



Rural Health Transformation Program: Application Analysis

RHTP Context

Background:

- Authorized by H.R. 1
- “Empowers states to strengthen rural communities across America by improving healthcare access, quality, and outcomes by transforming the healthcare delivery ecosystem”

Funding:

\$50 billion to be allocated over five fiscal years, with \$10 billion of funding available each fiscal year 2026-2030

- **50%** to be distributed equally amongst all approved states
- **50%** based on rurality, state policies, and quality of application

**Make rural America
healthy again**



Analysis of States' RHTP Applications



hospitals emergency community outreach
retention recruitment facilities
maternal quality sustainability networks
mobile specialty data-sharing
chronic data **workforce** regional
coordination access training
analytics delivery technology digital child
equipment integration primary education
infrastructure virtual telehealth value-based
engagement hubs cybersecurity assistance equity
partnerships technical prevention

Key Themes

1. Workforce
2. Care Model Innovation
3. Infrastructure & System Modernization
4. Expanding Access
5. Data & Technology

Workforce

- Recruitment and retention incentives
- Promoting new pathways to health care careers
- Training and supporting the existing workforce

- Expanded certification opportunities for direct care workers
- Local focus (“grow your own” programs)

Care Model Innovation

- Promoting regional collaboration
- Strengthening partnerships
- Testing new models

- Implementing PACE
- Expanding scopes of practice
- Value-based payment models

Infrastructure & System Modernization

- Upgrading physical and technological infrastructure
- Expanding interoperability
- Investing in cybersecurity

- Scalability and accessibility
- Protecting privacy
- Streamlined care

Expanding Access

- Creating new access points to care
- Strengthening rural emergency care
- Implementing outcomes-driven strategies

- Dually-eligible older adults
- Telehealth in nursing facilities
- Health promotion programming
- Home and community-based services

Data & Technology

- Expanding the use of digital tools
- Building data hubs
- Funding innovative approaches, including artificial intelligence

- Remote patient monitoring
- AI-based tools
- Screening and early detection technology

Other Areas of Focus

- Behavioral health
- Substance use
- Chronic disease
- Maternal and child health
- Coordination with Tribal entities
- Food is Medicine
- Physical activity
- School-based health centers

RHTP Awards

- Announced on December 29, 2025
- Awards range from \$147 million to \$281 million
- Newly established **Office of Rural Health Transformation** within CMCS will support implementation

ADVANCING STATES



Leadership, innovation, collaboration
for state Aging and Disability agencies

Questions?

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