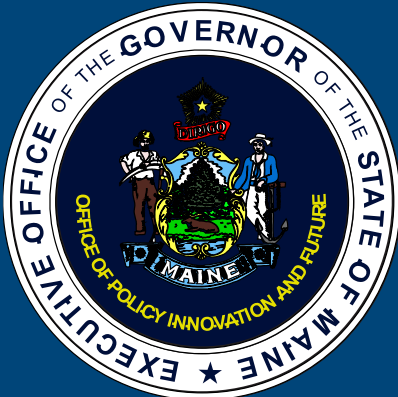


Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) & Maine

Public Information Webinar

September 2025



RURAL HEALTH
TRANSFORMATION

Today's Agenda

- RHTP Overview
- Applying for RHTP
- Public Input on Maine's Approach
- Q&A

RHTTP Overview

Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

- **Created by H.R. 1 (July 2025)**
 - Maine projected to lose ~\$5B in federal health funding over 10 years
 - Rural health providers at risk; higher costs, more uninsured
 - Federal initiative to bolster rural health
- **\$50B, time-limited funding (2026–2030)**
 - Distributed by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to states with approved applications
- **Distribution – two allocations**
 - \$25B allocated evenly across all 50 states
 - ~\$100M/year for the next 5 years for Maine
 - Plan must be approved by CMS to access funds
 - \$25B allocated to a subset of at least 14 states at CMS' discretion
- **There will be no “No-Cost Extensions”**
 - Unused funds within specified time limits will be redistributed to other states

Federal Goals

Make rural America healthy again

Sustainable access

Workforce development

Innovative care

Technology innovation

Applying for RHTP

CMS RHTP Timeline



September
2025



October
2025



November
2025



December
2025



Q1 2026

*Application
Released*

September 15:
Application released

September 17:
Maine launches
public engagement
process

September 23 & 24:
Informational webinars

*Application
Formation*

October 1: Maine's
online public comment
period through website
closes

Mid-Late October:
Community Listening
Sessions

*Submission
Deadline*

November 5:
Application due

*Awardee
Decisions*

December 31:
Awardee decisions

*Monitoring
Begins*

2026+: Continuous
monitoring & support
from CMS

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- NOFO released Sept 15 – Due Nov 5
- NOFO posted to Grants.gov: [CMS-RHT-26-001](#)

Application Requirements	Proposed State plan
	Specific proposed initiatives
	Proposed policy changes
	Implementation plan & timeline
	Stakeholder engagement plan
	Metrics & evaluation plan
	Sustainability plan
	5-year budget
	Governor's letter of commitment

Allowable Use of Funds

Prevention &
Chronic Disease

Behavioral
Health

Appropriate
Care
Availability

Provider
Payments*

Capital
Expenditures &
Infrastructure*

Workforce

Fostering
Collaboration

Innovative Care

Consumer Tech
Solutions

Training &
Technical
Assistance

IT Advances*

** Funding limitations, outlined on slide 10*

Additional uses designed to promote sustainable access to high quality rural health care services, as determined by the Administrator

Program-specific Funding Limitations

In a given budget period:

- Capital expenditures and infrastructure cannot exceed 20% of total funding awarded to a State
- Provider payments cannot exceed 15% of total funding awarded to a State
- Replacing an EMR system cannot exceed 5% of total funding if a previous HITECH certified EMR system was already in place as of Sept. 1, 2025
- No more than 10% of the amount allotted to a State for a budget period may be used by the State for administrative expenses, which includes indirect and direct costs
- Funding for initiatives like the “Rural Tech Catalyst Fund Initiative” cannot exceed the lesser of 10% of awarded funding or \$20 million



RHT Program Funding Scope

Use funding to pay for...

- ✓ Transformation of care delivery
- ✓ Improved access to, quality of, and cost of healthcare in rural America
- ✓ Expanded or enhanced services but not duplicate programs
- ✓ Technological & infrastructure investments and startup costs that will have sustainable impact beyond the end of the program

Do not use funding to pay for...

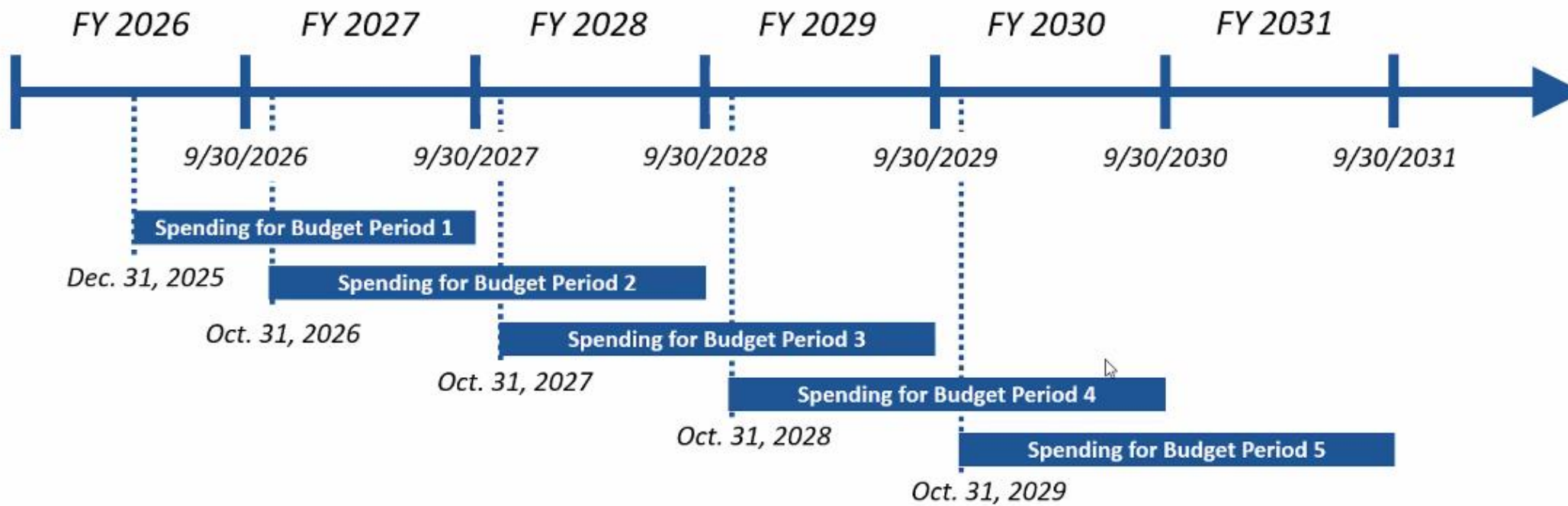
- × New construction
- × Clinical services that duplicate billable services and/or attempt to change payment amounts of existing fee schedules
- × Other specified limitations outlined in the NOFO



