



# Rural Health Transformation Committee

*Quarterly Meeting  
June 11, 2026*

# Agenda

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- Welcome
- Updates on RHTP Pillars and Competitive Funding
- Budget Updates and Future Planning
  - Budget Period Timelines
  - Metrics and Evaluation Plan
  - RHT Committee Discussion
- Committee Plan and Next Steps
- Opportunity for Public Comment

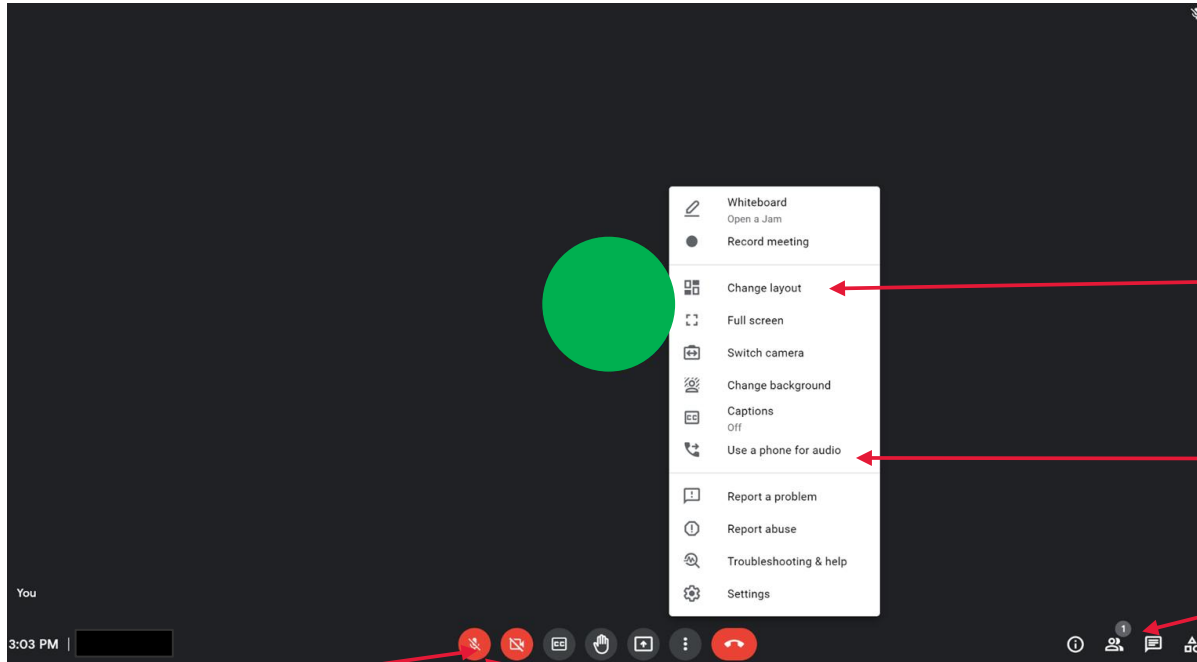
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# Platform Logistics - Google Meet



Change view

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Chat

Mute

Camera

Raise hand  
(for Q&A)

# Public Comment and Questions

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To be collected via Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/p6Yf314G6MDbJ8gq9>

# RHTP 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.

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# Updates on RHTP Pillars and Competitive Funding

# Our RHTP Framework

## PILLAR 1

**Transform the  
Rural Health  
Workforce**



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

## PILLAR 2

**Promote Sustainable  
Access and  
Innovative Care**



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

## PILLAR 3

**Empower Rural  
Marylanders to  
Eat for Health**



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

**Governance  
\$1 million  
(0.7% of Year 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.

# Governance Updates

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- Staffing/ Hiring
- Formal Partner Agreements
- Policy/ Procedure Establishment

**Partner Agreements in place for 18 of 19 initiatives.**

# Governance Updates Continued

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- CMS Engagement and Peer Networks
  - Bi-weekly CMS calls with Project Officer
  - CMS Transforming Rural Health Learning Series
  - RHTP Leadership Network and affinity groups
  - National Association of Medicaid Directors Health Access Interest Group
  - National Rural Health Association Meeting
- Stakeholder Engagement
  - RHTP website - one location for all updates and information, including competitive funding opportunities
  - Listserv launched; 737 unique sign ups
  - Created vendor list; 263 entries to date
  - 25+ community engagement activities - roundtables, presentations, webinars, etc.



