



# Rural Health Transformation Program Implementation Update

Public Webinar

April 17, 2026



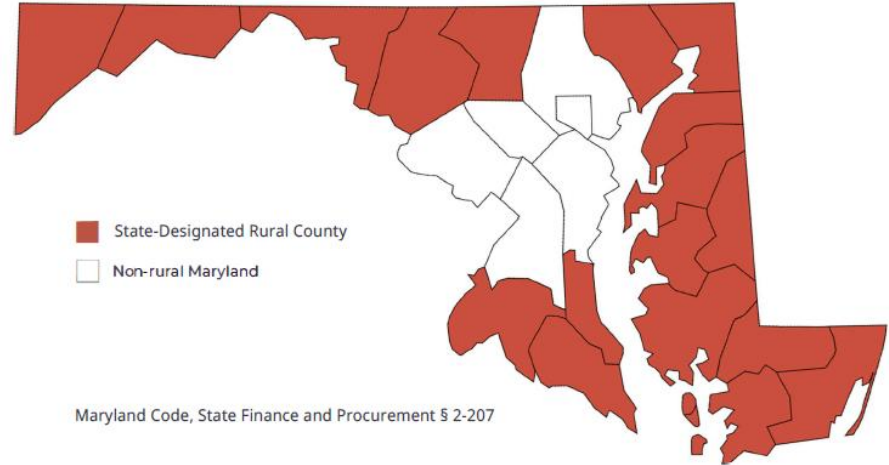
# Acknowledgement of Support

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The Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$168,180,837.61 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents of this meeting are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

# Recap - MD's RHTP Award

- **\$168,180,837.61** for Budget Period 1.
- **84% of what was proposed was funded.**
- MD received double the average amount per rural resident compared to nation.
- CMS approved revised budget 2/25.



18 of 24 MD counties defined as rural

# Recap: Maryland RHTP Focus Areas

## PILLAR 1

**Transform the  
Rural Health  
Workforce**



**\$26 million  
(15.3% of Period 1 award)**

## PILLAR 2

**Promote Sustainable  
Access and  
Innovative Care**



**\$126 million  
(74.9% of Period 1 award)**

## PILLAR 3

**Empower Rural  
Marylanders to  
Eat for Health**



**\$15 million  
(9.1% of Period 1 award)**

**Governance  
\$1 million  
(0.7% of Period 1  
award)**

### **PART 1 - IMMEDIATE IMPACT FUNDS**

Quickly provide resources to expand “shovel-ready” activities in rural areas.

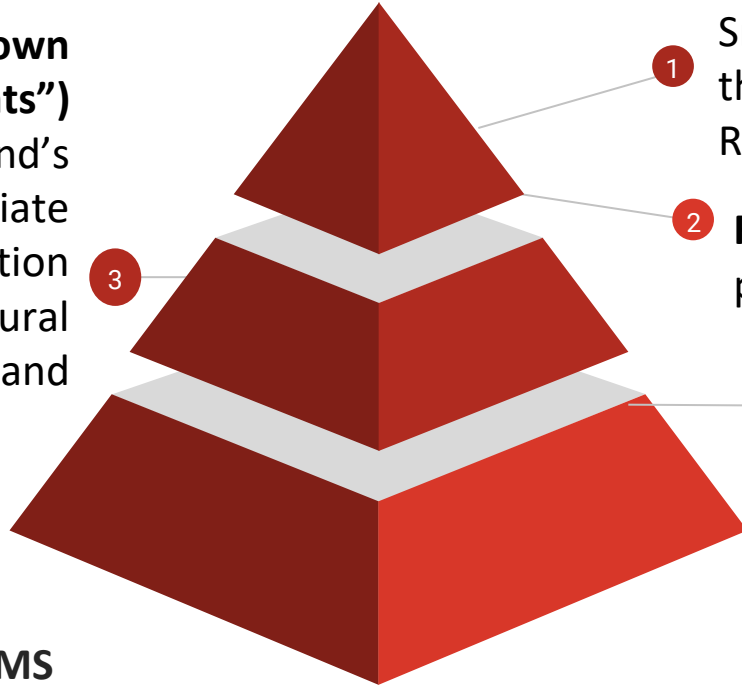
### **PART 2 - TRANSFORMATION FUNDS**

Competitive opportunities for transformational initiatives in rural areas.

