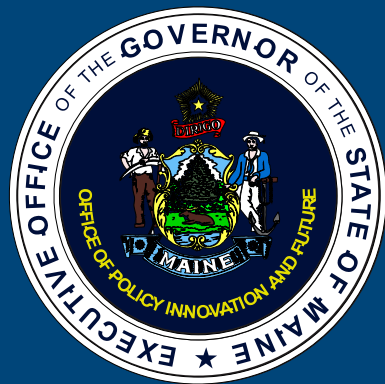




MAINE

RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION



THTM Advisory Committee

May 2026

Agenda / Objectives

- RHTP Updates
 - RHTP program overview
 - Maine RHTP Initiatives & Activities
 - Telehealth-related activities
 - Program implementation
 - Clarifying questions
- Next Steps

Acknowledgement of Funding

This program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$190,008,051 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Overview

Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

Creation

- Federal H.R. 1 enacted in July 2025; will result in many high-impact changes to health care coverage
- RHTP included in H.R. 1 as federal initiative to bolster rural health

RHTP Funding

- Total of \$50B over 5 years (2026-2030)
- Program managed by US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Two-part funding allocation
 - Part 1: \$25B allocated evenly across all states (\$100M min per state each year)
 - Part 2: \$25B allocated differentially to states based on rurality and CMS' scoring of proposals
- RHTP funds must be used quickly, with states expected to demonstrate results
 - States must use funds by end of 2nd fiscal year after funds distributed (i.e. Yr 1 funds by Sept 30, 2027)
 - Unused funds within stated time limits will be redistributed to other states

Maine's RHTP Components

Maine RHTP Overarching Performance Goals & Metrics

- **Living Healthier Lives:**
 - *ME RHTP Metric:* Improve rates of well-controlled blood pressure (BP) among individuals in rural areas with high BP
- **Improve Quality of Healthcare Delivered:**
 - *ME RHTP Metric:* Reduce 30-day all-cause readmission rate
- **Getting Care When Mainers Need It:**
 - *ME RHTP Metric:* Decrease non-financial barriers to care
- **Increase Durability of Rural Care Options:**
 - *ME RHTP Metric:* Improve financial health of rural hospitals

5 Initiatives, Each Comprised of Multiple Proposed Activities (Projects)

Initiative 1 **Population Health:** Promote timely access to high-quality care

Initiative 2 **Workforce:** Strengthen Maine's rural health workforce

Initiative 3 **Technology Innovation:** Modernize rural care delivery with digital health technology

Initiative 4 **Access:** Bridge the healthcare affordability gap for rural Mainers

Initiative 5 **Sustainable rural health ecosystems:** Address financial instability of rural providers

Initiative 3: Technology Innovation

Expand the Supply of Care: Spread technology & innovation that connects every community to advanced care

Proposed Activities

- Expand telehealth services, supports, and infrastructure
- Support data integration and the reliable exchange of healthcare data (HIN, CIE)
- Expand the use of consumer-facing health technology tools
- Enhance Electronic Medical Records (EMR) systems
- Create Maine Rural AI Hub to support rural providers in adopting today's AI technologies
- Establish Rural Health AI Innovation Institute to promote development of new AI technologies purpose-built for rural populations

Initiative 3: Technology Innovation

- Maine DHHS contracting with MCD to lead implementation of telehealth & AI-related activities
- *MCD will subcontract* with multiple vendors named in Maine's RHTP appln:
 - Telehealth services – i.e.
 - Direct patient care telehealth svcs
 - Provider-to-provider telehealth consultation/support
 - Patient-facing digital health services
 - AI initiatives

Initiative 3: Technology Innovation: **Telehealth Svcs**

- *MCD will subcontract* with multiple telehealth vendors named in Maine's RHTP application:
 - Direct patient care telehealth svcs – e.g.
 - Virtual acute care
 - School tele-BH
 - Perinatal tele-BH (TMaH will continue current RMOMS contract w/ Array)
 - Tele-health for IDD in group homes (OADS contracting with StationMD)
 - Telehealth for individuals in LTC
 - Provider (specialty)-to-provider telehealth support – e.g.
 - “Curbside consultations” (e.g. PicassoMD)
 - Specialty e-consults (e.g. ConferMed)
 - Perinatal/OB consultations to rural hospital staff
 - Dental telehealth consultations

