The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) newsletter is designed to share updates on program activities, progress across current initiatives and partner highlights, with the goal of promoting transparency, strengthening coordination and supporting meaningful collaboration across rural communities in Michigan.

RHTP Updates

MDHHS has announced several new Grant Funding Opportunities (GFOs) under RHTP, advancing efforts to build a strong, innovative rural health system.

RHTP is grounded in four core initiatives: strengthening partnerships that support rural health transformation, expanding and stabilizing the workforce needed to sustain community wellness, advancing interoperability so providers can share information and coordinate care effectively and developing models that bring essential services closer to where people live. These coordinated, community-driven strategies reflect MDHHS's continued commitment to improving health access and outcomes in Michigan's rural communities.

The new GFOs will support several key efforts.

The Transforming Rural Health through Partnerships: Chronic Disease Collaborative Care Fund will help communities adopt and expand proven approaches to preventing and managing chronic conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure through strong local partnerships.

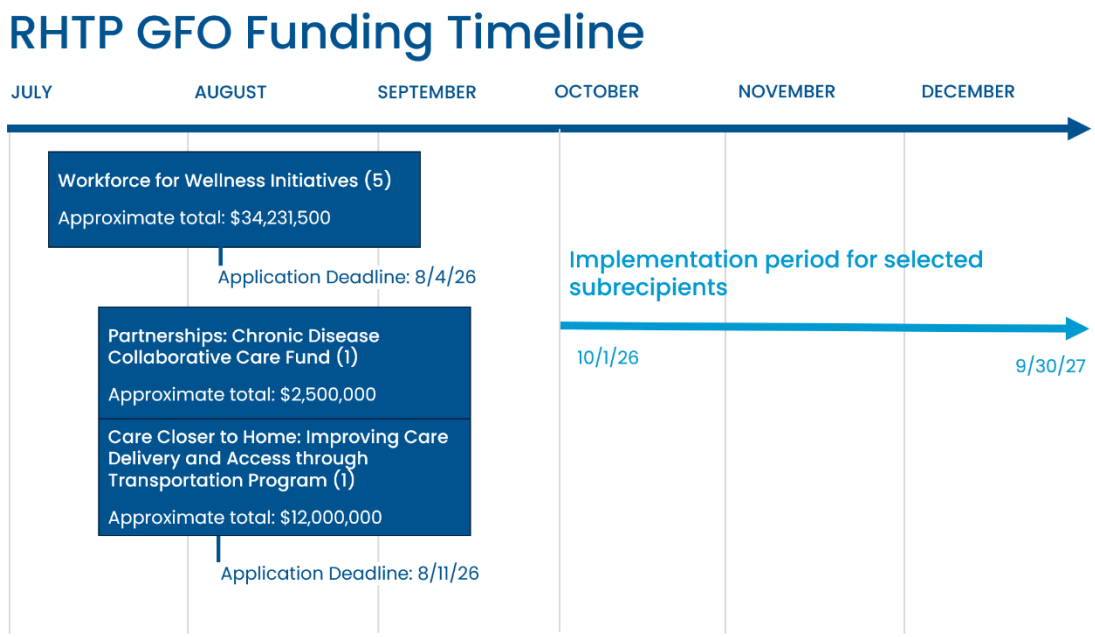
The Care Closer to Home Blueprint: Improving Care and Access through Transportation Grant Program will expand transportation options and bring health and wellness services closer to where rural residents live and work.

Additionally, the Workforce for Wellness Initiative will invest in the rural health workforce by supporting recruitment, retention and training across multiple health care professions.

Together, these initiatives will work to enhance access, improve care coordination and support healthier rural communities across Michigan.