# Updates on Pillar 1 Competitive Funding

Initiative	Partner	Amount	Status
<b>Upcoming Opportunities</b>			
<b>1.2 Workforce Data Clearinghouse</b>	MDH	RFP	Expected release by June 30 Expected close July 30; Expected start in August
<b>1.4 Pathways to Health Careers</b> 1. Apprenticeship Expansion 2. RAMP Expansion for Allied Health	MD Labor	\$3.5M	Expected release in July; Expected close in August; Expected release in September
<b>1.5T Workforce Pipeline Programs</b> 1. Pipeline Training Programs 2. Provider Training, Recruitment and Retention Strategies	MD Labor	\$15M	Expected release in July; Expected close in August; Expected release in September



## **Pillar 1 Highlights**

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- Expanded communication and collaboration, stakeholder engagement: **Rural Health Workforce Roundtables, MD Labor engagement**
- New connection to workforce: **Maryland Corps/Service Year** health care focused roles in rural counties



# Updates on Pillar 2 Competitive Funding

Initiative	Partner	Amount	Status
<b>Opportunities Already Released and Closed</b>			
<b>2.6T, 2.8T, 2.9T</b> Service Expansion, HIT Advances, Behavioral Health Expansion, Innovative Care	MDH, HSCRC	\$73M	Opened: 4/21; Closed: 5/26; Expected Award: 7/31
<b>2.1 Expand Access to Primary Care</b> Primary Care Practice Creation and Expansion	MHCC	\$6.3M	Opened 5/4; Closed 6/1; Expected start 8/1
<b>2.2 Increase Efficiency of Local Agency Operations</b> 1. Revenue Cycle Management and Billing Technical Assistance for Rural LHDs and AAAs	Garrett County Health Department	RFP	Opened: 4/20; Closed: 5/31; Expected start: 9/30
<b>2.5 Telemedicine and HIT Optimization</b> Telehealth Needs Assessment 13	CRISP	RFP	Opened: 5/6; Closed: 6/3; Expected start: 7/31



# Updates on Pillar 2 Competitive Funding Continued

Initiative	Partner	Amount	Status
<b><i>Open Opportunity</i></b>			
<b>2.2 Increase Efficiency of Local Agency Operations</b> Insurance Contracting and Credentialing for Rural LHDs	Garrett County Health Department	RFP	Opened: 5/18; Closing: 6/15; Expected Start: 9/30
<b><i>Upcoming Opportunities</i></b>			
<b>2.7T Mobile Health</b>	LHDs as lead, by region	\$23M	Varies by region
<b>2.5 Telemedicine and HIT Optimization</b> CBO Billing	CRISP	RFP	TBD

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



Combined RFA, goals of each remain the same

Pillar 2 Transformation Funds	Year 1 Competitive Amount	Funding Partner
<b>2.6T Sustainable Access Through Service Expansion and HIT Advances:</b> <i>Expand services and build long-term capacity to improve health outcomes; Deploy technology-enabled chronic disease management</i>	\$47.1M	MDH Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA)
<b>2.8T Behavioral Health Service Expansion:</b> <i>Increase sustainable access to priority services across the comprehensive behavioral health continuum</i>	\$16.2M	MDH Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)
<b>2.9T Innovative Care:</b> <i>Prepare rural providers to participate in innovative, value-based care models</i>	\$9.1M	Health Services Cost Review Commission
<b>2.7T Mobile Health</b>	\$23M	MDH PHPA + LHDs



## **Pillar 2 Highlights**

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- **School-based health centers**
  - Expanding services and new sites (including mobile units)
- **Collaborations and Integrated Care**
  - Evidence from competitive grant opportunities
- **MIEMSS Whole Blood Network**
  - 13 counties



