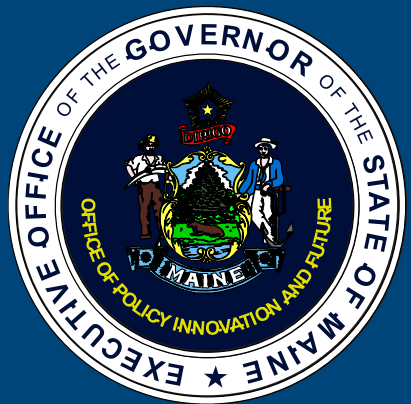


Maine's Rural Health Transformation Program

September 18, 2025



RURAL HEALTH
TRANSFORMATION

Agenda

- ❖ CMS background info
- ❖ Maine-specific info

Background

What is the Rural Health Transformation Program?

Established by H.R. 1 (federal budget reconciliation bill – July 2025) to transform care and improve outcomes in rural communities

❖ ***Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program Structure***

- RHT Program is funded at \$50 billion across all states, to be allocated to approved States over 5 fiscal years, with \$10 billion of funding available each fiscal year
- Program funding begins in Jan 2026 (FFY 2026) and ends in Dec 2030 (FFY 2030)
- 50% (\$5B/yr) to be distributed equally amongst all States with an RHT Plan approved by CMS
- 50% (\$5B/yr) will be allocated by CMS to at least 14 states based on variety of factors, including State's rural population; proportion of rural health facilities in State; situation of certain hospitals in State; and other factors to be specified by CMS Administrator

Use of Funds: States Must Commit to Supporting 3+ Activities:

1. Promote evidence-based, measurable interventions to improve prevention and chronic disease management
2. Provide payments to health care providers for provision of health care items or services, as specified by CMS Admin
3. Promote consumer-facing, technology-driven solutions for prevention and management of chronic diseases
4. Provide training and technical assistance for development and adoption of technology-enabled solutions that improve care delivery in rural hospitals, including remote monitoring, robotics, artificial intelligence, and other advanced technologies
5. Recruit and retain clinical workforce talent to rural areas, with commitments to serve rural communities for minimum of 5 years
6. Provide technical assistance, software, and hardware for significant IT advances designed to improve efficiency, enhance cybersecurity capability development, and improve patient health outcomes
7. Assist rural communities to right-size their health care delivery systems by identifying needed preventative, ambulatory, pre-hospital, emergency, acute inpatient care, outpatient care, and post-acute care service lines
8. Support access to OUD treatment services, other SUD treatment services, and mental health services.
9. Develop projects that support innovative models of care that include value-based care arrangements and alternative payment models, as appropriate
10. Additional uses designed to promote sustainable access to high-quality rural health care services, as determined by CMS Administrator

Federal Requirements for Use of Funds



Additional uses designed to promote sustainable access to high quality rural health care services, as determined by the Administrator

What's Required in State Applications?

Statutory Requirements

- Detailed transformation plan and initiatives that align with at least 3 of the statutorily approved use of funds categories

Strategic Alignment

- Initiatives have measurable outcomes, plan to engage key stakeholders, highlights impacted counties across a State, is sustainable, and directly impacts health care of rural residents

Budget & Operations

- Workplan and timeline for implementation, including budget, milestones, data tracking, and commitment to State policy changes (if committed to in State's submitted plan) within 2 years

CMS RHTP Timeline



September
2025



October
2025



November
2025



December
2025



Q1 2026

*Application
Released*

By Mid September:
Application released

Late September:
Intro webinars

*Application
Formation*

All October: Channels
to receive and respond
to questions from
States

*Submission
Deadline*

Early November:
Application due

*Awardee
Decisions*

By December 31:
Awardee decisions

*Monitoring
Begins*

2026+: Continuous
monitoring & support
from CMS

CMS RHTP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- NOFO released Sept 15 → Due Nov 5
- NOFO posted to Grants.gov: [CMS-RHT-26-001](#)
- Must include...
 - Proposed State Rural Health Transformation Plan
 - Specific proposed initiatives, consistent with HR1 list of use of RHTP funds
 - Proposed policy changes (from federal list of options)
 - Implementation plan & timeline
 - Stakeholder engagement plan
 - Metrics & evaluation plan
 - Sustainability plan
 - 5 year budget
 - Governor's letter of commitment

Next Steps for Maine



Developing Maine RHT Plan & Application

❖ Government-wide effort

- Governor's Office
- GOPIF
- DHHS
- Subject matter experts from across ME government
- Input from providers, consumers, public

❖ Considerations

- One-time funding → must consider what is sustainable
- Impact of HR1 losses → strategically mitigate harm as much as possible
- No carry over allowed → must spend entire annual allotments in each year

More Info & Community Engagement Efforts

- **Web info:**
 - CMS: <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/rural-health-transformation-rht-program/rural-health-transformation-rht-program>
 - CMS NOFO: <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/360442>
 - Maine RHTP: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ruralhealth>
- **Maine RHTP Public Input form (thru Oct1):**
<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ruralhealth/public-comments>
- **Maine RHTP Public Info Webinars:**
 - Tues, Sept 23 (12N-1P): [registration link](#)
 - Wed, Sept 24 (1-2P): [registration link](#)
- **Other opportunities for community input - TBD**

Additional Information

More to come soon!!

Questions?

Lisa.Letourneau@Maine.gov

