

Rural Health Transformation Program Technical Assistance for Expanding Rural Rotations – May 7, 2026

Prepared from presentation slides and speaker notes. This handout is designed as an accessible companion document for participants who may not be able to use slide decks effectively.

1. Agenda

Presenter: Nicole Benson.

Purpose: To help applications feel confident and prepared, we will review the funding opportunity guidance, highlight key requirements and provide a space for questions.

- Background
- Eligibility
- Purpose
- Unallowable costs
- Application and Review
- Reporting
- Questions
- Resources and Reminders

Information may change based on upon updated federal guidance or upon further consideration by North Dakota Health and Human Services (ND HHS).

2. Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

RHTP was authorized by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Section 71401 of Public Law 119-21) providing \$50 billion to all 50 states over five years

- North Dakota Health and Human Services (ND HHS) submitted an application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- ND was awarded \$198.9M for year one (12/29/2025 – 10/30/2026)

North Dakota's application identified 4 initiatives

- Make ND healthy again
- Strengthen and stabilize rural health workforce
- Bring high-quality healthcare closer to home
- Connect technology, data and providers for a stronger ND

3. Funding Opportunities

- Funding opportunities will be released in phases, with individual applications announced over time.
- Each funding opportunity will have a unique purpose, eligibility and timeline.
- Future year's funds will be determined by CMS based on the state's progress on the plan submitted in the RHTP application.
 - Use of funds must align with the state's RHTP application or provide justification.
 - Use of funds must follow state and federal guidance.
 - Awarded funds must receive proper state and federal approval.

4. Expanding Rural Rotations Funding Opportunity

- Funding opportunity solicitation number: 210.212
- Total Funding: \$3,000,000
 - An estimated 15 awards of approximately \$200,000 are expected to be funded in year one

5. Eligibility

Eligible:

- Hospitals, clinics and home care providers
- Long-term care facilities
- Behavioral health providers
- Tribes and tribal health organizations, excluding Indian Health Services
- Emergency medical services providers
- Other health care providers
- Local public health
- Nonprofit organizations
- Education systems

Target Populations

- Rural or tribal North Dakota health care workforce

*The entities within and the cities of Grand Forks, Fargo, West Fargo and Bismarck are considered urban and do not qualify for RHTP funding opportunities unless the population served by the grant applicant is at least 50% North Dakota rural citizens or the focus of the grant funding will be used for North Dakota rural citizens. RHTP funding must be used to support North Dakota rural citizens.

7. Purpose and Outcomes

Purpose

- Expand rural health care rotations to new learner types by facilitating embedding students into rural healthcare facilities.
- Add additional slots for rural healthcare rotations.
- Provide short-term housing support (six months or less) for traditional students embedded in rural healthcare facilities.
- Must support North Dakota's RHTP

Expected Outcomes

- Increase the rural healthcare workforce retention rate at three and five years
- Recruit new rural healthcare workers
- Reduce Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) counties
- 500 trainees receive rural rotations support

8. Funding Opportunity Period

- Begin: once the agreement has been fully executed, following all required approvals and signatures.
- End: September 30, 2027, and all funds must be fully expended by that date.

Timeline

- May 15, 2026, 5 p.m. CT: Applications due
- May 15-June 12, 2026:
 - Review and scoring
 - Communication with applicants for adjustments if needed
 - Approvals by CMS and ND HHS leadership
 - Agreement development
- September 2026: All year one funds must be awarded
- September 30, 2027: All year one funds must be expended

9. Requirements to Receive Federal Funding

- Register with the Secretary of State to perform business in the state.
- If your organization has not been paid by a state entity before, you must register with vendor registry before you can be paid.
- ND HHS will require a W9 form to set up by your organization within our contract system. If your organization would like to be paid with electronic funds transfer, you need to submit the substitute IRS form W-9.

- If your organization will receive funding under a federally funded program, you must register in SAM.gov and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) prior to contract execution or payment. Your SAM.gov registration must remain active for the duration of the award.

10. Unallowable Costs and Limits for the Expanding Rural Rotations Funding Opportunity

- Modified total direct administrative costs are not allowable for the Expanding Rural Rotations Funding Opportunity.
- Capital expenditures are not allowed with this funding opportunity.
- Pre-award costs.
- Meeting matching requirements for any other federal funds or for local entities.
- Services, equipment or supports that are the legal responsibility of another party under federal, state or tribal law.
- Supplanting existing state, local, tribal or private funding of infrastructure or services.

11. Unallowable Costs and Limits

- Replacing payment(s) for clinical services that could be reimbursed by insurance.
- Direct healthcare services may be funded if not currently reimbursable, will fill a gap in care coverage, and/or may transform current care delivery model.
- Provider payments cannot exceed 15% of total funding in a budget period.
- No more than 5% of total funding in a budget period can support funding the replacement of an electronic health record (EHR) system if a previous HITECH certified EMR is in place as of September 1, 2025.
- Funding toward initiatives similar to the “Rural Tech Catalyst Fund Initiative” cannot exceed the lesser of 10% of total funding or \$20 million of total funding awarded in a budget period.
- Clinician salaries/wages for facilities that subject clinicians to non-compete clauses.
- Meals and food.

