

From: **Whittaker, Frank M** <[frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov](mailto:frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Sep 9, 2025 at 12:12 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Rural Health Consultant Emergency Request  
To: Jamion A Wolford <[jamion.a.wolford@wv.gov](mailto:jamion.a.wolford@wv.gov)>  
Cc: Samantha L Willis <[samantha.l.willis@wv.gov](mailto:samantha.l.willis@wv.gov)>, Toby L Welch <[toby.l.welch@wv.gov](mailto:toby.l.welch@wv.gov)>, Totten, Mark L <[mark.l.totten@wv.gov](mailto:mark.l.totten@wv.gov)>

Jamion,

Please see the attached emergency approval for a consultant to assist your office with the application phase of the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHT). Please follow the emergency purchasing procedures outlined in section 6.3.3 of the Purchasing Division Procedures Handbook and return all completed contract documents to this office for public posting within 30 days of this approval.

Thank you,

Frank

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Willis, Samantha L** <[samantha.l.willis@wv.gov](mailto:samantha.l.willis@wv.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Sep 9, 2025 at 11:21 AM  
Subject: Re: Rural Health Consultant Emergency Request  
To: Toby L Welch <[toby.l.welch@wv.gov](mailto:toby.l.welch@wv.gov)>, Frank M Whittaker <[frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov](mailto:frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov)>

Went ahead and signed here. Please share with Jamion including our typical emergency language.

Thanks!

On Tue, Sep 9, 2025 at 11:16 AM Willis, Samantha L <[samantha.l.willis@wv.gov](mailto:samantha.l.willis@wv.gov)> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wolford, Jamion A** <[jamion.a.wolford@wv.gov](mailto:jamion.a.wolford@wv.gov)>

Date: Tue, Sep 9, 2025 at 11:01 AM

Subject: Rural Health Consultant Emergency Request

To: Samantha L Willis <[samantha.l.willis@wv.gov](mailto:samantha.l.willis@wv.gov)>

Please let me know if you need anything else. We are only contracting for the application phase.

Thank you,

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**Jamion Wolford**

*Chief Financial Officer*

**Office of Governor Patrick Morrisey**

**State Capitol**

**1900 Kanawha Boulevard, E.**

**Charleston, WV 25305**

[Jamion.A.Wolford@wv.gov](mailto:Jamion.A.Wolford@wv.gov)

304-352-0715(Direct)

[Governor.wv.gov](http://Governor.wv.gov)

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**APPROVED**BY: *[Signature]* DATE: *9/9/25***WEST VIRGINIA PURCHASING DIVISION****Emergency Purchase Request Form for Central Purchases**  
*(Purchases Exceeding Agency's Delegated Spending Threshold)*

**Statutory Authority:** Pursuant to West Virginia Code §5A-3-15 and 148 C.S.R. 1-7.6, the director may authorize, in writing, a state spending unit to purchase in the open market, without filing requisition or estimate, specific commodities for immediate delivery to meet bona fide emergencies arising from unforeseen causes.

**Follow-up Award Requirements:** Effective July 1, 2024, agencies have delegated authority, upon written approval, to process all emergency purchases as agency contracts. Agencies must submit all contract documents to [Purchasing.Division@wv.gov](mailto:Purchasing.Division@wv.gov) no later than 30 days of issuance.

**Description of the emergency circumstance(s) that led to this emergency purchase request:**  
*(What is the emergency situation? Provide detailed information.)*

The Governor's Office is seeking a proven consulting firm to aid in planning and applying for federal funding through the Rural Health Transformation Program authorized by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The CMS provided application will be due by mid-November, therefore, a traditional RFP process is not possible. See attached document for more details.

**Proposed remedy:**

*(What is the item or service that needs to be purchased to remedy the emergency situation in the short term?)*

Consulting services are need to take full advantage of the federal funding which requires immediate information gathering, program planning, and application drafting resources.

**Estimated cost:**

*(How much will the items or service cost to rectify the situation? Include total cost.)*

\$2,000,000

**Proposed duration/quantity:**

*(If a service is needed, how long will you need it until you can properly bid out a long-term solution? If an item is needed, how many does your agency need?)*

Up to 1 year



# Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program

## Transforming Rural Healthcare in America

The Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program was authorized by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Section 71401 of Public Law 119-21) and empowers states to strengthen rural communities across America by improving healthcare access, quality, and outcomes by transforming the healthcare delivery ecosystem. Through innovative system-wide change, the RHT Program invests in the rural healthcare delivery ecosystem for future generations.

Additional information on how to apply for RHT Program funding will be released via a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and funding will be distributed in the form of a cooperative agreement.

### ***Strategic Goals***

The RHT Program seeks to further the following Strategic Goals:

#### **Make rural America healthy again**

Support rural health innovations and new access points to promote preventative health and address root causes of diseases. Projects will use evidence-based, outcomes-driven interventions to improve disease prevention, chronic disease management, behavioral health, and prenatal care.

## **Sustainable access**

Help rural providers become long-term access points for care by improving efficiency and sustainability. With RHT Program support, rural facilities work together — or with high-quality regional systems — to share or coordinate operations, technology, primary and specialty care, and emergency services.

## **Workforce development**

Attract and retain a high-skilled health care workforce by strengthening recruitment and retention of healthcare providers in rural communities. Help rural providers practice at the top of their license and develop a broader set of providers to serve a rural community's needs, such as community health workers, pharmacists, and individuals trained to help patients navigate the healthcare system.

## **Innovative care**

Spark the growth of innovative care models to improve health outcomes, coordinate care, and promote flexible care arrangements. Develop and implement payment mechanisms incentivizing providers or Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) to reduce health care costs, improve quality of care, and shift care to lower cost settings.