Initiative 3: Technology Innovation: **Patient-Facing Digital Tech's**

- *MCD will subcontract* with multiple digital health vendors named in Maine's RHTP application:
 - Remote patient monitoring for BP control
 - Adult
 - Perinatal (build off current RMOMS/TMaH efforts)
 - Automated text messaging for adults with chronic conditions
 - Perinatal health – Mammha app (build off current RMOMS effort)

Initiative 3: Technology Innovation: **AI Initiatives**

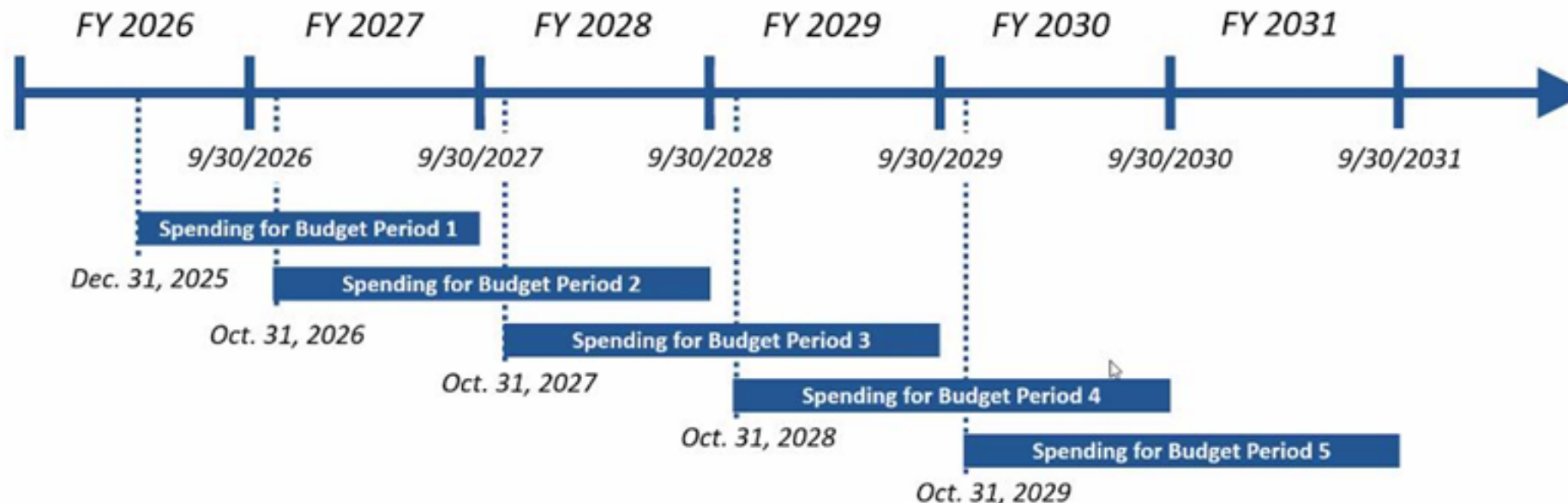
- MCD will develop Rural AI Hub
 - Recognizes needs of rural health care organizations to get support for identifying, selecting, implementing AI tools
 - Will partner with Duke Health AI Partnership (HAIP)
 - Seek to replicate established “hub & spoke” model for providing technical support, collaborative learning with rural “spokes”
- *MCD will subcontract* with vendor to implement Rural AI Institute
 - Seek to build catalytic foundation for rurally-oriented health AI innovation
 - Identify opportunities for AI in rural health settings
 - Catalyze research & innovation through strategic investment
 - Enable rural communities to benefit from innovation

