




Maryland Proposal for CMS' Rural Health Transformation Program

November 2025

The **Maryland Department of Health** (MDH) proposal for CMS' Rural Health Transformation Program will enable our state to strengthen and improve the health and well-being of our rural residents. The submission reflects significant feedback from rural Marylanders and State partners, provided through numerous community listening sessions and an open request for information.

Maryland's proposal details three areas of transformation to significantly impact rural health. Each area requests funding for two categories: immediate impact funds - meant for shovel-ready activities - and transformation funds - which involve competitive opportunities for funding and require longer-term planning. The budget assumes CMS awards maximum funds, a total of \$1 billion dollars over five years. All projects and programs are subject to CMS approval. If awarded, MDH will closely partner with other state agencies and rural stakeholders to shape, implement and evaluate program strategies.

INITIATIVE 1	INITIATIVE 2	INITIATIVE 3
Transform the Rural Health Workforce 	Promote Sustainable Access and Innovative Care 	Empower Rural Marylanders to Eat for Health 
Immediate Impact	Immediate Impact	Immediate Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New apprenticeships and expanded certificate programs for community health workers, nursing assistants, peer recovery• Area Health Education Center expansions to connect rural students with hands-on experience and clinical rotations in rural areas• Improved information technology for workforce development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New and expanded capacity for rural primary care, specialty practices, and School-Based Health Centers• Improved efficiency of local agency care provision• Better-equipped trauma response• Expand and optimize HIT connectivity• Infrastructure to spur broader telehealth adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post-harvest infrastructure for small farms to supply local markets with fresh food• Increase healthy food access through support for grocers and mobile markets in hunger "hot spots"• Nutrition education to create demand for healthy foods• Better regional planning and coordination for healthy food access
Transformation Funds	Transformation Funds	Transformation Funds
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pipeline programs for career exploration, upskilling opportunities, and public health service corps• Training, recruitment, and retention for physicians and advanced practice professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable access via expanded healthcare capacity and integrated technology• Mobile health in each rural region• Provider support for adoption of value-based, innovative care• Behavioral health expansions across the full care continuum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food aggregators and food hubs to increase availability of affordable, local foods• New organizational purchasing strategies to pivot to procurement of healthy, local foods