# Recap: Implementation Structure

## Partners (“Known Subrecipients”)

Named within Maryland’s proposal; to lead Immediate Impact and Transformation Fund activities within rural Maryland



## RHTP Governance

Small MDH-based team lead by the Maryland State Office of Rural Health (SORH).

**RHT Committee** Continued purposeful stakeholder engagement

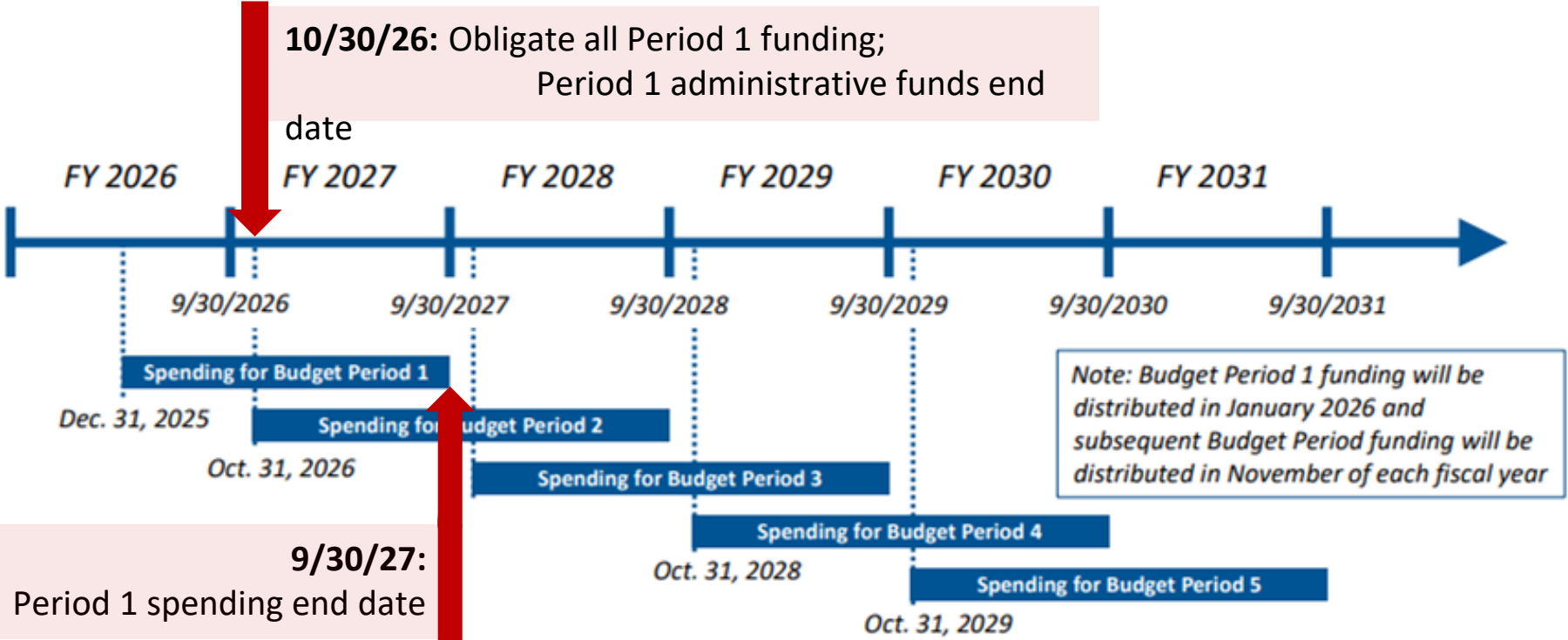
## Sub-sub Recipients

Subawards executed and monitored by Known Subrecipient partners, as appropriate to activity areas

