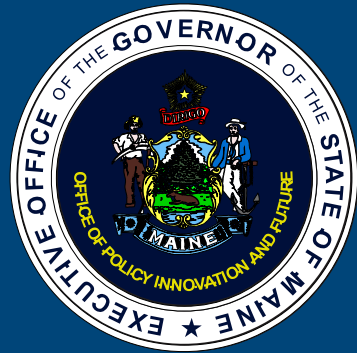




MAINE

RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION



Lisa M. Letourneau MD, MPH
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Acknowledgement of Funding

The Rural Health Transformation 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.

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 & CMS' scoring of proposals & state reporting
- 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

Federal RHTP Goals

Make Rural America Healthy Again

Sustainable Access

Workforce Development

Innovative Care

Technology Innovation



Federally-Approved Uses of RHTP Funding

(States required to select 3+)

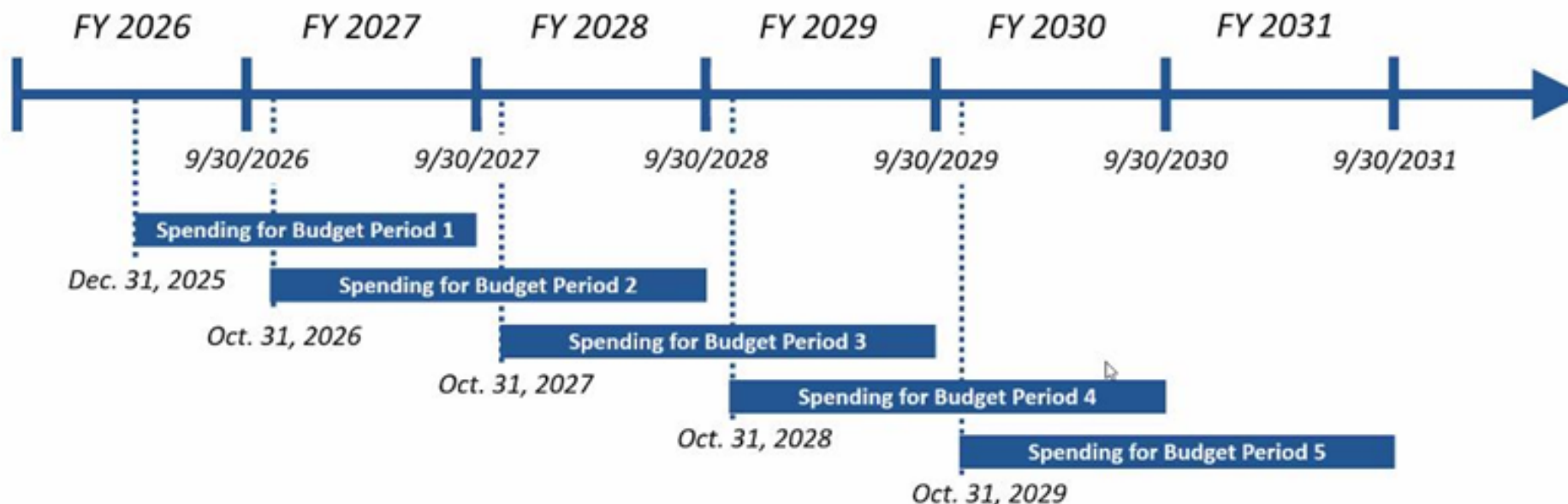
1. Evidence-based prevention and chronic disease interventions
2. Payments to providers for care delivery (no more than 15% of total)
3. Consumer-facing digital health tools
4. Training/Technical Assistance (TA) for tech-enabled solutions
5. Rural clinical workforce recruitment and retention
6. Software, hardware, TA for major IT upgrades
7. Right-sizing rural health systems across the care continuum
8. Access to substance use treatment and mental health services
9. Innovative care models (value-based, alternative payment models)
10. Capital expenditures and infrastructure investments in existing rural health care facility buildings and infrastructure, subject to federal RHTP funding restrictions
11. Initiating, fostering, and strengthening local and regional strategic partnerships

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



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
- 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

Provider Funding Opportunities: Eligible Providers

Four Opportunities for RHTP Provider Funds

- Initiative 2 **Workforce:** Educational awards to individuals (w/ 5-yr rural service commitment) (\$12.5M)
- Initiative 3 **Technology Innovation:** Funds to hospitals, provider organizations for EMR replacements, upgrades, enhancements (\$30M)
- Initiative 5 **Sustainable Rural Health Ecosystems:**
- Funds for ~5-10 most financially at-risk rural hospitals to receive tailored hospital financial management & planning support, targeted investments (\$30M)
 - Funds to support provider organization transitioning to Alternative Payment Models (APMs) (\$28.5M)

How Did We Come to Our Strategy Recommendations?

