



Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Update

Dr. Neil Hockstein, DHCC Chair

RHTP Background

- H.R. 1 included \$50 billion to support rural health over 5 years
- States must use funds for at least three of four named purposes:
 - “Prevention and chronic disease management”
 - Payments “for the provision of health care items or services”
 - “Consumer-facing, technology-driven solutions” for prevention and chronic disease management
 - “Technology-enabled solutions that improve care delivery in rural hospitals” like remote patient monitoring and AI
- \$25 billion to be apportioned equally among states; \$25 billion to be awarded as combination of a formula based on rural population and competitive award



RHTP Timeline

- Delaware's application submitted on November 5, 2025
- Federal government announced topline award amounts for each state on December 29, 2025 (**Delaware received \$157.4 million for Year 1**)
- Updated, detailed Delaware budget sent to federal government at the end of January; federal government may take until late February to approve budgets
- Annual progress reports due to the federal government in August 2026 (Year 2 awards will be based on progress through July 2026).
- CMS issues Year 2 award on October 31, 2026



Delaware's Application

15 projects across several thematic areas:

- Addressing health care workforce needs
- Preventing and managing chronic disease, including through addressing the social drivers of health
- Expanding access to care
- Preparing the health care system for the future



Health Care Workforce Projects

- **Creating Delaware's first 4-year medical school**
 - Funds will be competitively awarded to support start-up costs for a medical school branch campus
- **Supporting medical students.**
 - Tuition awards will go to medical students who commit to 5 years practice in rural Delaware
- **Supporting non-physician clinicians**
 - Tuition awards for non-physician health care workers who commit to serve in rural Delaware
- **Expanded training programs**
 - Funds will be awarded to support training programs for non-physician health care workers



Health Care Workforce Projects

- **Supporting medical residents**
 - Awards will go to medical residents that commit to 5 years practice in rural Delaware
- **Workforce data**
 - Funds will support a vendor-managed technology product that supports implementation of SB122 and related workforce data needs



Prevention and the Social Drivers of Health Projects

- Hope Centers
 - Funds will support establishment and operation of two new Hope Centers to address health needs of rural homeless population
- Food Is Medicine infrastructure
 - Funds will be competitively awarded to a vendor to support sustainable Food Is Medicine initiatives
- Continuous glucose monitoring
 - Funds will be competitively awarded to a vendor to pilot a continuous glucose monitoring program
- Telehealth and remote patient monitoring
 - Funds will be competitively awarded to vendors deploying innovative telehealth and remote patient monitoring tools



Access Projects

- Health Hubs
 - Funds will be competitively awarded to support mobile units and/or other non-traditional access points
- School-Based Health Centers
 - Funds will be competitively award to support operation of new school-based health centers
- Libraries
 - Funds will be competitively awarded to rural libraries for support services for patients engaging in telehealth



The Future of Health Care

- **Value-based care transformation**
 - Funds will support rural health care providers and FQHCs to move towards value-based care, including preparing to take on upside and downside risk and be held accountable for total cost of care and population health outcomes
- **Real-Time insurance verification and prior authorization**
 - Funds will support vendor operation of a novel statewide, cloud-based prior authorization and health data exchange network

