

Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

A \$50 Billion Federal Investment in Rural Healthcare | Member Resource Guide

What Is the Rural Health Transformation Program?

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), created under the **One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Public Law No. 119-21)**, is a landmark federal initiative directing **\$50 billion** over five years to strengthen rural healthcare delivery and stabilize essential services across the United States. Administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the program provides states with flexible funding to address their most pressing rural health challenges.

Key Facts

Total Investment	\$50 billion over 5 years	Administered By	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Authorizing Legislation	One Big Beautiful Bill Act (P.L. 119-21)	Participating States	All 50 states — FY2026 awards announced December 2025
Grant Period	5-year state grant programs	State Awards Range	~\$150M–\$280M+ per state (FY2026)

Five Core Priority Areas

Prevention & Access Expanding screening, preventive care, and community-based services	Workforce Recruiting, training, and retaining rural healthcare professionals	Technology Telehealth, EHR modernization, interoperability, and AI tools	Behavioral Health Integrating SUD, mental health, and crisis response into rural care	Value-Based Care Transitioning rural providers to sustainable, outcomes-based payment models
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What Are States Funding? Common Themes

Workforce Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">GME residency expansion in family medicine, OB/GYN, psychiatryLoan repayment and rural service commitments	Technology & Telehealth <ul style="list-style-type: none">EHR modernization and HIE connectivityTelehealth hubs and virtual specialty consults
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Grow your own" high school-to-healthcare pipelines • Preceptor incentives and rural training track expansion • Allied health and CHW certification programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote patient monitoring for chronic conditions • AI-assisted clinical decision support and documentation • Cybersecurity upgrades for rural providers
<p>Access & Care Models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hub-and-spoke regional networks for specialty access • Mobile health units and community paramedicine • School-based and FQHC-based primary care expansion • EMS treat-in-place and alternative transport models • Maternal health and obstetric care infrastructure 	<p>Prevention & Chronic Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes prevention and self-management programs • Behavioral health integration into primary care • Cancer screening and food-as-medicine initiatives • Community-based chronic disease management networks • Value-based care transition support for rural providers

What This Means for Academic Family Medicine

- **Multiple states are explicitly funding GME expansion, rural residency programs, and primary care workforce pipelines — creating real opportunities for family medicine training programs to partner with state RHTP efforts.**
- States are prioritizing primary care integration with behavioral health, telehealth, and chronic disease management — areas where family medicine faculty and residency programs have direct expertise and can serve as implementation partners.
- Rural preceptor incentives are appearing in multiple state plans — an opportunity for community-based faculty and preceptors to access financial support for their teaching roles.
- Schools and residency programs with rural tracks should be engaging their state health departments now to understand partnership and funding opportunities tied to state RHTP implementation plans.

How to Engage

<p>Step 1 Find Your State's Plan</p>	<p>Step 2 Identify Opportunities</p>	<p>Step 3 Connect & Advocate</p>
<p>Review your state's RHTP application and FY2026 award abstract on the CMS RHTP webpage or the NRHA State Application Summary Guide.</p>	<p>Look for GME, workforce, and primary care provisions in your state plan. Identify your state's lead agency — typically the State Office of Rural Health or Medicaid agency.</p>	<p>Reach out to your state RHTP lead to explore partnership opportunities. Contact CAFM's government relations team for advocacy support and coordination.</p>