RHTP Fund Distribution & Spending Timeline

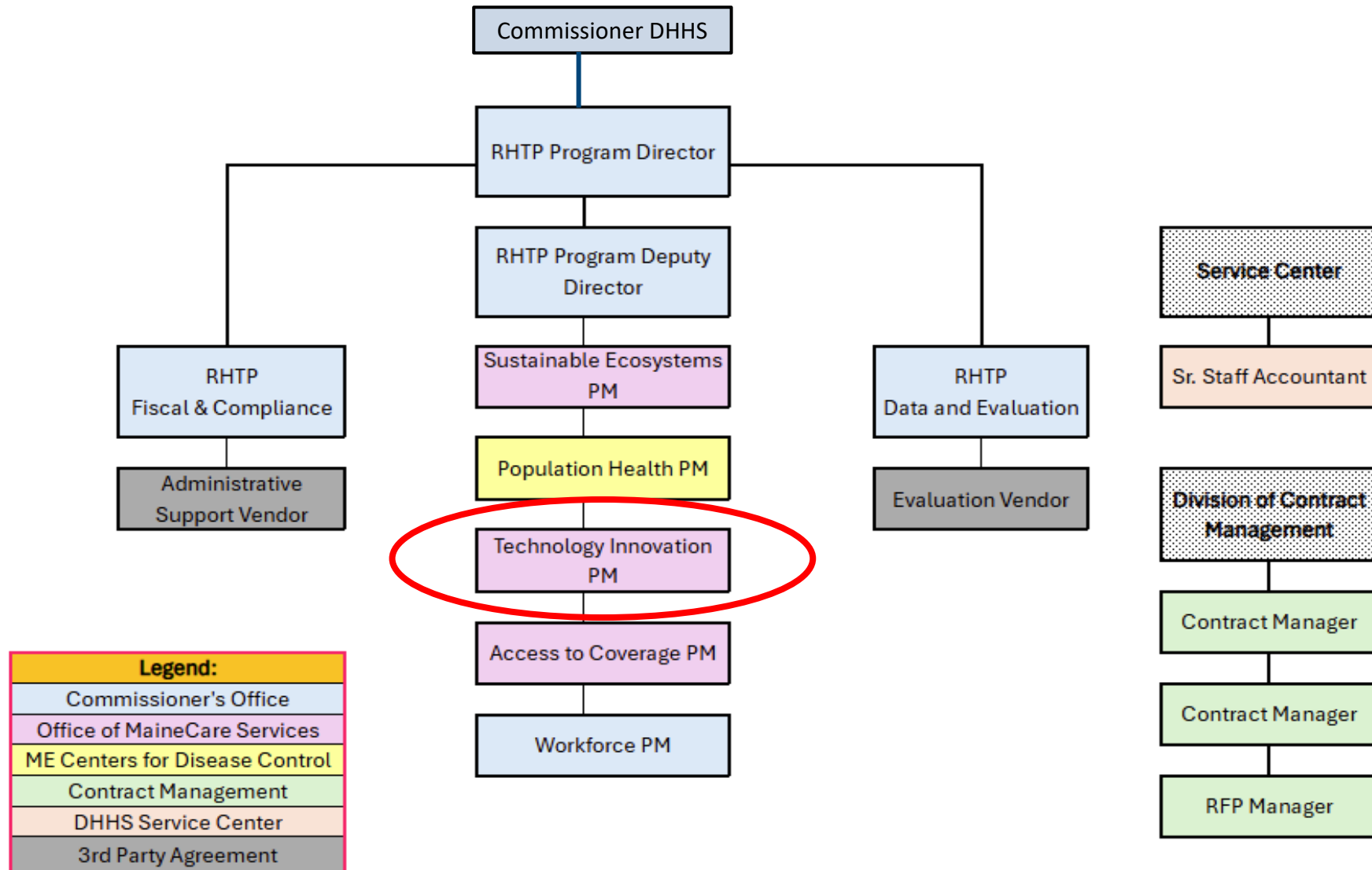
Funds Distribution and Use Deadlines

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



Preparing for Maine RHTP Implementation: Staffing



Implementing Maine's RHTP Initiative

Clarifying Questions?



