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Department of Health News

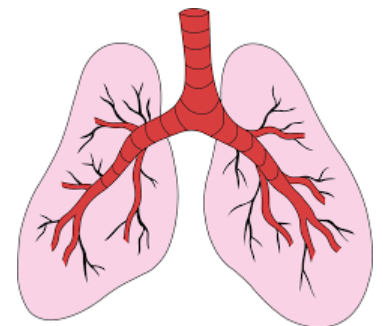
Cervical Cancer Awareness Month



January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. In Pennsylvania, there were 478 women diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2018, and 162 deaths. Screening tests such as the Pap test or human papillomavirus (HPV) test are used to detect cervical cancer. The [PA Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program \(PA-BCCEDP\)](#) provides free screening to those who qualify including Pap tests, HPV tests and biopsies to detect cervical cancer. Clients must have income less than 250 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines, be uninsured or underinsured (high co-pays or deductibles) and live in Pennsylvania to qualify. The age range for cervical services is 21-64. Younger high-risk clients may also be eligible. PA-BCCEDP does not cover the costs of HPV vaccines; however, the HPV vaccine is also cervical cancer prevention. The vaccine is nearly 100 percent effective in preventing HPV-related cancers; recommended for boys and girls age 11-12 and is available for people up to 45 with clinician recommendation. Phone contact numbers are listed on the linked website.

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is the second most diagnosed cancer for men and women and the number one cause of cancer deaths in Pennsylvania. Lung cancer, often detected at a later stage, can be screened for using low dose computed tomography (CT). Early detection of lung cancer by screening can lead to better patient outcomes and quality of life. Yet, on average, only 4.5 percent of those eligible are screened.



The 2021 United States Preventive Services Task Force guidelines recommend lung cancer screening with low dose CT for ages 50-80 that are current smokers or have quit within the past 15 years and have 20

National Health Observances

January 2022

[Cervical Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[National Radon Action Month](#)

[National Birth Defects Prevention Month](#)

February 2022

[American Heart Month](#)

[National Cancer Prevention Month](#)

[National Children's Dental Health Month](#)

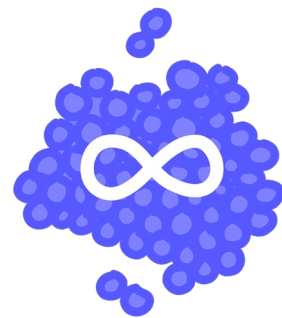
[African Heritage and Health Week \(Feb. 1-7\)](#)

[National Donor Day \(Feb. 14\)](#)

or more pack-years of cigarette smoking exposure. Shared decision making is required along with a referral for smoking cessation.

The [American College of Chest Physicians](#) and [Thomas Jefferson University](#) launched a free online educational program on shared decision making to help identify and educate eligible persons for annual lung cancer screening. Continuing medical education credits (1.25) are available upon completion. For more information call (800) 343-2227.

New Resource-Cancer Genetics/Genomics Toolkit for Healthcare Providers



The Genetic/Genomics Workgroup of the Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition has created a multi-component [genetics/genomics toolkit](#) to provide healthcare professionals with the requisite tools to integrate hereditary cancer risk assessment into practice. It includes practical information on the role of genetics in care, recognizing and the appropriate referral of individuals at risk for hereditary cancer syndromes, and how to talk with individuals about risk factors. For more information contact the [Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition](#).

WalkWorks Update

Pennsylvania WalkWorks offers a twice monthly email newsletter on sustainable transportation and health. The goal of these messages is to provide subscribers with quick access to relevant content on active transportation, whether regional, state, or national, that can give inspiration and insights into technical assistance, guidance/best practices, educational opportunities, funding sources, and chances to weigh in on public policy. It is primarily focused on the needs of communities that have had or are currently working on WalkWorks active transportation planning grants but would be of use to others interested in the topic.



