

May 19, 2026

# Utah Rural Health Transformation Program

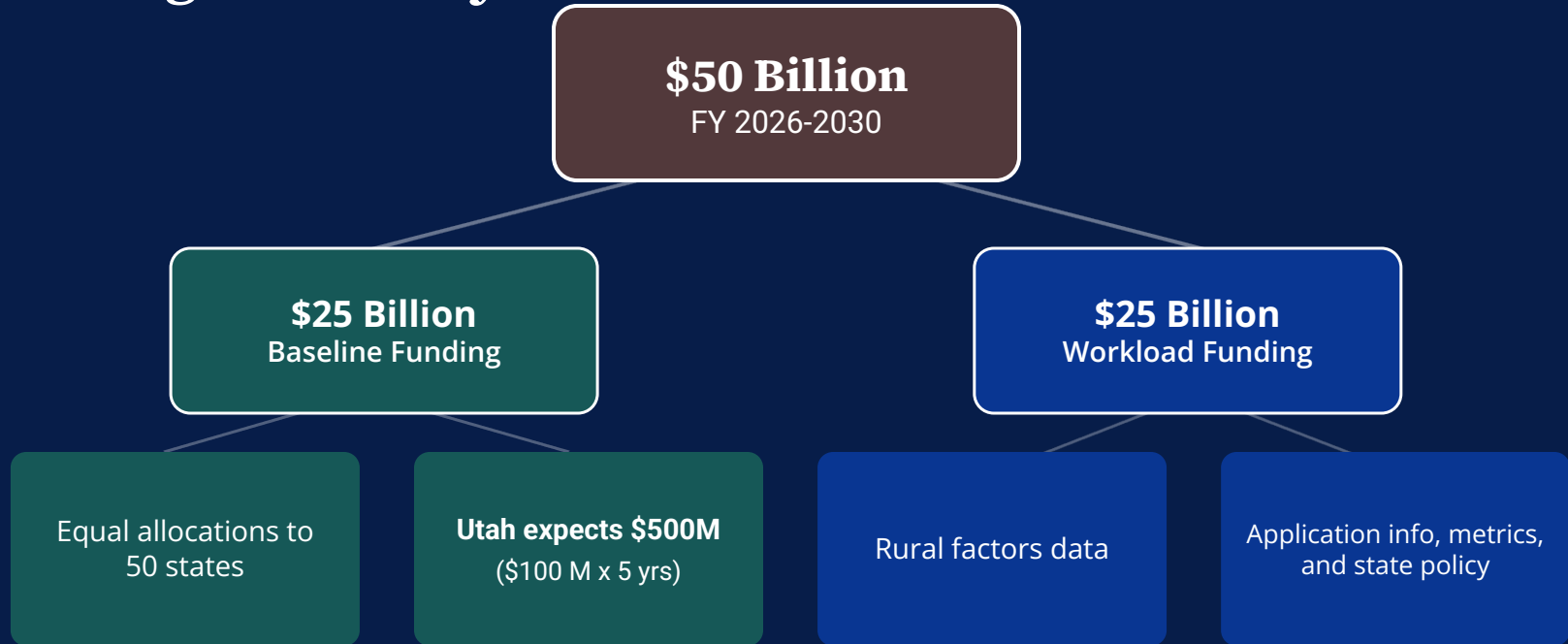
## Legislative Oversight Committee

*CMS Disclaimer: This 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 \$195,743,566.29 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS, pending approval of revised budget. 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.*



**Department of Health  
& Human Services**

# Federal Rural Health Transformation Program Funding Summary



# Stakeholder engagement in application development

Application submitted  
November 5, 2025

## Engagement timeline

● August 2025

Initial stakeholder webinar

Survey collected 106 responses

● September 2025

Listening sessions in Cedar City, Brigham City, and Moab

4 workgroups of industry experts engaged

● October 2025

Request for proposed initiatives collected 210+ responses

2 public open sessions

Workgroup development of initiatives

# Guiding principles outlined in H.J.R. 101 Joint Resolution on Federal Funds

1. Initiatives should seek to create sustainable positive financial outcomes without creating future financial obligations for the state or permanently committing the state to a local government or private sector responsibility;
2. Initiatives should prioritize one-time projects or upgrades;
3. Initiatives should seek to leverage non-state resources where possible by partnering with the private sector or other levels of government;
4. Initiatives should inspire innovation in healthcare delivery;
5. Initiatives should seek to improve the health outcomes of Utahns; and
6. When awarding funds, the state of Utah should notify funding recipients that the funds are temporary and do not create an ongoing obligation by the state government.

# Utah RHTP Definition of Rural

The Utah legislature has established the definition of “rural” in the state in Utah State Code Section 26B-4-701. That definition references the statutory classification of counties of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class as defined in Utah State Code Section 17-60-104.

Based on these statutory definitions and recent population estimates, 25 of 29 counties in Utah meet the definition of rural, which **excludes four urban counties**: Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, and Weber.



# Notice of Award

Received  
12/29/2025

Year 1 amount:  
\$195.7 million

Cooperative  
Agreement

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

## Key dates

January 30, 2026

Budget revision due to CMS to unrestrict funds

August 30, 2026

First annual progress report and Year 2 application due to CMS

October 30, 2026

End of Budget Period 1 and deadline for obligation of funds

September 30, 2027

Year 1 funding expended through following federal fiscal year

# Unallowable Use of Funds

Funds must be linked to a specific initiative and activity in the approved Utah RHTP plan.