- 1 Defined provider eligibility & secured CMS approval on general approach
- 2 Explored needs among providers serving rural communities
 - Discussions with EMR experts
 - Meetings with MPCA, MHA, hospitals, Alliance & Advisory Committee
 - Reviewed potential projects & needs compiled by partners
- 3 Assessed feasible strategies for Year 1
 - Explored how other states are allocating & distributing provider funds
 - Reviewed procurement considerations

Linked Steps for Award of Maine RHTP Provider Funds (CMS Approved)

To receive funds, provider organizations must...

Step 1: Meet Maine DHHS-designated general RHTP eligibility requirements

Step 2: Be identified as one of DHHS-identified “provider types” eligible to receive funds *(specific to each activity being funded)*

Step 3: Apply for funding, to include agreement on expectations

Step 4: Funding amounts determined using weighting/prioritization criteria *(specific to each activity being funded)*

Step 1: General Eligibility Requirements

To receive funds, provider organizations must...

Meet Maine DHHS-designated general RHTP eligibility requirements

- Hold valid Maine provider license
- Be physically located in Maine (EXCEPT for telehealth-only providers)
- Be currently enrolled as MaineCare provider and serving MaineCare members
- Serve individuals living in a rural community

Step 2: RHTP Provider Funding Opportunities – YR1 Eligible Providers - Defined (CMS Approved)

Provider Type	EMR Funds \$30M	APM Transition Funds \$28.5M	Hospital Efficiency Funds \$30M
Acute Care Hospitals	X <i>(Including hospital-owned primary care practices)</i>	X <i>(Including hospital-owned primary care practices)</i>	5-10 hospitals at highest risk of financial instability <i>(criteria being developed)</i>
FQHCs	X	X	n/a
RHCs	X		n/a
Independent Primary Care Practices Located in Rural Areas	X		n/a
CCBHCs	X	X	n/a
OTPs	X		n/a

Step 3: Apply for Funding, with Attestations

EMR Funds: Provider organization must attest to the following (e.g.)...

- Ensure that the proposed project...
 - Directly supports one or more Maine RHTP objectives and DHHS-identified allowable use
 - Is implementable within program period, with funds expended by September 30, 2027; backed by sufficient staff time, operational resources to implement on time
- Ensure proposed EMR-associated costs can be covered by available award funding, or that organization can otherwise cover any remaining costs
- Maintain and/or establish, within 12 months post-award, bi-directional connections to HealthInfoNet (HIN), as directed by the Department (excludes OTPs)
- Ensure all eligible owned sites receive some level of benefit from the EMR funding
- Commit to responding to DHHS requests, such as surveys, progress and financial reports