[This link](#) will take you to the most recent newsletter. Subscribe using the blue button on the upper right of the menu bar. Contact the program at pawalkworks@padowntown.org.

How Are Health and Infrastructure Connected?

We've heard the debates over whether healthcare is infrastructure, but did you know that infrastructure can also be healthcare? Infrastructure impacts our daily lives and our health. Sometimes it makes us

Disclaimer

The information provided in this newsletter is intended to be of general information to Pennsylvania's HIPP partnerships. It is not intended as an endorsement or recommendation of any specific process, service, product, company, or funding source outside of the Department of Health auspices. Further examination and research of information is recommended.

unhealthier, like when we have limited transportation options and can only get places we need to go by car. Other times, it can make us healthier and happier too. For example, people who bike to work actually have positive feelings about their commutes. Along with improved mood and mental health, they are getting more physical activity in their daily routine which also leads to reduced risk of obesity, heart disease, and other chronic conditions. Plus, it costs less than maintaining and operating a car. It's even better for the community, reducing healthcare demand and costs, pollution, and road congestion. Want to start designing your community's infrastructure to improve health? Learn how at PAwalkworks.com. Contact Samantha Pearson at sampearson@padowntown.org.

Health Partners

DCNR NextGen

The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is launching the NextGen Council. The council will help inform the agency's work, advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, and create lasting change and necessary conditions to ensure all Pennsylvanians can connect to public lands, natural resources, and engage in recreation and conservation.



Benefits to Participants include:

- Learn about careers in conservation, science, environment, and nature;
- Tap into opportunities for outdoor activities and sports in parks, forests, and trails;
- Meet and work with DCNR staff and leaders;
- Gain leadership opportunities in writing and presenting;
- Help your community by working with DCNR to serve all people better; and
- Meet new friends.

An applicant does not need any experience in conservation or government to apply, rather a willingness to share ideas and work together to support conservation and recreation for all, including future generations. There will be virtual meetings four times a year which will include educational presentations by DCNR, and discussions of topics presented by DCNR or the NextGen Council.

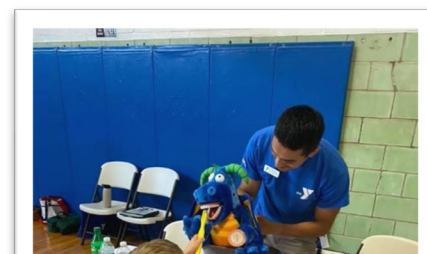
To learn more, please reach out to Emily Hendrickson at RA-NRDCNREQUITY@pa.gov. Apply using the online [application form](#). Applications are open through January 16, 2022. The first meeting will be in late winter or early spring 2022.

February Is National Children's Dental Health Month

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During the month of February, we celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month. This month-long national health observance brings together thousands of dedicated professionals, healthcare providers, and educators to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers, and many others. The American Dental Association (ADA) observed Children's Dental Health Day for the first time on February 8, 1949. By 1981, this recognition was extended to a full month. Today, National Children's Dental Health Month is observed every February and supported with an ADA campaign ([materials available here](#)). Tooth decay remains the most common chronic childhood disease. Developing good oral health habits at an early age and visiting the dentist beginning at age 1 helps children get a great start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. Promoting educational and prevention programs will motivate more parents and caregivers to recognize the seriousness of children's dental disease. To learn more about children's dental health in Pennsylvania, please visit the PA Coalition for Oral Health at www.paoralhealth.org.



Oral health information was shared all year long during the YMCA's Health Equity Tour.



Healthy People 2030

The US Department of Health and Human Services is seeking comments on three proposed objectives to be added to Healthy People 2030, which was launched in August 2020, and evidence-based information regarding the relationship between voter participation and health status as a measure of civic engagement. The public is also invited to submit proposals for additional new core, developmental, or research objectives to be included in Healthy People 2030. More information is available in the [Federal Register](#). Comments are due by January 10, 2022.