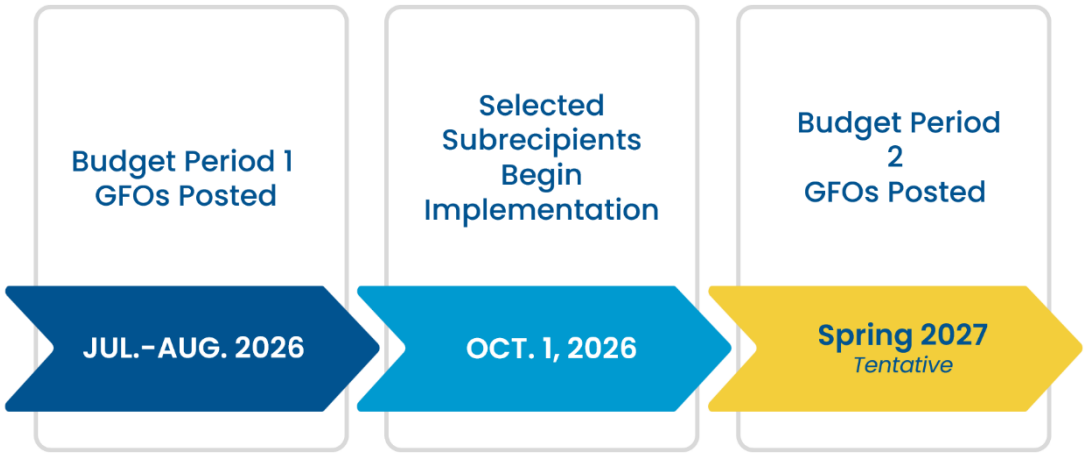
Eligible applicants include but are not limited to 501(c)(3) nonprofits, private and public entities, local health departments, federally recognized Michigan tribes or an Indian Health Clinic program and universities. Please note that federally funded Indian Health Clinics are not eligible to be awardees.

There will be a total of seven GFOs – five for the Workforce to Wellness initiative and one for each of the other key efforts – released during Budget Period 1. The timeline below outlines the anticipated schedule for each opportunity.



Please also note that we expect to receive notification from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding Budget Period 2 awards in October. Following that announcement, we will release information about the timeline for additional GFOs designed to complement and expand upon the investments made during Budget Period 1.

RHTP Grant Funding Opportunities (GFO) Funding Timeline



To see RHTP Grant Funding Opportunities (GFOs), please:

1. Go to the EGrAMS home page: https://egrams-mi.com/mdhhs/user/home.aspx
2. Select “Search Grants.”
3. Make sure the “Open” and “Competitive” are selected.
4. Click “Find.”

RHTP Advisory Council

The RHTP Advisory Council held its second meeting in June, bringing together members from Michigan’s rural health, academic and community sectors to continue advancing implementation of the federally funded initiative. MDHHS shared updates on Year 1 award progress, CMS budget review and ongoing development of communication tools, including a program dashboard, website enhancements and expanded FAQ resources. Members also received updates on the Letter of Intent and GFO processes as MDHHS works to support broad engagement across rural communities.

The Council reviewed the program’s evaluation framework and upcoming CMS reporting expectations, discussing opportunities to align metrics and strengthen data collection in ways that support local providers. Breakout discussions centered on defining meaningful measures of success, identifying decision-critical outcomes and exploring ways to enhance collaboration, build strong data infrastructure and support long-term sustainability of rural health initiatives.

The meeting reflected strong shared commitment to supporting rural communities through clear communication, effective evaluation and coordinated implementation. Insights from the Council will inform continued refinement of program tools, follow-up materials and upcoming discussions as the group moves forward with its remaining summer meetings.

RHTP Subrecipient Awards

Michigan's RHTP supports innovative, community-driven solutions to improve health outcomes across rural communities. A key component of this work is funding subrecipients, including local organizations, providers and partners, that are implementing projects aligned with RHTP's strategic priorities.

Visit the website to view the organizations that have received RHTP funding* and to learn about the work they are leading across the state. By showcasing these subrecipients, MDHHS promotes transparency in how RHTP funds are distributed and supports collaboration among partners.

We anticipate releasing several Grant Funding Opportunities, also referred to as proposal-based grants, in July or August.

*Award amount is contingent upon review by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for final approval as a requirement of this grant. There may be additional adjustments to both the work plan and budget based on CMS's feedback. If revisions are recommended, the application will be sent back to the recipient to make the required changes.

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Rural Health Transformation Program Website

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