# Updates on Pillar 3 Competitive Funding

Initiative	Partner	Amount	Status
<b>Opportunities Already Released and Closed</b>			
<b>3.2 NourishMD Expansion:</b> NourishMD Expansion: Small Grocers & Mobile Markets	DHCD	\$1.6M Awarded*	Opened January; Closed February; Expected start in July
<b>3.5T Healthy Food Aggregation:</b> Food System Aggregation and Hubs & Local Foods Purchasing Strategies	RMC	\$4.7M	Opened 4/20 Closed 5/15; Expected start in September
<b>Open Opportunity</b>			
<b>3.1 Post Harvest Infrastructure:</b> Post Harvest Infrastructure: Cold Storage for Producers	MDA	\$3.6M	Opened 5/15; Closes 6/14; Expected start 10/1

17 \*Pending CMS approval



## Pillar 3 Highlights

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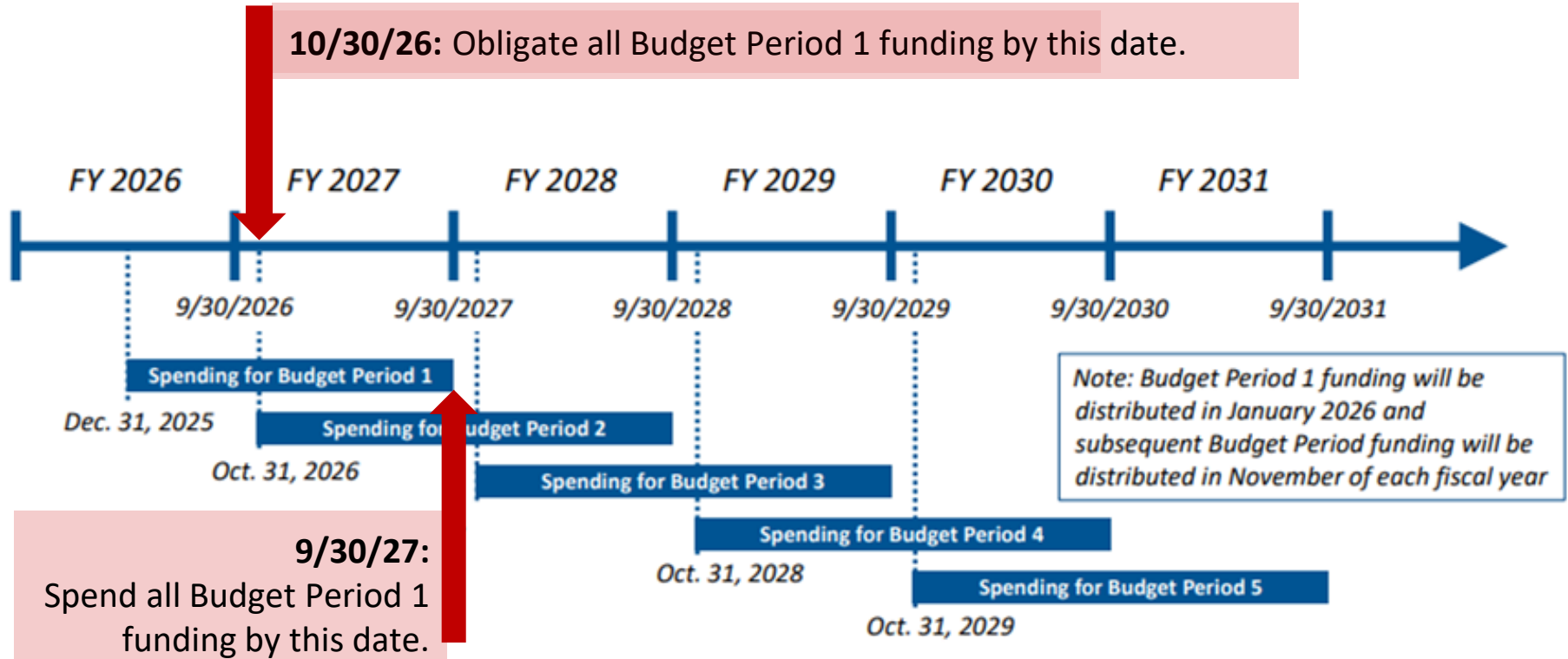
Expanded communication, collaboration, stakeholder engagement related to Food Infrastructure and Demand:

- **Well-attended stakeholder sessions** - Grant writing (RMC-led) and pre-proposal conferences
- **Robust response** to multiple funding opportunities from a **wide variety of eligible/interested entities**
- **Partners coordinating** closely with partners to align funding opportunities and broader food access initiatives

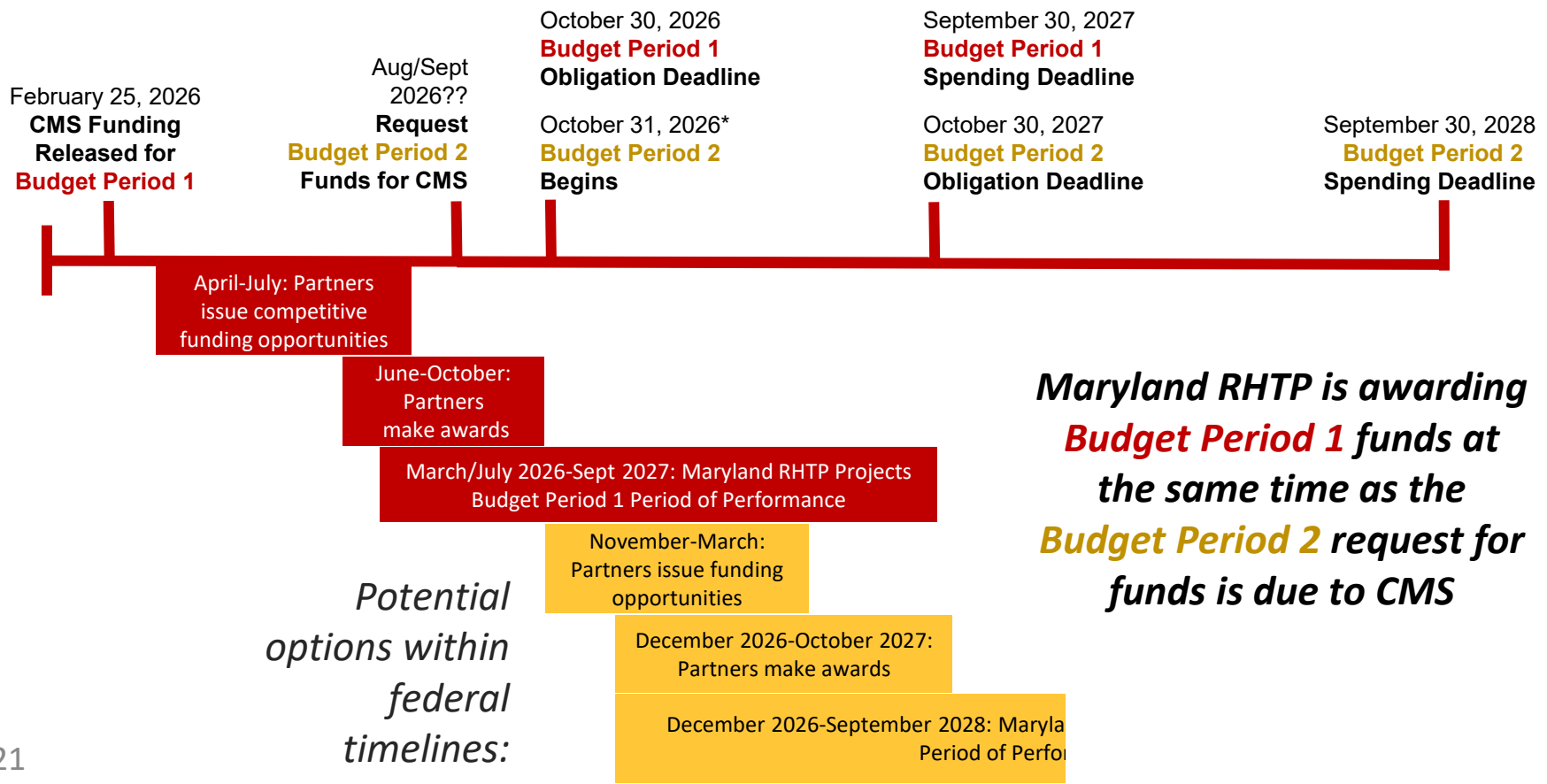
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# Budget Updates and Future Planning