Funds Distribution and Use Deadlines

For each budget period, recipients will have until the end of the following fiscal year (September 30) to spend awarded funding

- Recap: Budget Period 1 will start on December 31, 2025, and Subsequent Budget Periods will start on October 31 of each fiscal year



State Application Requirements

Statutory
Requirements

Strategic
Alignment

Budget &
Operations

Public Input on Maine's Approach

Developing Maine's RHTP Plan

The State is committed to pursuing an **expeditious approach** that directs these **time-limited funds** to areas that **improve the health of rural communities** through **innovation** and **collaboration**.

State-wide effort

- Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
- Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF)
- Other state agencies
- Public engagement

Community Engagement

- [Website](#)
 - Public Comment
- Webinars
- Listening Sessions

The screenshot shows the website for the State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The page is titled "Rural Health Transformation Program" and includes a navigation menu with options like Home, About Us, Programs & Services, Offices/Divisions, and Data & Reports. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is divided into several sections: a description of the program, a timeline of key events, a public engagement and feedback section, and information about public comment forms and webinars.

STATE OF MAINE
Department of Health and Human Services

Hotlines | Contact Us | Online Services | Privacy

Search DHHS SEARCH

Home About Us Programs & Services Offices/Divisions Data & Reports

DHHS → Rural Health Transformation Program

Rural Health Transformation Program

The State will apply for newly available funding from the federal Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). The RHTP was created within the federal budget reconciliation bill, H.R. 1 (Section 71401 of Public Law 119-21) which was signed into law on July 4, 2025 and makes [significant cuts to Medicaid](#). These cuts are permanent and expected to increase the number of uninsured individuals and costs to provide health care to those individuals over the next several years, particularly in rural areas.

Nationally, these Medicaid cuts amount to nearly \$1 trillion over the next 10 years. That includes an estimated \$5 billion in cuts to Maine.

If awarded funding through RHTP, Maine anticipates receiving an estimated \$500 million, amounting to \$100 million a year over five years. States may also receive competitive discretionary funding above that amount. Funding for RHTP is temporary and one-time and must be used within the specified time period.

Public Engagement and Feedback

The State encourages public input to inform its RHTP plan and application. The State is committed to pursuing an expeditious approach that directs these time-limited funds to areas that improve the health of rural communities through innovation and collaboration.

The public, partners, and others are invited to provide feedback online at the link below **through October 1, 2025**.

[Public Comment Form](#)

The State of Maine will also host public information webinars about RHTP:

- Sept. 23, 2025 | Noon -- 1pm: [Register here](#)
- Sept. 24, 2025: 1 p.m. -- 2 pm: [Register here](#)

Community listening sessions will additionally be scheduled shortly to take place in October.

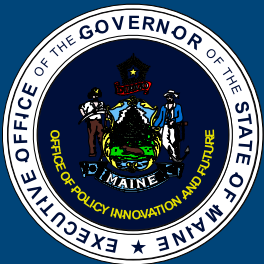
Timeline

- **July 4, 2025:** H.R. 1 budget reconciliation bill signed, appropriating \$50 billion in funding for the RHTP over five years
- **September 15, 2025:** CMS releases RHTP funding application (Notice of Funding Opportunity) for states
- **September 16, 2025:** Public input process opens
- **Nov. 5, 2025:** State applications due to CMS
- **December 31, 2025:** CMS to complete State awardee decisions
- **2026 onward:** CMS provides continuous monitoring and support to states

For more information

- [H.R. 1 Budget Reconciliation Bill](#) – federal bill text
- [Rural Health Transformation Program](#) – CMS program website

Provide Your Input by OCTOBER 1



[Maine.gov/dhhs/ruralhealth](https://maine.gov/dhhs/ruralhealth)



For Additional Information

- CMS: [CMS.gov/priorities/rural-health-transformation-rht-program/rural-health-transformation-rht-program](https://www.cms.gov/priorities/rural-health-transformation-rht-program/rural-health-transformation-rht-program)
- CMS NOFO: [Grants.gov/search-results-detail/360442](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/360442)
- Maine RHTP: [Maine.gov/dhhs/ruralhealth](https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ruralhealth)