

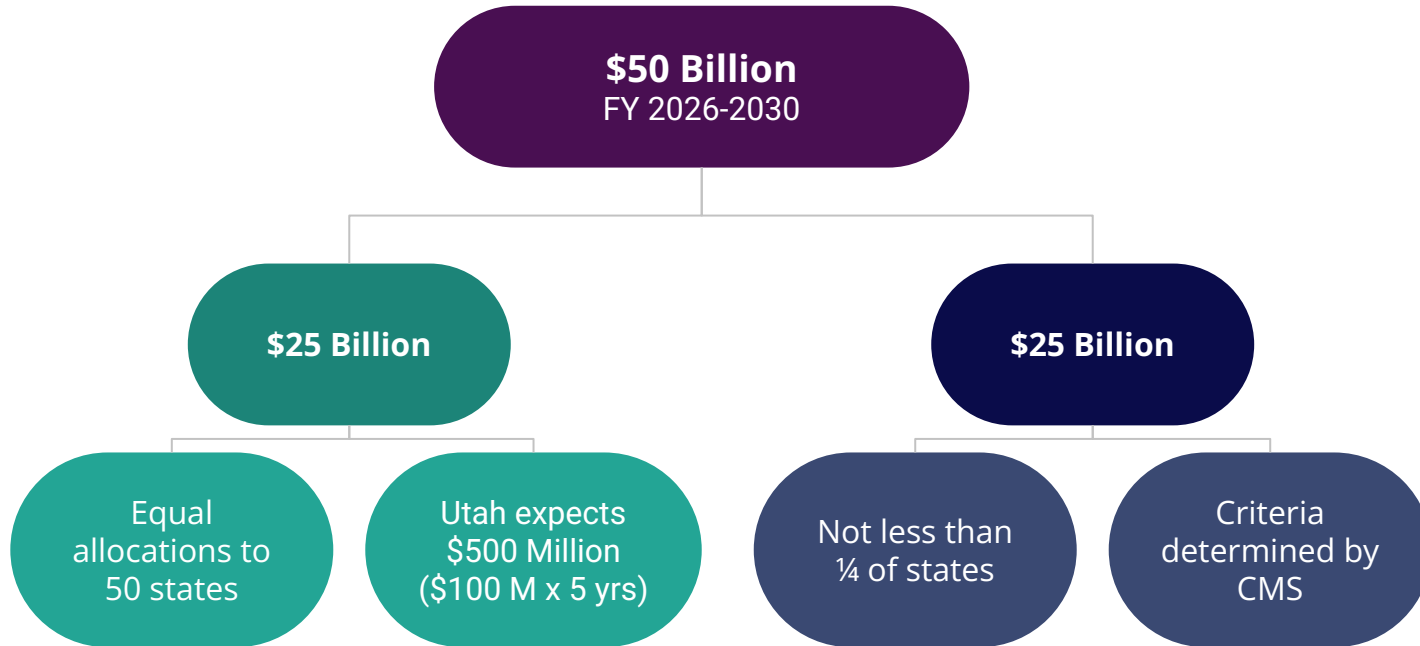
# Rural Health Transformation Program

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H.R. 1 / One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)



# Rural Health Transformation Program: Funding Summary



# Rural Health Transformation Program: Plan Objectives

The application must include a rural health transformation plan:

- to improve access to hospitals, other health care providers, and health care items and services furnished to rural residents of the State;
- to improve health care outcomes of rural residents of the State;
- to prioritize the use of new and emerging technologies that emphasize prevention and chronic disease management;
- to initiate, foster, and strengthen local and regional strategic partnerships between rural hospitals and other health care providers in order to promote measurable quality improvement, increase financial stability, maximize economies of scale, and share best practices in care delivery;
- to enhance economic opportunity for, and the supply of, health care clinicians through enhanced recruitment and training;
- to prioritize data and technology driven solutions that help rural hospitals and other rural health care providers furnish high-quality health care services as close to a patient's home as is possible;
- that outlines strategies to manage long-term financial solvency and operating models of rural hospitals in the State; and
- that identifies specific causes driving the accelerating rate of stand-alone rural hospitals becoming at risk of closure, conversion, or service reduction.

# Rural Health Transformation Program: Plan Activities

States must use funds for at least three of the following activities:

- Promoting evidence-based, measurable interventions to improve prevention and chronic disease management.
- Providing payments to health care providers for the provision of health care items or services, as specified by the Administrator.
- Promoting technology-driven solutions for the prevention and management of chronic diseases.
- Providing training and technical assistance for the development and adoption of technology-enabled solutions that improve care delivery in rural hospitals, including remote monitoring, robotics, artificial intelligence, and other advanced technologies.
- Recruiting and retaining clinical workforce talent to rural areas, with commitments to serve rural communities for a minimum of 5 years.

# Rural Health Transformation Program: Plan Activities

States must use funds for at least three of the following activities:

- Providing technical assistance, software, and hardware for significant information technology advances designed to improve efficiency, enhance cybersecurity capability development, and improve patient health outcomes.
- Assisting rural communities to right size their health care delivery systems by identifying needed preventative, ambulatory, pre-hospital, emergency, acute inpatient care, outpatient care, and post-acute care service lines.
- Supporting access to opioid use disorder treatment services (as defined in section 1861(jjj)(1)), other substance use disorder treatment services, and mental health services.
- Developing projects that support innovative models of care that include value-based care arrangements and alternative payment models, as appropriate.
- Additional uses designed to promote sustainable access to high quality rural health care services, as determined by the Administrator.

## Rural Health Transformation Program: Other Conditions

- The State must certify that none of the amounts provided will be used for an expenditure that is attributable to an:
  - intergovernmental transfer,
  - certified public expenditure, or
  - any other expenditure to finance the non-Federal share of expenditures required under any provision of law, including under the State plan established under this title, the State plan established under title XIX, or under a waiver of such plans.
- Amounts allotted to a State for a year shall be available for expenditure through the end of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which such amounts are allotted.
- Not more than 10% may be used for administrative expenses.
- States are not required to provide any matching funds.

# Rural Health Transformation Program: Eligibility

The bill defines a “rural health facility” as:

- a hospital located in a rural area, being treated as located in a rural area, or in a rural census tract of a metropolitan statistical area;
- a critical access hospital;
- a sole community hospital;
- a Medicare-dependent hospital;
- a low-volume hospital;
- a rural emergency hospital;
- a rural health clinic;
- a federally-qualified health center;
- a community mental health center in a rural area;
- an opioid treatment program in a rural area; or
- a certified community behavioral health center in a rural area.

# What's Next?

## August

- August 13: Stakeholder informational webinar; release stakeholder survey
- August 14: Rural Health Transformation Program [webpage](#) go-live ([dhhs.utah.gov/ruralhealth](https://dhhs.utah.gov/ruralhealth))
- August 22: Deadline for survey responses

## September

- “Early September”: CMS expected to release RHTP application guidance
- DHHS to organize listening sessions across Utah to gather input, including invitations to local legislators and elected officials
- Workgroups with internal and external stakeholders identify potential projects based on priority activity areas
- Start drafting application based on CMS guidance



# What's Next?

## **October-November**

- GOPB review
- Internal DHHS review
- Social Services appropriations subcommittee (if requested)
- Legislative authorization to request grant
- Applications due

## **December**

- December 31: CMS Administrator to approve or deny applications

## Stakeholder Survey

### Survey link

**Please submit your responses by COB August 22.**

**More information at:**

**[dhhs.utah.gov/ruralhealth](https://dhhs.utah.gov/ruralhealth)**

# Questions?

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