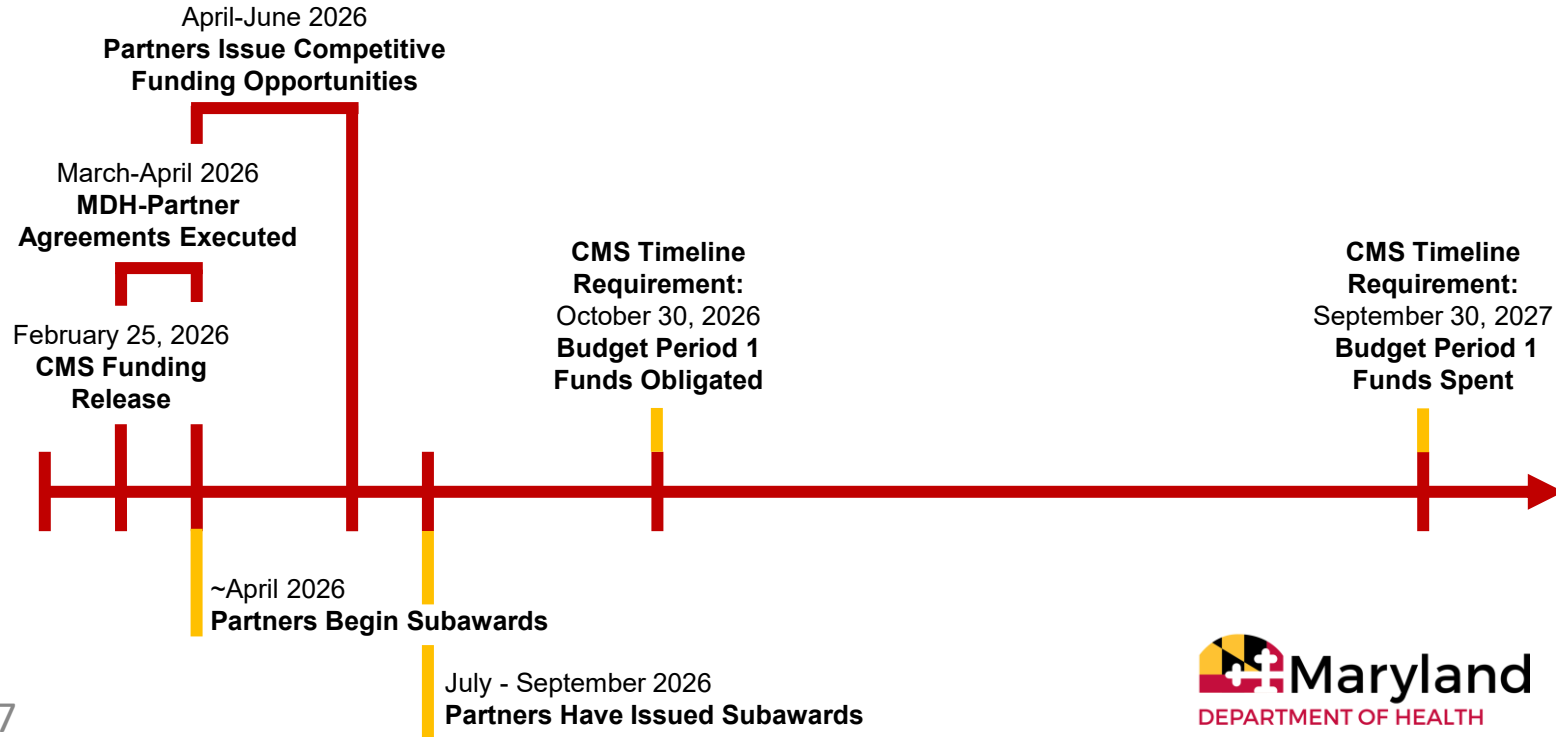
**Funded by CMS**

5 Cooperative Agreement Funding

# Recap: Federal RHTP Timeline



# MD's Timeline for Budget Period 1



# Update on Anticipated Competitive Funding Opportunities

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## Budget Period 1

*Anticipated Competitive Funding Opportunities are target activities subject to change.*

# Competitive Funding Opportunities

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- To be considered for Budget Period 1 funding resources, eligible entities must submit an application via the appropriate Request for Application/Proposal process.
- Procurement processes will be led by RHTP Partners.