12. Application

- Background
- Narrative
 - Identified Need and Proposed Goals
 - Strategies, Activities and Measurable Outcomes

- Sustainability
- Action Plan
- Budget

13. Application - Background

- Organization name and background
- Project lead and contact information
- Project title and brief description of why you're applying

14. Application - Narrative

Identified need and proposed goals

- Identify the need for the proposed project
 - Challenges the proposed project aims to address
 - Describe the specific training, upskilling, or credentialing issues impacting the organization and the current workforce, including the issues of receiving training locally.
 - Relevant local data, as applicable
- Outline your overarching goal(s) and target population
 - Describe the broad, high-level change(s) your organization seeks to achieve
 - If the proposed project serves additional populations or is located in an urban area, describe how rural or tribal residents and Medicaid members will be served.
- Is this project already in progress, currently funded by another source, or actively being implemented in your organization or community?
 - Identify current or similar projects and their funding sources.
 - Why is the expansion needed?
 - How will you proposed project enhance or expand rather than duplicate existing efforts?

16. Application - Narrative

Strategies, Activities and Measurable Outcomes

- Use outcome-focused terms to describe the strategies and activities.
 - Order in priority, if applicable
 - Specific, realistic, measurable, and aligned with funding opportunity guidance, metrics, and eligibility
- If the project will lead to a service commitment, documentation of policies, procedures

- Sustainability (priority numbers)
- Continued maintenance and use of technology and equipment

17. Application - Narrative

Strategies, Activities and Measurable Outcomes

- How does your project align with elements of CMS's RHTP?
- For the identified elements, briefly explain the connection to the project by responding to the stated questions
- Improving access
- Improving outcomes
- Technology use
- Partnerships
- Workforce
- Data-driven solutions
- Financial solvency strategies
- Cause identification

18. Application – Action Plan

Timeline and Milestones

- Provide the timeline to successfully implement the proposed project
- Identify key milestones and estimated completion dates for each strategy and activity

Metrics

- For each outcome, identify specific metrics that will be used
- How will progress be tracked for reporting

Key Personnel

- Internal
- Consultants

19. Application – Budget

Template for itemized budget

- Cover
- Budget
- Lease vs. Purchase

- Appropriate justification for each cost category
- Proposals may exceed the estimated award amount

RHTP funds are governed by applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 300, with guidance from the federal RHTP Notice of Funding Opportunity and CMS's Frequently Asked Questions document.

The limits and unallowable costs detailed in this section come from federal guidance and are non-negotiable.

20. Application Submission

Applications must be submitted through [Qualtrics](#)

- Your progress is automatically saved every time you click the Next button at the bottom of the page
- If you need to stop, simply close your browser and you can resume within 1 week
- To resume, click the original survey link again from the same device and browser
- This feature will not work if you are using a private or incognito browser window
- Submit early to avoid technical issues

Reminder:

- Applications due by 5 p.m. CT on May 15, 2026
- Applications not received by the submission date and time will be considered non-responsive and not reviewed
- Don't forget to include required attachments-Itemized Subrecipient Budget Template

21. Application Review

Dates: May 15-June 12, 2026

- Review and scoring by a committee
- Communication with applicants for adjustments, if needed
- Approvals by CMS and ND HHS leadership
- Agreement development

[Scoring Tool](#)

22. Reporting

Quarterly and annual reports

- Reimbursement requests
- Impact stories
- Progress reports
 - Metrics
 - Use of funds

23. Questions

- Review of questions received
- To ask a question today:
 - Submit via chat
- Funding opportunity FAQ and resources will be added to website
- We may not be able to answer all questions today
- Submit questions: [FAQ Survey](#)

24. Questions

1. Can Year 1 funding be used for planning and developing a new rotation program coordinating nursing internships across a statewide network of rural clinics, while the actual implementation wouldn't occur until after Year 1? It would likely take a full year to develop the plan and infrastructure.

Answer: Yes, year one funding can be used for planning and developing a new rotation program.

2. Can a single entity submit two separate proposals for this funding?

Answer: No, an organization should submit one proposal in this first year, if there are multiple strategies and activities, please number in order of priority.

3. I represent two different organizations who both want to apply. Is there an easy way for me to accomplish this in Qualtrics? When I click on the hyperlink, it directs me to the first application I started. How can I start on another application for a different organization?

Answer: There are a couple of options for submitting applications for two different organizations, first make sure you complete and submit the first application before starting the second one, you could use a different browser, or a different computer.

4. Are all the grants in the category, "strengthen and stabilize rural health workforce" released?

Answer: No, not all funding opportunities in Initiative 2 have been released. At this stage, all funding opportunity details have not been finalized. We encourage you to visit

our website and sign up for RHTP updates to receive timely notifications as new opportunities and resources are released.

5. We submitted an application for a funding opportunity and now recognize that some of our proposal aligns with a new funding opportunity just posted. Do we need to apply for both? If we apply for both, can we be awarded for both?

Answer: Yes, applicants must submit an application for each funding opportunity that they want to be considered for. Applicants can be awarded multiple funding opportunities. However, the same project cannot be funded by two different funding opportunities.

25. Resources and Reminders

- Visit the [Rural Health Transformation Program webpage](#)
- [Sign up to receive email updates](#)
- [Funding Guidance](#)
- Submit questions: [FAQ Survey](#)

26. Rural Health Transformation Program

This presentation is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$198,936,969.55 with 100% funded by CMS/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents are those of ND HHS and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or the U.S. Government.