



November 5, 2025

Dr. Mehmet Oz
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 2020

Dear Administrator Oz:

I write in support of North Dakota's Rural Health Transformation Plan (RHTP).

North Dakota is a proud rural state. Our communities are defined by self-reliance, hard work and a deep commitment to our neighbors. Our plan will help ensure that every North Dakotan, whether they live in Beach or Bismarck, Flasher or Fargo, has access to high-quality health care.

I have designated the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) as the lead agency responsible for implementing the RHTP. NDHHS will coordinate this effort with all relevant federal, state and local partners.

Our application was developed in collaboration with the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services and its Public Health Division, Behavioral Health Division and Medical Services Division, which administers Medicaid; the North Dakota Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota; the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission; the Indian Health Service; the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction; The North Dakota University System; The North Dakota Legislative Assembly, through its Interim Rural Health Transformation Committee; the North Dakota Hospital Association; the Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas; the North Dakota Long Term Care Association; the North Dakota Medical Association; the North Dakota Rural Health Association; the Rough Rider High Value Network; and numerous local providers and community partners.

To ensure that stakeholder engagement remains central throughout program development and implementation, NDHHS will maintain a structured feedback process through the RHTP Steering Committee, with quarterly stakeholder meetings, tribal consultations and continuous outreach to provider networks and community representatives. Input from these partners will guide decision-making, performance metrics and policy adjustments as the program evolves.

North Dakota commits to taking all necessary state-level actions to support successful implementation. This includes legislative and regulatory reforms, as advanced through the North Dakota Legislative Assembly's Interim Rural Health Transformation Committee, which is preparing statutory and appropriations measures to meet our commitments in the RHTP.

We will continue to align state policy, workforce initiatives and reforms to support the goals of the RHTP and ensure its long-term sustainability.

North Dakota further certifies that federal award funds will not be used for any activities prohibited under 42 U.S.C. 1397ee(h)(2)(A)(ii) and that all expenditures will comply with applicable federal and state statutes and policies.

Finally, our plan is designed to benefit rural residents across the entire state by strengthening local health care access points, supporting workforce development in every region and investing in technology and partnerships that connect even our most frontier communities to care. Through initiatives such as Clinics Without Walls, North Dakota Moves Together and the expansion of telehealth, mobile clinics and cooperative rural health networks, we can better ensure that every rural North Dakotan receives timely, quality care close to home.

Thank you for your continued leadership in supporting rural America. North Dakota stands ready to partner with CMS to advance the goals of the Rural Health Transformation Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Armstrong', is written over the printed name and title.

Kelly Armstrong
Governor of North Dakota