Data



Well Water Data

The Division of Environmental Health Epidemiology at the Pennsylvania Department of Health collected data on

private well water use via the 2020 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). Results indicate:

- 26 percent of Pennsylvania adults reported using a private water well as their primary source of drinking water, with the highest percentages in the northcentral (44 percent), southcentral (41 percent), and northwest regions (38 percent).
- Race/ethnic disparity was in the non-traditional direction, with more non-Hispanic whites (29 percent) and Hispanics (23 percent) using unregulated private water wells for drinking water than non-Hispanic blacks (4 percent).
- Individuals without health insurance were more likely to drink from private water wells than their insured counterparts (39 percent versus 24 percent), inferring rural vulnerabilities.

Environmental contamination data included in the 2020 BRFSS indicate:

- New or continuing illness/symptom caused by environmental contamination in the past year were found in 3 percent of Pennsylvania adults (7 percent of those with incomes \leq \$15,000).
- Of those affected, 82 percent took steps to reduce exposure to the environmental contamination, and 59 percent visited a health care professional about the symptom/illness.

For more information, visit the [EDDIE tool](#) and select BRFSS as primary category and environmental on the next screen.

Grant Opportunities

- **Transportation for vaccination:** [Local Initiatives Support Corporation](#) is coordinating with Uber, PayPal, and Walgreens to support low-wealth, Black, Brown, and Latinx communities to assist with rides, childcare options, providing language translation, and delivering other vital services for vaccination. Funding is available through December 31, 2021 or as long as resources are available.
- **Community grants:** The [Walmart Foundation](#) is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations for its local community grants up to \$5,000. For example ensuring people have access to healthier food is one of the focus areas. Applications are due December 31, 2021.
- **Families and children support grants:** The [Big Lots Foundation](#) is providing monetary gifts, gift cards, and merchandise in-kind to organizations affecting hunger, housing, health care, and education. Applications are due January 1 and July 1, 2022.
- **Health center-controlled networks funding:** The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) is providing 49 awards supporting health information technology totaling \$42,000,000. The purpose is to support health centers in leveraging health information technology and data to

deliver high-quality, culturally competent, equitable, and comprehensive primary health care. Applications are due January 4, 2022.

● **Farm to School Grant Program:** The [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) is providing funding for food and nutrition programs for schools at various award levels. Applications are due Jan 10, 2022.

● **Children's community-based health initiatives grants:** The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) is providing \$10,000 to individual pediatricians or fellowship trainees for planning innovative, community-based initiatives that increase children's access to optimal health or well-being. Applications are due January 24, 2022.

● **Rural Health Network Development Planning program:** The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) is making 20 awards of \$100,000. The purpose of the awards is to promote the development of integrated health care networks in order to achieve efficiencies; expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of basic health care services and associated health outcomes; and strengthen the rural health care system as a whole. Applications are due January 28, 2022.

● **Racial Equity in Postpartum Care Challenge:** The [Department of Health and Human Services](#) is providing funds for innovative methods to improve equity of postpartum care for Black or African American and American Indian/Alaska Native women enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. Phase 1 is the identification of programs for \$40,000, and phase 2 for replication or expansion of programs is for \$80,000. Applications are due January 31, 2021.

● **School garden grants:** [Captain Planet Foundation](#) is offering grants of \$3,000 to schools to support their garden-based learning programs. Applications are due January 31, 2022.

● **Sustainability challenge grants:** [Earth Force](#) has grants of \$500 to \$1,000 for youth ages 8 to 18 for projects to make food systems more sustainable. Applications are due January 31, 2022.

● **Research grants to prevent firearm-related violence and injuries:** The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) is making 25 awards of up to \$650,000 per year for 2-3 years. The purpose is to understand and prevent firearm-related injuries, deaths, and crime, including mass shooting incidents, other firearm homicides/assaults, firearm suicides/self-harm, unintentional firearm deaths and injuries, and firearm-related crime. Eligible organizations include higher education, nonprofit organizations and governments. Applications are due February 4, 2022.