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For More Info...

- Check [Maine RHTP landing page](#)
- Contact:
 - RHTP Dir: Kristen McAuley:
Kristen.McAuley@maine.gov
 - Lisa Letourneau MD, MPH:
Lisa.Letourneau@maine.gov
 - Innov/Tech Lead: Annie Arnzen
Annie.Arnzen@maine.gov
- CMS [RHTP webpage](#)


The screenshot shows the website for the Rural Health Transformation Program. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About Us, Programs & Services, Offices/Divisions, and Data & Reports. The main content area features the program logo, which includes a stylized heart with a sun and a gear, and the text "MAINE RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION". Below the logo, there is a section titled "Maine Awarded \$190 million for Year 1" with a sub-header "Maine Awarded \$190 million for Year 1". The text describes the award and the program's goals. There are also sections for "Upcoming Community Partners Webinar" and "Maine's Application for Funding". A sidebar on the right contains "Press releases" and "Timeline" sections. The footer includes a search bar and a "SEARCH" button.

STATE OF MAINE
Department of
Health and Human Services

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

Rural Health Transformation Program

Rural Health Transformation Program



Maine Awarded \$190 million for Year 1

On December 29, 2025 the State of Maine received [official notification \(PDF\)](#) from the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of a \$190 million award for Year 1 of the federal Rural Health Transformation Program. The award period spans from December 29, 2025, through October 30, 2026, and will support Maine's efforts to expand access to care, improve population health, strengthen the rural health workforce, advance technology and data integration, and promote the long-term sustainability of rural health systems statewide.

[CMS Announcement](#) provides additional detail and an overview of funding awards to all 50 states.

Upcoming Community Partners Webinar

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in partnership with the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, will host a webinar on two dates to provide in-depth updates on this work:

- Thursday, March 26 at 3 p.m. - [register here](#)
- Tuesday, March 31 at 12 p.m. - [register here](#)

The webinar will include an overview of the program, the State's implementation activity since December, adjustments to Maine's budget to meet federal requirements and the final award, and plans for launching Maine RHTP activities. The anticipated timeline for funding opportunities and next steps for provider participation will also be discussed.

Maine's Application for Funding

Supporting materials to Maine's application for funding through the Rural Health Transformation Program are available, including the [Summary of Maine's RHTP Plan \(PDF\)](#) and the updated* [State of Maine RHTP Project Narrative \(PDF\)](#).

**On December 8, 2025, CMS notified Maine DHHS that it had completed the programmatic review of Maine's RHTP proposal, and identified one question that they asked the Maine team to answer: "How will small rural providers develop and sustain the capacity needed for advanced payment models?"*

Valuable Public Input -- Partner Engagement

Thank you to the many people and partners who took the time to share their ideas, expertise, and experiences. Your feedback helped guide how these important funds can best support rural health in Maine.

The State of Maine hosted public information webinars about RHTP, which can be viewed in their entirety:

- [September 23: Webinar Recording](#)
- [September 24: Webinar Recording](#)

About the Rural Health Transformation Program

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.

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.

RHTP Structure & Funding:

Total funding for the RHTP is \$50 billion nationally, to be allocated to approved States over five fiscal years, with \$10 billion of funding available each fiscal year, beginning in fiscal year 2026 and ending in fiscal year 2030.

The funding will be distributed by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as follows:

Press releases

- [Governor Mills Statement on Rural Health Transformation Program Award](#)
- [CMS announces State award decisions](#)
- [State launches robust public engagement process](#)
- [State files application for the RHTP](#)

For more information

- [H.R. 1 Budget Reconciliation Bill - federal bill text](#)
- [Rural Health Transformation Program - CMS program website](#)
- [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#)
- [Maine RHTP Public Webinar Slides](#)

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 17, 2025:** Public input process opens
- **October 1:** Public comment through website closes
- **Nov. 5, 2025:** State applications due to CMS
- **December 29, 2025:** CMS announces State award decisions
- **2026 onward:** CMS provides continuous monitoring and support to states

Search DHHS