Funds CANNOT be used:

- To supplant existing funding
- For new construction or building expansion, purchasing, or significant retrofitting of buildings
- For clinician salaries subject to non-compete clauses or loan repayment

Limits apply on certain spending:

- Capital expenditures and infrastructure: 20% cap
- Provider payments: 15% cap
- Administrative expenses: 10% cap
- Replacement of existing EMR in place as of September 1, 2025: 5% cap

More information in the NOA and NOFO: [dhhs.utah.gov/ruralhealth/](https://dhhs.utah.gov/ruralhealth/)

# Year 1 Utah RHTP Initiatives

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## **Making Rural Utahns Healthy**

1. Preventive Action and Transformation for Health (PATH): **\$29 million**

## **Workforce Development**

2. Rural Incentive and Skill Expansion (RISE): **\$28.8 million**

## **Innovation and Access**

3. Sustaining Health Infrastructure for Transformation (SHIFT): **\$55.5 million**
4. Financial Approaches for Sustainable Transformation (FAST): **\$18 million**
5. Leveraging Innovation for Facilitated Telehealth (LIFT): **\$26.5 million**

## **Technology Innovation**

6. Shared Utilities for Partnered Provider Operational Resources and Technology (SUPPORT): **\$16.9 million**
7. Leveraging Interoperability Networks to Connect Services (LINCS): **\$16 million**

# Year 1 Utah RHTP initiatives and key actions

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**Strategic goal:** Make rural Utahns healthy

## 1. Preventive Action and Transformation for Health (PATH): \$29 million

- **\$3 million** Gold Medal Schools: **Utah State Board of Education**
- **\$11 million** Food infrastructure: **Utah Department of Agriculture and Food**
- **\$11 million** Physical activity infrastructure: **Utah Department of Transportation+**
- **\$2 million** Community Care Hub: **Anticipated release 6/12/26**
- **\$2 million** Behavioral health/primary care integration: **Anticipated release 5/26/26**

# Year 1 Utah RHTP initiatives and key actions

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**Strategic goal:** Workforce development

## 2. Rural Incentive and Skill Expansion (RISE): \$28.8 million

- **\$1.6 million** Graduate Medical Education (GME): **Anticipated release 5/22/26**
- **\$200,000** Preceptor program: **Released 5/19/26**
- **\$4 million** Grow Our Own program: **Utah System of Higher Education**
- **\$3 million** Non-GME program: **Utah System of Higher Education**
- **\$20 million** Recruit and retain activities: **Anticipated release 6/12/2026**

# Year 1 Utah RHTP initiatives and key actions

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**Strategic goal:** Innovation and access

## 3. Sustaining Health Infrastructure for Transformation (SHIFT): \$55.5 million

- **\$30.5 million** Capital Infrastructure\*: **Anticipated release 6/30/26 and Utah DEQ**
- **\$12.5 million** Emergency Medical Services (EMS): **Department of Public Safety**
- **\$2.5 million** Rural health networks: **Anticipated release 6/30/26**
- **\$10 million** New models of care: **Anticipated release 6/19/26**

## 4. Financial Approaches for Sustainable Transformation (FAST): \$18 million

- **\$6 million** Value-based care: **Anticipated release 5/29/26**
- **\$9 million** Revenue cycle optimization\*: **Anticipated release 6/30/26**
- **\$3 million** Alternative payment models (APM)\*: **Anticipated release 6/30/26**

# Year 1 Utah RHTP initiatives and key actions

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**Strategic goal:** Innovation and access

## 5. Leveraging Innovation for Facilitated Telehealth (LIFT): \$26.5 million

- \$1.5 million Telehealth consortium: **Utah Education and Telehealth Network**
- \$25 million Telehealth projects: **Utah Education and Telehealth Network**

# Year 1 Utah RHTP initiatives and key actions

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**Strategic goal:** Technology innovation

## 6. Shared Utilities for Partnered Provider Operational Resources and Technology (SUPPORT): \$16.9 million

- **\$9.4 million** Electronic Health Records (EHR)\*: **Anticipated release 6/30/26**
- **\$4.5 million** Cybersecurity\*: **Anticipated release 6/30/26**
- **\$3 million** Clinical and consumer-facing tech and AI solutions\*: **Anticipated release 6/30/26**

## 7. Leveraging Interoperability Networks to Connect Services (LINCS): \$16 million

- **\$5 million** Interoperability\*: **Anticipated release 6/12/2026 & 6/30/26**
- **\$11 million** Semantic data model: **Anticipated release 6/19/26**

# Year 1 Utah RHTP Agreements

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## **Agreements with 6 State agencies and 1 public entity totaling \$75.2 million**

- 10 key actions across PATH, RISE, SHIFT, & LIFT initiatives
- Release of opportunities with obligation of funds by December 2026+

## **DHHS RHTP funds via competitive applications totaling \$117.1 million**

Released in accordance with state procurement law to solicit competitive applications for sub-awards, contracts, and grants

DHHS will partner with non-profit organizations to potentially support the administration and oversight of funds (i.e., Revenue Cycle, Shared Services, Capital Improvements, Workforce)

- **4 opportunities with anticipated release by May 2026 totaling \$9.8 million**
- **8-12 opportunities with anticipated release by June 2026 totaling \$107.3 million**
  - **Includes funding opportunity for evaluation: \$1.6 million**

# Moving forward

## Key activities

Ongoing

Tribal consultations to inform RHTP support for Tribal nations.

July 2026

Established steering committee and technical committees

CMS site visit July 14 & 15

August 30, 2026

First annual progress report and Year 2 application due to CMS

Maintain strict alignment with approved application to CMS

Awaiting guidance and approved CMS templates

October 30, 2026

End of Budget Period 1 and deadline for obligation of funds

# Thank you.



**Department of Health  
& Human Services**