u>

Sep 19 @ 12 p.m.-1 p.m.

Organizer: University of Washington Behavioral Health Institute

Washington State is experiencing a worsening opioid and illicit fentanyl crisis, with overdose deaths sharply increasing, particularly in rural and underserved counties. To address this, the UW Telebuprenorphine (Telebupe) program was launched in King County to provide free, low-barrier, on-demand telehealth access to buprenorphine, helping patients initiate treatment during moments of acute need and bridging them to ongoing care. This patient-centered approach is now being scaled statewide to reduce opioid-related deaths and improve equitable access to evidence-based treatment.

October

42nd Annual Oregon Rural Health Conference

Oct 1–Oct 3 Bend, OR

Organizer: Oregon Office of Rural Health

The 42nd Annual Oregon Rural Health Conference will be held Oct. 1–3, 2025 in Bend, Oregon. This conference is the largest gathering in Oregon dedicated to sharing information and showcasing innovative approaches to health and healthcare delivery in rural and remote communities in Oregon.

The conference brings together over 400 healthcare leaders from across the spectrum, including providers, administrators, and policymakers, as well as public health, hospital, and clinic leaders. Sessions will cover issues affecting Oregonians living in rural communities and share strategies and solutions.

<u>TeleBehavioral Health 2025: Virtual Pathways to Recovery—Telehealth for Behavioral Health in Correctional Settings</u>

Oct 17 @ 12 p.m.-1 p.m.

Organizer: <u>University of Washington Behavioral Health Institute</u>

This webinar will explore how telehealth is transforming behavioral healthcare delivery within correctional settings, offering timely support to justice-involved

individuals during incarceration. Attendees will gain insight into innovative service models, technology considerations, and the unique needs of incarcerated populations. Real-world examples and lessons learned will highlight how telebehavioral health can bridge gaps in care and support recovery pathways from within. Presented by Mary Ochsner Krampen, MS, LPC, CRC, BC-TMH, Executive Director of Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance.

November

APHA 2025

Nov 2-Nov 5

Washington, DC

Organizer: American Public Health Association

Each year, APHA's Annual Meeting and Expo convenes about 12,000 public health professionals and partners from around the world to engage, collaborate, and grow. The annual meeting brings together a broad spectrum of professionals across various disciplines. Learn from peers, hear from today's leaders, network with exhibitors, and make long-lasting connections.

RHAU 2025 Annual Conference

Nov 12-Nov 13

St. George, UT

Organizer: Rural Health Association of Utah

The 2025 Annual Rural Health Association of Utah (RHAU) Conference will take place on November 12 and 13 in St. George, Utah. The conference aims to promote and improve the lives of those who live and work in rural Utah. Join us for two days of insightful discussions, networking opportunities, and knowledge sharing.

This year's conference theme is "The Rural Advantage: Collaboration, Community, and Innovation." The agenda features innovative local and national speakers, legislative updates, breakout sessions on current issues in rural health, sponsor tables offering critical resources, poster sessions, ample networking opportunities, and more.

Do You Provide Healthcare or Services via Telehealth?



NRTRC's <u>Find Telehealth</u> helps patients and providers find in-person care, telehealth care, and locations to have telehealth visits. Turn on the map's TAPs button to view sites.

Click Here to Update Information on Your Practice Click Here to Add a TAP



Northwest Regional State Telehealth Websites

- Idaho Telehealth Alliance
- Montana Telehealth Alliance
- Utah Telehealth Network
- Washington State Department of Health
- Wyoming Telehealth Network



Telehealth Resources

- <u>Telehealth Tools and Resources</u>: Find up-to-date telehealth tools and resources.
- <u>Professional Development</u>: Visit NRTRC's catalog of online telehealth training courses.
- <u>Updated legislation and regulations</u>: Keep up with regulations and proposed legislation for the states of the Northwest Region.
- Research: Find current research opportunities, research articles, and survey results.

Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center

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