

Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program

Total funding

\$50 Billion

Duration

5 Years

Federal oversight

CMS

Administered by

State

\$50 B

federal investment over five years to stabilize and modernize rural healthcare

What is the RHT Program?

A new CMS-led program designed to help rural hospitals and health systems build sustainable operations, improve care access, and remain financially viable.

The problem

Why RHT Program exists

- ▶ Rural hospitals face sustained financial pressure.
- ▶ Prior federal policy changes reduced reimbursement and safety-net funding.
- ▶ Workforce shortages, aging infrastructure, and compliance burden compound risk.
- ▶ Closures threaten access to care for entire communities.

Program goal

RHT Program is more than stabilization. It's transformation.

It provides funding to strengthen infrastructure and governance so rural hospitals can move beyond survival and propel their mission forward, delivering care to the communities that depend on them.

Eligible focus areas

What the \$50B supports



Operational process improvement



Workforce enablement & retention



Data, reporting, & performance infrastructure



Technology that supports quality, access, & compliance



Regulatory readiness & burden reduction



Long-term sustainability & innovation models

How is this different

RHT Program vs. prior funding

Before:

- ▶ Stop-gap payments
- ▶ No measurable outcomes
- ▶ One-time relief only
- ▶ No tech investment focus

RHTP:

- ▶ Capability-building focus
- ▶ Measurable improvement
- ▶ Durable investments
- ▶ Technology-forward design

Recommended next steps

What rural leaders should be doing now

- ✔ Assign an executive owner for RHT Program readiness.
- ✔ Monitor CMS guidance and state-level participation models.
- ✔ Inventory current operational and compliance gaps.
- ✔ Identify processes and systems that limit scale or sustainability.
- ✔ Prepare to document impact and outcomes.

Where to learn more

Authoritative sources

- ▶ CMS program updates and guidance
- ▶ State hospital associations
- ▶ Rural health advocacy organizations



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