# Federal RHTP Timeline



# Budget Periods 1 and 2 Timeline



**Maryland RHTP is awarding Budget Period 1 funds at the same time as the Budget Period 2 request for funds is due to CMS**

\*10/31/26 date assumes no required budget resubmission and immediate federal approval

# Budget Period Planning Considerations

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- Federal Cooperative Agreement
  - Continued funding dependent on obligation and spending of funds and meeting objectives
  - CMS may reallocate funding among states
  - Federal Budget and Spending periods overlap
  - Federal reporting requirements still evolving
- Budget Period 2 Funding Request
  - Awaiting guidance from CMS on amount, timing and process
  - Anticipate submission will be due August/September

# Metrics and Evaluation Plan

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- Included in NOFO response per CMS requirements
- Monitors progress of each pillar and supports rural health transformation goals
- Approach: Align with Maryland's existing metrics, e.g., for AHEAD and State Health Improvement Plan
- CMS recently requested additional detail on metric baselines and targets

# Metrics for Pillar 1: Transform the Rural Health Workforce

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1. Student participants in pipeline programs across medical and behavioral health, # of programs with percentage increase, as available
2. Participants in training and education programming related to medical, behavioral, and dental health, # with percentage increase, as available
3. Participants providing professional services to meet Maryland's health needs for the first time (as a student or new employee) or in a promoted role due to newly earned credentials, #
4. Sustainable infrastructure improvements related to workforce transformation efforts, #

# Metrics for Pillar 2: Sustainable Access & Innovative Care

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1. Increase in primary care capacity within state-designated rural counties, # of expansion projects, count of new primary care visits
2. Increase in behavioral health capacity within state-designated rural counties, # of expansion projects, count of new behavioral health visits
3. New connectivity points to HIE benefiting rural Marylanders, # connections, with percentage increase
4. New rural provider participation in advanced care models, # with percentage increase, as available

# Metrics for Pillar 3: Eat for Health

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1. Participants in targeted nutrition education programs with increased knowledge regarding consumption of healthy foods and reduced consumption of processed foods, # with percentage increase, as available
2. Sustainable infrastructure improvements, #
3. New or expanded initiatives to strengthen healthy food distribution across rural Maryland, #
4. New or expanded initiatives to strengthen healthy food purchasing strategies across rural Maryland, #

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# RHT Committee Discussion

# Committee Discussion

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Community  
Engagement



Strategy and  
Timing

- What are you hearing from rural communities about RHTP?
- Best methods to engage the RHT Committee regarding Budget Period 2 planning efforts?
- What are key considerations for refining metrics per any new CMS requirements (e.g., need for alignment, flexibility)?

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## Next Steps

## **RHT Committee Next Steps**

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- Calendar Year 2026 Meeting Dates
  - September 10, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
  - December 11, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
  - CY27 dates will be set by Sept meeting
- Meeting recordings and materials posted on [RHTP website](#) as soon as available
- We will continue to outreach between meetings via via email as appropriate

# Staying Connected

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- **Dedicated public-facing email:**  
[mdh.transformruralhealth@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.transformruralhealth@maryland.gov)
- **RHTP listserv sign up:**  
[https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Pages/Rural -Health-Transformation-Program.aspx](https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Pages/Rural-Health-Transformation-Program.aspx)
- **Webpage:** [https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Pages/Rural -Health-Transformation-Program.aspx](https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Pages/Rural-Health-Transformation-Program.aspx)

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# Committee Comments and Questions

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# Public Comment