

Frequently Asked Questions

Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

1. How did the RHTP originate?

[H.R. 1](#), enacted into law on July 4, 2025, created a \$50 billion fund called the [Rural Health Transformation Program](#) (RHTP) within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (Section 71401 of Public Law 119-21).

2. What are Maryland’s RHTP goals?

The CMS-approved Maryland RHTP has three primary focus areas, or Pillars: (1) Transform the Rural Health Workforce, (2) Promote Sustainable Access and Innovative Care for Rural Marylanders, and (3) Empower Rural Marylanders to Eat for Health. Within each Pillar, efforts are divided into two parts: Immediate Impact Funds and Transformation Funds.

3. How does Maryland define “rural”?

The Maryland RHTP focuses on the 18 Maryland counties that are wholly state-defined as rural. These include: Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, St. Mary’s, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester. Related Statute: [Maryland Code, State Finance and Procurement § 2-207](#).

4. What is the anticipated RHTP implementation plan and timeline?

Please visit the Maryland [RHTP website](#) for updates regarding the program as the site will note the most up-to-date information regarding current progress.

5. How is the RHTP budget allocated between program initiatives? For Budget Year 1, the CMS Cooperative Agreement award of \$168,180,837.61 is allocated approximately as follows:

- Pillar 1: Transform the Rural Health Workforce - \$26 million
- Pillar 2: Promote Sustainable Access and Innovative Care - \$126 million
- Pillar 3: Empower Rural Marylanders to Eat for Health - \$15 million
- Governance: \$1 million

RHTP Funding Opportunities

1. Will future funding opportunities be posted on the RHTP website?

Visit the [RHTP website](#) to learn about funding opportunities as they become available. [Sign up here](#) to receive listserv announcements, which will include funding opportunity updates.

2. When are the RFPs or RFAs expected to be released?

Competitive Funding opportunity announcements primarily between April and August 2026 for Budget Year 1 of RHTP. See the [RHTP website](#) for more information.

6. How can interested stakeholders apply for RHTP funding opportunities?

Funding opportunities will be hosted by RHTP partners as noted in the RHTP Plan, following partners' respective procurement processes. Opportunities will be posted on the [RHTP website](#) as they become available. Each posting will include relevant details, application access, instructions and timelines. a link to its relevant application instructions.

7. Will funding opportunities be available at regional and local levels?

The state encourages local and regional collaboration and application to ensure RHTP resources reach across all rural Maryland counties. Funding opportunities will be available for regional and local implementation.

8. Who will be eligible for RHTP funding opportunities?

Funding opportunities will be hosted by RHTP partners as noted in the RHTP Plan, using partners' procurement processes. Opportunities will be posted on the RHTP website as they become available. Each posting will include a link to its relevant application instructions, including eligibility as appropriate to the initiative.

9. How can technology vendors collaborate and partner?

The state is eager to help organizations and communities connect with service providers that can support RHTP efforts. A publicly available Rural Health Vendor Directory will be updated periodically. To be listed, please complete this [form](#).

Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Committee

1. What is the RHT Committee?

The RHT Committee is composed of volunteers representing the perspectives of rural Maryland-based organizations and communities, offering feedback and input to help guide implementation of Maryland's award.

2. How can I access the recordings and presentations from RHT Committee meetings?

Please visit the [RHT Committee website](#) to learn more about past and future meetings of the Committee.

1. Is the RHT Committee accepting new members?

The RHT Committee is not currently accepting new members, however, RHT Committee meetings are open to the public. Each meeting allocates time for public comment and

questions. Review the [RHT Committee member list](#).

2. Will there be any in-person networking opportunities with RHT Committee members?

Future opportunities for in-person or hybrid meetings may be explored. Given the diverse geographic representation on the committee, we must carefully consider the best location and timing that meets the needs of committee members.

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 (Budget Year 1) with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents 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.