

Rural Health Transformation Program Listening Session

Agenda

- Rural Health Transformation
Program Overview
- Timeline
- Strategic Goals
- Funding Provisions
- Initiative Components
- Survey Results
- Discussion

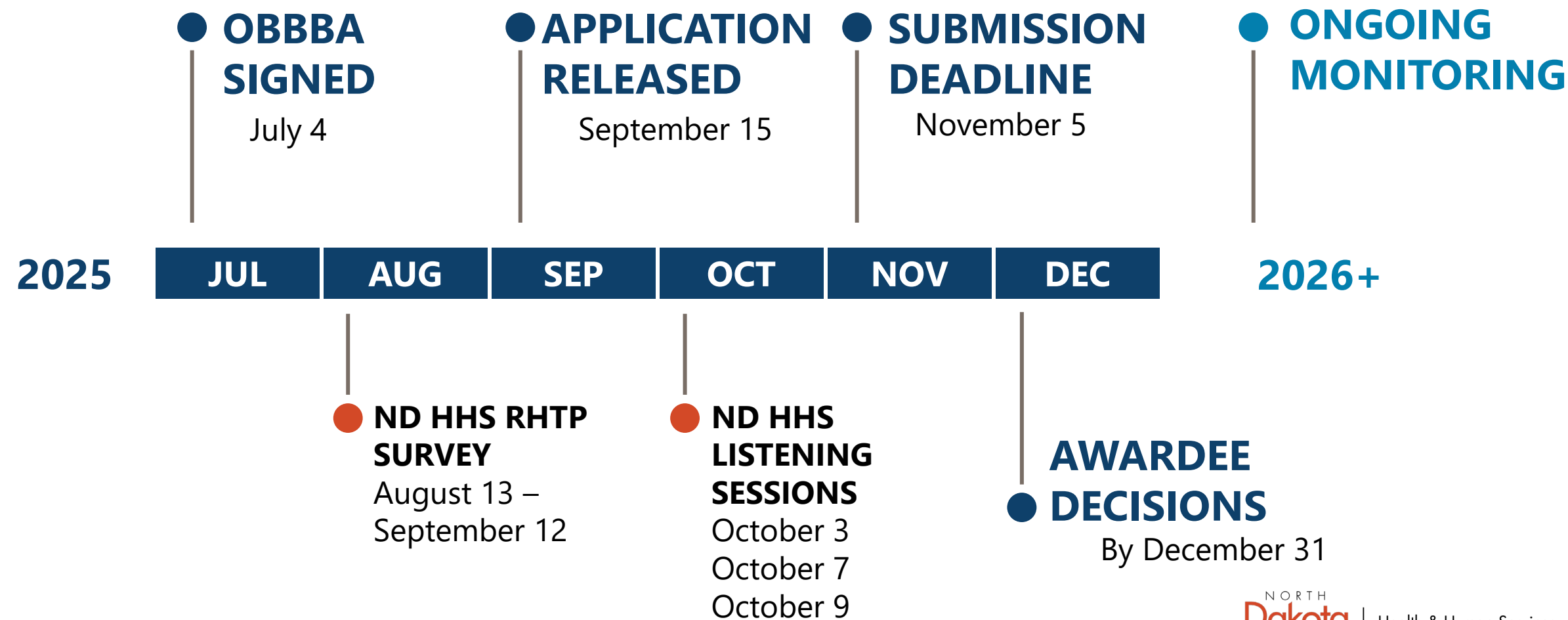
What is the Rural Health Transformation Program?

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.



Timeline

Rural Health Transformation Program



North Dakota Application Approach

- Address Priority Areas Identified by North Dakotans in HHS Survey and Listening Sessions
- Measurable Impact on Access or Health Outcomes for Rural North Dakotans
- Maximize Scoring for Workload Funding Factors
- Sustainable Investments: Limit Future Funding Obligations for State after Grant
- Align to Strategic Goals set by CMS in application:

Make Rural America
Healthy Again

Sustainable Access

Workforce
Development

Innovative Care

Tech Innovation

Use of Funds

- Funding may only be used in areas described in the bill.
- Application must invest in a minimum of three permissible uses.

