MICHIGAN RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

September 2026

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.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Visits Michigan to Explore Rural Health Transformation in Action

CMS's first in-person look at Michigan's RHTP implementation efforts began in Lansing with leadership from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Discussions centered on the initiatives driving the state's work: partnerships, workforce, interoperability, Care Closer to Home, Tribal partners and subrecipient support. CMS also met with the Michigan Center for Rural Health, the state's Office of Rural Health, to talk through its role in building rural health partnerships and supporting implementation.

The second half of the visit moved from conference rooms to communities. CMS traveled to District Health Department #10 in northwest Michigan as well as to the Northern Public Health Alliance, Munson Healthcare Manistee Hospital and United Way of West Shore. This segment of the visit offered a closer look at local public health hubs, rural hospital and clinic operations, workforce and interoperability needs and the community partnerships that connect residents to the services they need.

RHTP Updates

MDHHS and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) have formed an interagency partnership to advance the RHTP. Michigan received more than $173 million from CMS to strengthen rural health through workforce development, expanded access to services and increased use of modern health technologies.

Through this agreement, MDHHS and LEO will coordinate priorities and funding. Key focus areas include enhancing collaboration, improving data-sharing, supporting long-term rural health system sustainability and investing in community-driven solutions that bring care closer to residents.

The partnership includes targeted funding for LEO initiatives, such as:

- **Office of Rural Prosperity ($16.7M):** Supports upgrades in rural digital infrastructure, telehealth, remote monitoring and technology-based care coordination.
- **Michigan High-Speed Internet Office ($9.1M):** Expands staffing and regional investments to improve broadband access and support a statewide digital equity and health information exchange.

LEO will distribute the funding through direct and competitive grants to rural providers and community organizations. Additional details on eligibility and application timelines will be available in the coming months.

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/MIHI and Michigan.gov/ORP.

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

MDHHS
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