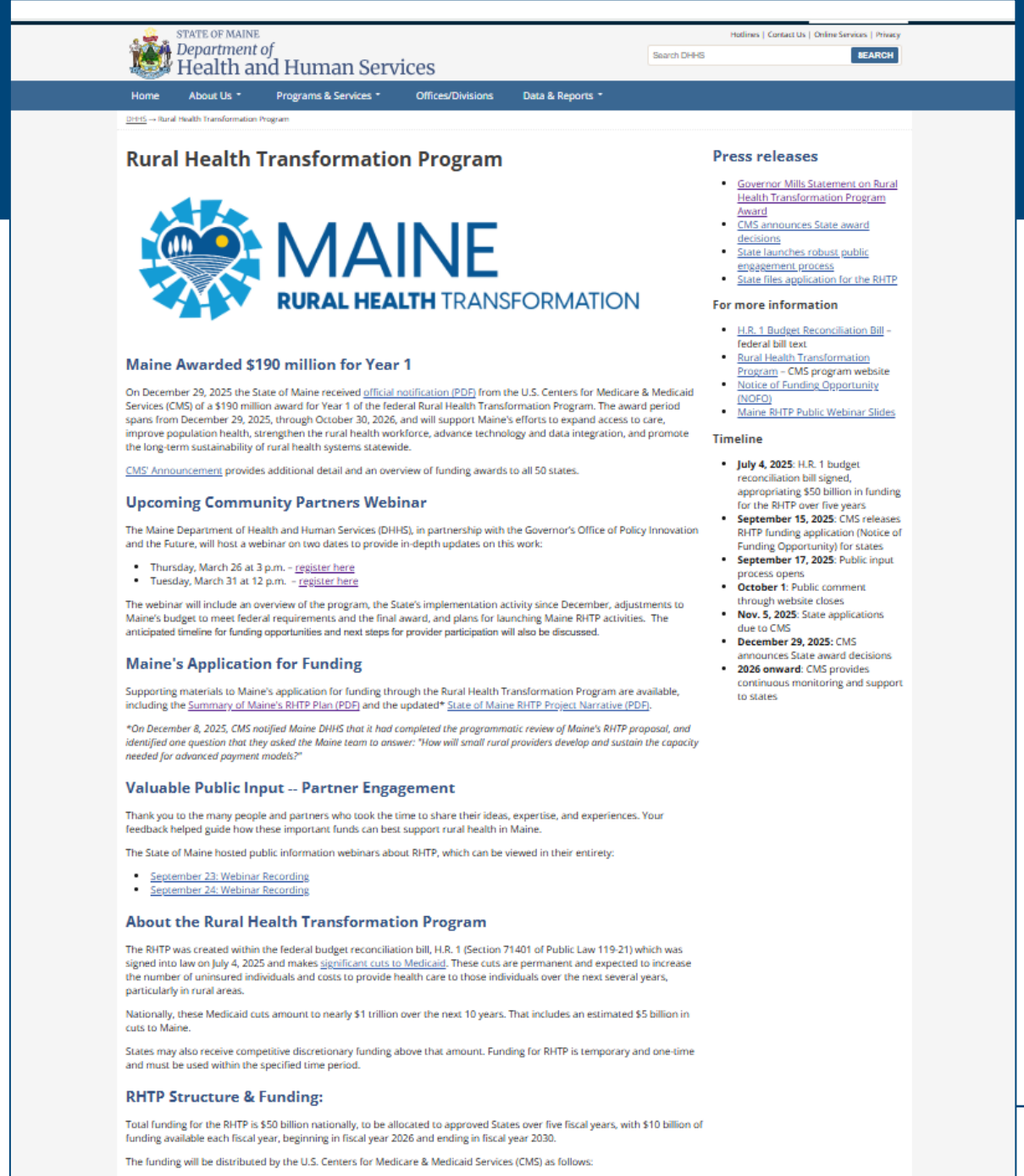
Step 4: Funding Amounts to be Determined by ME DHHS

\$30 EMR Funding: Specific funding amounts per site/owner are pre-determined by DHHS based on provider site factors

- Up-front allocation by sector – i.e.
 - Hospitals (32) receive 30%
 - Comprehensive care providers (primary care & CCBHCs: 394 sites)- 68%
 - OTPs (17 sites) receive 2%
- Site factors:
 - Rural vs. non-rural location (rural get 50% more than non-rural)
 - Number of sites (as rough proxy of size/access)

For More Info...

- Check [Maine RHTP landing page](#)
- Contact:
 - Kristen McAuley:
Kristen.McAuley@maine.gov
 - Lisa Letourneau MD, MPH:
Lisa.Letourneau@maine.gov
- CMS RHTP:
[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)



The screenshot shows the official website of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). The page features a blue header with the state seal and navigation links. The main content area is titled "Rural Health Transformation Program" and includes a logo with a heart and sun motif. Key sections include:

- Maine Awarded \$190 million for Year 1**: A press release dated December 29, 2025, announcing the award from the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Upcoming Community Partners Webinar**: Details about a webinar on March 26 and 31, 2026, with registration links.
- Maine's Application for Funding**: Information about supporting materials and the application process.
- Valuable Public Input -- Partner Engagement**: A thank-you message for public input and links to webinar recordings.
- About the Rural Health Transformation Program**: A detailed overview of the program's goals, funding, and impact.
- RHTP Structure & Funding**: Information about the total funding of \$50 billion and its distribution over five fiscal years.

On the right side, there is a "Press releases" section with links to various statements and a "Timeline" section listing key dates from July 4, 2025, to 2026 onward.