Prevention and
chronic
disease

Provider
payments

Consumer tech
solutions

Training and
technical
assistance

Workforce

IT advances

Appropriate
care availability

Behavioral
health

Innovative care
models

Investing in
existing rural
infrastructure

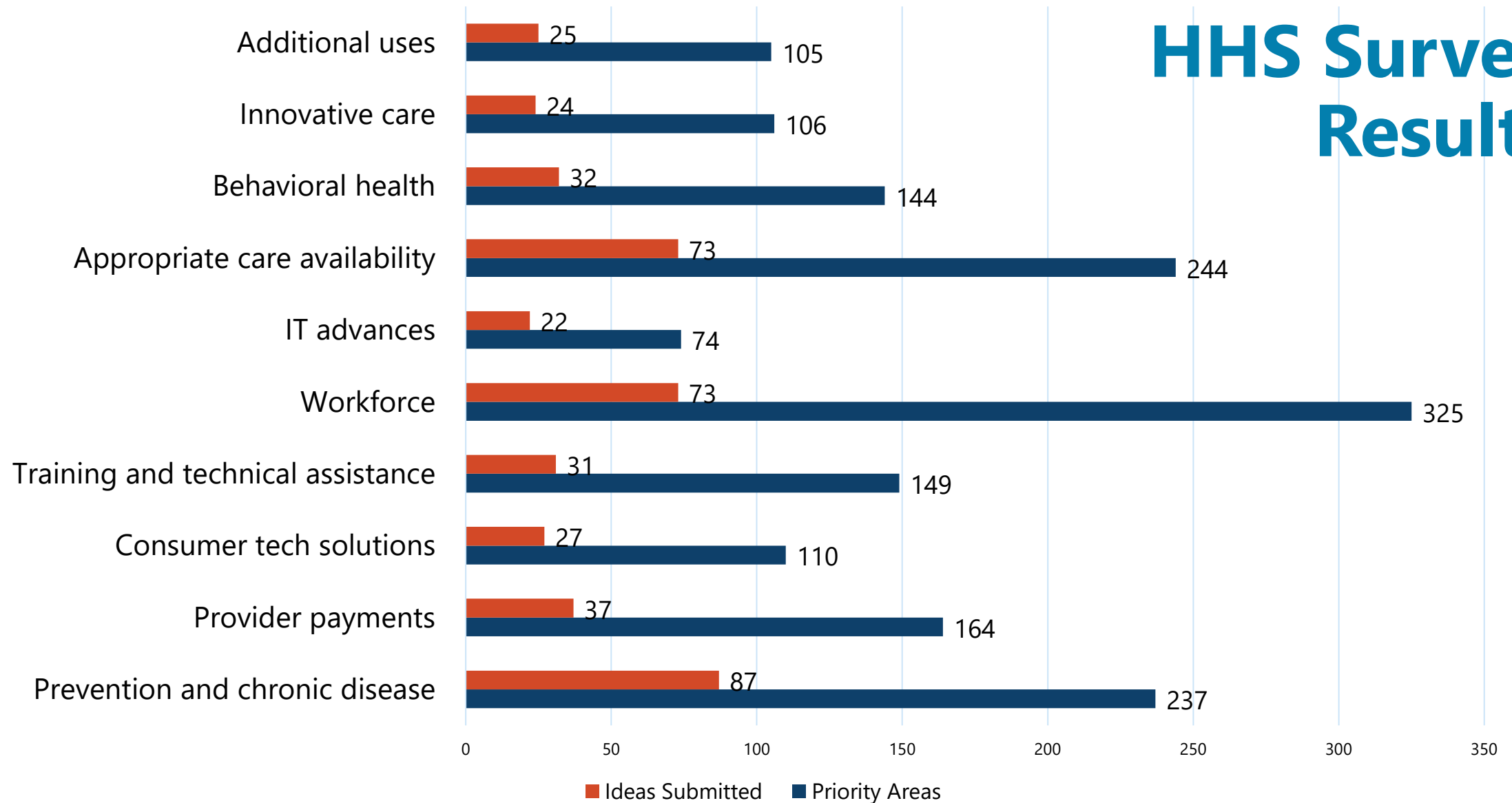
Fostering
collaboration

Unallowable Costs and Limits

10% Cap on Admin
Costs Across All
Funding

- 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 (ex. Staff Salaries).
- New construction, building expansion, or purchasing of buildings.
 - Renovations or alterations are allowed if they are clearly linked to program goals. Cannot include cosmetic upgrades or significant retrofitting of buildings.
 - Renovation or alternations cannot exceed 20% of total funding in a budget period.
- Replacing payment(s) for clinical services that could be reimbursed by insurance.
 - Direct health care 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 EMR 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.
- Financial assistance to households for installation and monthly broadband internet costs.
- Clinician salaries/wages for facilities that subject clinicians to non-compete clauses.