# Pillar 1: Pathways to Health Careers

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**Initiative Owner:** Maryland Department of Labor

**Budget Period 1 Competitive Funding Available:** \$3.5M

**Description:**

- Expand existing registered **Apprenticeship** programs
- Expand **Rural Advancement for Maryland Peers (RAMP) Allied Health Program** to include CHWs, patient navigators, direct support professionals, and other healthcare support
  - Example Uses of Funds: employer costs for apprentice instruction and preceptor pay, infrastructure costs of developing and scaling in new healthcare fields and new geographic areas.

**Anticipated Eligible Organizations:** Health care, human and social service employers, academic institutions

**Timeline:** Two RFAs to be released by July 2026



# Pillar 1: Health Workforce Data Clearinghouse

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**Initiative Owner:** Maryland Department of Health/ Office of Population Health Improvement

**Budget Period 1 Competitive Funding Available:** TBD based on RFA/RFP responses

**Description:**

- Engage stakeholders around development of a statewide Health Workforce Data Clearinghouse, leveraging existing data sources as available, working to develop use cases and inform data collection, analysis and future consistent trend and needs reporting

**Anticipated Eligible Organizations:** Organizations with expertise in strategic data collection and infrastructure planning and analysis

**Timeline:** Opportunity to be released May/June 2026

# Pillar 1: Workforce Pipeline and Provider Training, Recruitment and Retention

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**Initiative Owner:** Maryland Department of Labor

**Budget Period 1 Competitive Funding Available:** \$15M

## **Description:**

- **Workforce Pipeline Training Programs**
  - Increase training opportunities for healthcare and public health professionals
  - **Timeline:** RFAs to be released by July 2026
- **Provider Training, Recruitment and Retention Strategies**
  - Expand training, recruitment and retention strategies for rural Maryland physicians, PAs, dentists, and/or other advanced practice professionals
  - **Timeline:** RFAs to be released by July 2026

# Pillar 2: Expand Access to Primary Care



**Initiative Owner:** Maryland Health Care Commission

**Budget Period 1 Competitive Funding Available:** \$6.3 million

**Description:**

- Establish and expand primary care services in rural communities
- Provide infrastructure and resources to help practices build capacity to strengthen access to high-quality, whole-person care with a focus on enhancing chronic disease management and reducing avoidable hospital utilization

**Anticipated Eligible Organizations:** Provider organizations, including both not-for-profit and for-profit practices.

**Timeline:** RFA to be released in April/May 2026

## **Pillar 2: Increase Efficiency of Local Agency Operations**

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**Initiative Owner:** Garrett County Health Department to support all rural counties

**Budget Period 1 Competitive Funding Available:** TBD based on RFP responses

**Description:**

- Strengthen LHD and AAA revenue capture and self sufficiency through improved coding, billing practices and revenue cycle management

**Anticipated Eligible Organizations:** Organizations with expertise in billing, coding and revenue cycle management

**Timeline:** RFP to be released in April/May 2026

## Pillar 2: Expand and Optimize HIE Connectivity & Spur Broader Telehealth Adoption

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**Initiative Owner:** CRISP

**Budget Period 1 Funding to CRISP:** \$10.5M

**Description:**

- **Telehealth needs assessment:** Assessing the needs for a centralized telehealth infrastructure to spur telehealth adoption, including the need for technical assistance, policy or technology.
  - **Anticipated Eligible Organizations:** Organizations with expertise in telehealth and ability to conduct needs assessment
  - **Timeline:** RFP release expected in May 2026
- **Rural Provider Connectivity initiative:** Provides funding to rural providers to offset the costs of integration with CRISP or expanded use of CRISP.
  - **Anticipated Eligible Organizations:** Maryland rural providers
  - **Timeline:** Program roll-out expected in May/June 2026

## Pillar 2: 3 of 4 Transformation Funds combined in 1 RFA



Combined RFA, goals of each remain the same

Transformation Fund	Period 1 Competitive Amount	Funding Partner
<b>Sustainable Access Through Service Expansion and HIT Advances:</b> Expand services and build long-term capacity to improve health outcomes; Deploy technology-enabled chronic disease management	\$47.1M	MDH Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA)
<b>Behavioral Health Service Expansion:</b> Increase sustainable access to priority services across the comprehensive behavioral health continuum	\$16.2M	MDH Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)
<b>Innovative Care:</b> Prepare rural providers to participate in innovative, value-based care models	\$9.1M	Health Services Cost Review Commission
Mobile Health	\$23M	MDH PHPA + LHDs