## **Tech innovation**

Foster use of innovative technologies that promote efficient care delivery, data security, and access to digital health tools by rural facilities, providers, and patients. Projects support access to remote care, improve data sharing, strengthen cybersecurity, and invest in emerging technologies.

## ***Program Structure***

RHT Program funding is \$50 billion to be allocated to approved States over five fiscal years, with \$10 billion of funding available each fiscal year, beginning in fiscal year 2026 and ending in fiscal year 2030.

- 50% to be distributed equally amongst all approved States
- 50% will be allocated by CMS based on a variety of factors including rural population, the proportion of rural health facilities in the State, the situation of certain hospitals in the State, and other factors to be specified by CMS in the NOFO

## ***Uses of Funds***

States must use RHT Program funds for three or more of the approved uses of funds:

- Promoting evidence-based, measurable interventions to improve prevention and chronic disease management.
- Providing payments to health care providers for the provision of health care items or services, as specified by the Administrator.
- Promoting consumer-facing, technology-driven solutions for the prevention and management of chronic diseases.
- Providing training and technical assistance for the development and adoption of technology-enabled solutions that improve care delivery in rural hospitals, including remote monitoring, robotics, artificial intelligence, and other advanced technologies.
- Recruiting and retaining clinical workforce talent to rural areas, with commitments to serve rural communities for a minimum of 5 years.

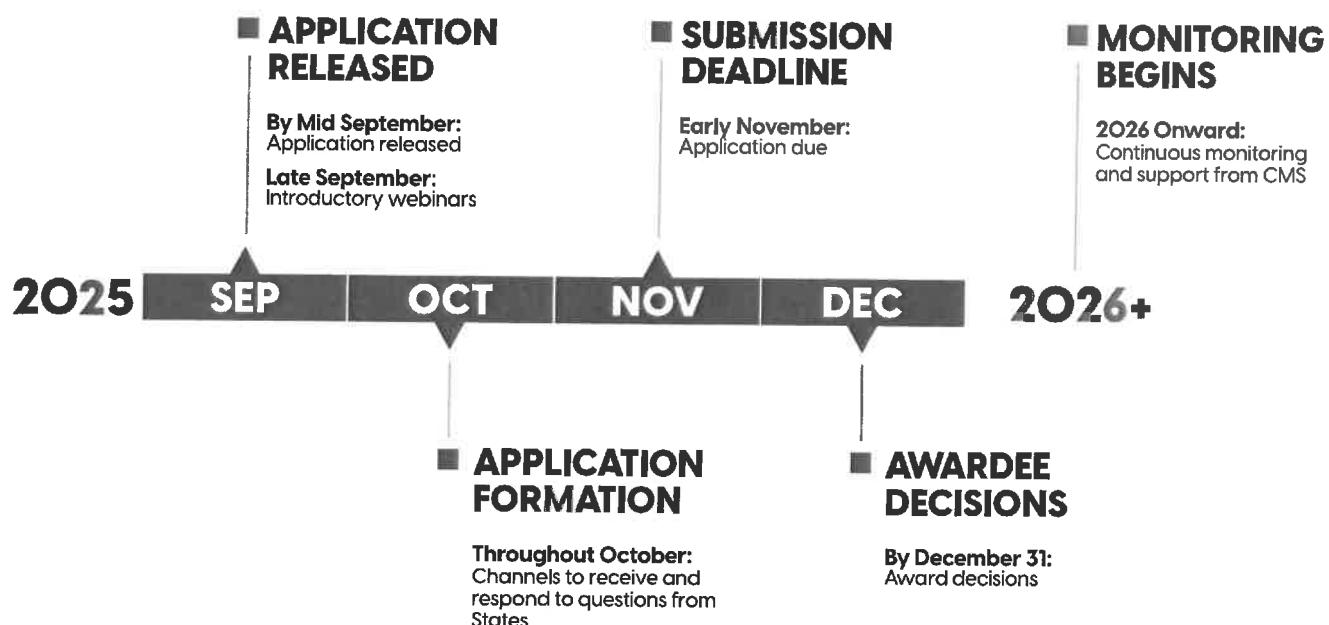
- Providing technical assistance, software, and hardware for significant information technology advances designed to improve efficiency, enhance cybersecurity capability development, and improve patient health outcomes.
- Assisting rural communities to right size their health care delivery systems by identifying needed preventative, ambulatory, pre-hospital, emergency, acute inpatient care, outpatient care, and post-acute care service lines.
- Supporting access to opioid use disorder treatment services (as defined in section 1861(jj)(1)), other substance use disorder treatment services, and mental health services.
- Developing projects that support innovative models of care that include value-based care arrangements and alternative payment models, as appropriate.
- Additional uses designed to promote sustainable access to high quality rural health care services, as determined by the Administrator.

## Eligibility

In accordance with the authorizing statute, only the 50 U.S. states are eligible to receive an RHT Program award; the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories are not eligible.

## How to Apply for RHT Program Funding

- Application instructions to apply for RHT Program funding will be included in the NOFO and released on grants.gov by mid-September
- CMS will engage with States in the open application period to answer questions
- Application submissions will close in early November
- Awards will be decided by December 31, 2025



## Stay Connected

For more information on the Rural Health Transformation Program, please email us at [MAHARural@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MAHARural@cms.hhs.gov)



## Helpful Resources

- [Current CMS Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Information on Applying for CMS Grants and Cooperative Agreements](#)



## Downloads

- [P.L. 119-21 Section 71401 Reg Text](#)

- RHT Program Overview Presentation

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Help with File Formats and Plug-Ins

**CMS.gov**



A federal government website managed and paid for by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244