HHS Survey Results



Themes from Survey Responses



STRENGTHEN
AND STABILIZE
RURAL HEALTH
WORKFORCE



MAKE NORTH
DAKOTA
HEALTHY AGAIN



BRING HIGH-
QUALITY HEALTH
CARE CLOSER TO
HOME



CONNECT TECH
AND DATA FOR A
STRONGER ND

Strengthen and Stabilize Rural Health Workforce

Survey Themes and Sample Initiatives



Expand Rural Healthcare Training Pipelines	Expand residency training opportunities.
	Train in place opportunities for existing workforce to obtain higher credential.
	Expand opportunities for health care career education.
Improve Retention in Rural and Tribal Communities	Expand loan repayment programs.
	Retention grants for rural providers.
	Technical assistance to support best practices for retaining clinicians.
Use Technology as an extender for Rural Providers	Equip health facilities with remote monitoring and smart technology to reduce reliance on physical workforce.
	Use robotics and artificial intelligence for tasks that do not require human intervention to reduce reliance on physical workforce.
Provide Technical Assistance and Training for Existing Workforce	Behavioral health training for non-behavioral health workforce.
	Chronic disease management and engagement training.
	Obstetric and other specialized training for primary care workforce.

Make North Dakota Healthy Again

Survey Themes and Sample Initiatives



Eat Well North Dakota	Embed nutrition into training, workflow, and treatment plans for North Dakota health care workforce.
	Create opportunities for farm to table food distribution in schools, senior citizen centers, with tribes and communities across ND.
	Educate and engage non-traditional partners in bolstering nutrition in communities across ND.
ND Moves Together	Embed physical activity into training, workflow, and treatment plans for North Dakota health care workforce. .
	Foster physical movement in non-traditional partners including youth sport coaches, faith leaders and schools, and health care providers.
	Partner with rural communities to create lasting opportunities for physical activity.
Building Connection and Resiliency	Collaborate with faith leaders and tribes to deliver culturally grounded wellness programs.
	Expand resources for building communication and wellness in children and families while reducing harmful tech use.
	Partner with communities to build connection and resiliency across North Dakota.
Investing in Value	Create a Medicaid Value Based Purchasing Program for critical access hospitals in partnership.
	Explore alternative payment arrangements in Medicaid for rural health care providers.
	Create multi-payer alignment on outcomes and goals for value based and alternative payment arrangements.

Bring High-Quality Health Care Closer to Home

Survey Themes and Sample Initiatives



Rightsizing Rural Health Care Delivery Systems for the Future	Technical assistance for providers planning a licensure or scope change.
	Remodel and tech for providers choosing to right-size existing facilities to meet community needs.
	Modernization and tech grants for residential facilities to meet requirements for new billing pathways.
Sustaining Revenue	Technical assistance for providers to explore and diversify their revenue streams.
	Incentive grants for existing providers to expand into more home and community-based care.
Clinics without Walls	Create telehealth infrastructure for local primary and specialty care in communities without healthcare providers.
	Expand mobile clinics for delivering primary care, specialist care, and dental care.
	Grants to purchase remote monitoring devices or apps and technical assistance and training to integrate into workflow.
Ensuring Safety Net Service Delivery	Technical assistance, training, and remodeling grants for providers filling a service gap in the care continuum.
	Rural ambulance telehealth and EMR connectivity.
Ensuring Transportation	Grants to existing organizations to purchase accessible vans or vehicles for non-emergency transport.
	Technology to support billing for sustainable service delivery and program integrity for non-emergency transport.
Coordinating and Connecting Care	Technical assistance for ND Medicaid, private payers, and providers to develop care coordination program for patients with chronic disease or behavioral health conditions.
	Develop closed loop referral system and community information exchange to connect providers and existing community organizations and North Dakotans to volunteer opportunities in their communities.

Connect Tech and Data for a Stronger ND

Survey Themes and Sample Initiatives



Breaking Data Barriers	Modernize North Dakota’s healthcare data environment by unifying EMRs, payer data, and pharmacy data in a secure and integrated platform to improve clinical care, care coordination and increase access to population level data..
	Promoting data interoperability for providers to create a more seamless patient experience in care transitions.
	Engage non-traditional partners in the use of health data to support population health.
Cooperative Purchasing for Technology and Other Health Care Infrastructure	Grants to support the creation and expansion of cooperative purchasing agreements for technology including Cyber Security, Population Health Tools, and Electronic Medical Records.
	Grants to support the creation of cooperative purchasing of shared health care infrastructure.
Harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and New Technology	Use AI to detect early signs of chronic illness and behavioral health conditions through predictive analytics.
	Expand capacity of rural providers through new AI tools.
	Expand the use of technology including drones to rapidly transport needed items.

Additional Ideas

- Do you have other ideas for improving healthcare access, quality and outcomes in North Dakota?
- Are there any additional topics that we haven't covered that would positively impact healthcare access, quality, and outcomes in North Dakota?
- How do we ensure these investments will be sustained in rural communities?

Thank you for your input!

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