● **Predoctoral training in general, pediatric, and public health dentistry and dental hygiene:** The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) is accepting applications for predoctoral training in

general, pediatric, dental public health dentistry, and dental hygiene. Funding of \$300,000 per year for 5 years for 15 grants is available. Funding is available to schools, hospitals, and nonprofit entities. Applications are due February 7, 2022.

- **Harm reduction program grant:** The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) is providing support for community-based, trauma-informed overdose prevention programs, syringe services programs, and other harm reduction services. Governments and nonprofit organizations are eligible. There are 25 awards of \$400,000 per year for 3 years. Eligible applicants are state and local governments, non-profit community-based organizations, and primary and behavioral health organizations. Applications are due February 7, 2022.

- **Rural eConnectivity Broadband Loan and Grant Program:** The [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) offers various grants and loans to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas. These programs are available to corporations and state and local governments. Applications are due February 22, 2022.

- **Nurse education, practice, quality and retention mobile health training Program grants:** The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) has 35 awards of \$1,000,000 per year for 4 years available to schools, health care facilities, and FQHCs. The purpose is to increase and strengthen the diversity, education, and training of the nursing workforce to provide culturally aligned quality care in rural and underserved areas where there are health care disparities related to access and delivery of care. Applications are due February 22, 2022.

- **DCED grants to promote vaccination:** Funds are available from the Pennsylvania [Department of Community and Economic Development](#) for childcare organizations, schools, and nonprofit organizations. Grant amounts will range from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

- **COVID-19 contact tracing training curricula support:** The [Public Health Foundation](#) is providing support for contact tracing to health departments. The programs are offered on an ongoing basis.

- **Economic impact initiative grants:** [USDA Rural Development](#) is providing funding to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression. Public bodies and nonprofit organizations may apply. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

- **HRSA COVID-19 claims reimbursement for uninsured patients:** The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) is accepting request for claims reimbursement to health care providers generally at Medicare rates for testing uninsured individuals for COVID-19, for treating uninsured individuals with a COVID-19 primary diagnosis, and for

COVID-19 vaccine administration to the uninsured. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

● **Affordable Housing Loans for Low-Income Rural Communities:** The [Housing Assistance Council](#) offers short-term below market interest rate loans. Eligible organizations are rural housing developers of all types. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

● **Telecommunications infrastructure loans and loan guarantees:** The [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) provides financing for the construction, maintenance, improvement and expansion of telephone service and broadband in rural areas. Eligible entities include state and local governments, nonprofits, and certain for-profit businesses. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

● **Primary Care Development Corporation financing and technical assistance:** The [Primary Care Development Corporation](#) provides loans and grants, training, and technical assistance to build capacity, improve, and expand primary care services. Opportunities are ongoing.

● **Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants:** The U.S. [Department of Agriculture](#) is providing water transmission line grants up to \$150,000 and water source grants up to \$1,000,000. The purpose is to help eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. The opportunity is ongoing.

● **Culture of health grants:** The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) Pioneering Ideas program is funding projects to influence health equity in the future. Preference will be given to applicants that are nonprofit organizations. The average Pioneering Ideas grant in 2019 was \$315,031, however, there is not an explicit range for budget requests. Proposals will be accepted throughout the year on a rolling admission.

● **Health center facility loan guarantee program:** The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) has an ongoing program that supports access to capital funding by guaranteeing up to 80 percent of financing needed to support capital infrastructure projects. Active Health Center Program awardees under section 330 of the Public Health Services Act are eligible. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

● **Oral health grants:** [CareQuest Institute for Oral Health](#) is sponsoring small grants for activities that support organizations, activities, and events that address access to needed oral health care and community resources that improve oral health. Nonprofit organizations are eligible. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.