# Benefits of Combined RFA

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- Single proposal can address goals of 1 **OR** more transformation funds.
  - Ex: Support for providers to integrate tech-enabled chronic disease management tools **and** pilot innovative care models
- Develop a single comprehensive proposal with a single budget instead of multiple individual applications
- Allows for comprehensive evaluation to identify complementary awards and reduce duplication

# Eligible Applicants for Combined RFA

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- **Transformation Collaboratives**
  - RFA will define required and optional roles to include in collaborative
  - Each collaborative must designate a lead and lead must be a non-profit
- **Sole Organizations**
  - Includes hospitals/health systems, FQHCs, pharmacies, post-acute providers, home and community-based providers, provider groups, LBHAs, LHDs, AAAs, CBOs
  - Lead applicant must be a non-profit
- For-profit entities (e.g. private practice providers, technology vendors) can be partners in a Collaborative or serve as subcontractors

# Timeline for Combined RFA

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- RFA to be released: April 20, 2026
- Pre-proposal conference: April 28, 2026
- Opportunity link will be posted on [eMaryland Marketplace \(eMMA\)](#)

# Pillar 2: Mobile Health



**Initiative Owner:** MDH/PHPA and 6 LHD

**Regions:**

1. Western – Allegany, **Garrett**, Washington
2. Southern – **Calvert**, Charles, St. Mary’s
3. Mid-Shore – **Caroline**, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Talbot
4. West Central – **Carroll**, Frederick
5. Northeast – Cecil, **Harford**
6. Lower Shore – Somerset, Wicomico, **Worcester**

**Budget Period 1 Funding:** \$23 million

**Timeline:** Potential RFAs or RFPs by Regional leads in April/May 2026

**Description:**

- Support development of regional mobile health programs
- Services based on community need
- Examples include - chronic disease management, community paramedicine mobile health integrated, telemedicine and alt destinations of care

# Pillar 3: Post Harvest Infrastructure



**Initiative Owner:** Maryland Department of Agriculture

**Budget Period 1 Competitive Funding Available:** \$3.7M

## **Description:**

- Strategically support post harvest infrastructure such as cold storage in rural areas.

## **Anticipated Eligible Organizations:**

- Funding going to both local food banks (via Maryland Food Bank) and to agricultural producers (RFA).

**Timeline:** RFAs to be released in April 2026



# Pillar 3: NourishMD

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**Initiative Owner:** Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

**Budget Period 1 Competitive Funding Available:** \$1.6M

**Description:**

- Provide infrastructure funds to small grocers and mobile markets in rural areas to increase availability of healthy foods.

**Anticipated Eligible Organizations:**

- Small grocers and mobile markets in rural areas

**Timeline:** Awards to be released in April 2026



## Pillar 3: Food Aggregation and Local Purchasing

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**Initiative Owner:** Rural Maryland Council

**Budget Period 1 Funding:** \$4.7M

**Description:**

- **Local Healthy Food Procurement Strategies** - Cover start-up costs and strategizing for institutions to switch to local procurement of healthy foods.
- **Food Aggregation** - Support food aggregation to increase the volume of local healthy foods sold from small and mid-size Maryland farmers.

**Anticipated Eligible Organizations:** Public and non-profit entities which procure food on a large scale/regular basis; organizations familiar with and able to impact food aggregation activities to support RHTP goals

**Timeline:** RFAs to be released in April 2026

# Reminders

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Initiatives must:

- Be transformative
- Have a path toward sustainability
- Work within CMS cooperative agreement terms, conditions, timelines

# Staying Connected

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- MDH and partners will schedule public webinars, provide FAQs and other supporting materials tied to funding opportunities, as appropriate.
- Follow the [Maryland RHTP website](#) for links to competitive funding postings.
- Attend [Rural Health Transformation Committee](#) meetings for RHTP updates. Open to the public.
- [Sign up for periodic RHTP email updates.](#)
- Email [mdh.transformruralhealth@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.transformruralhealth@maryland.gov) with questions.