

# Rural Health Transformation Program Request for Information (RFI)



August 2025

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions from the Department of Health Services (DHS)
- Housekeeping Items
- Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Background
- RFI Application
- Schedule for Responses
- Close-Out, How to Submit Questions, and Next Steps

# Housekeeping

- During today's webinar:
  - The chat feature is disabled.
  - The Q&A feature is available for you to submit any questions about the RFI.  
Because the answers to questions must be available to everyone, **we will not answer any questions today**. Questions submitted today will be answered in the full Q&A document.
- By end of the day on August 19, we will publish the full Q&A document on the DHS website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/business/rhttp.htm>.

# RHTP – Background

- On 7/4, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act was signed into law.
- The Act established a \$50 billion federal Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) to improve rural health care ([KFF](#)).
  - The RHTP will be administered through CMS at the federal level through competitive allocations to states.
  - The Act and CMS will determine how funds are spent.
  - Allocated funds are expected to flow through DHS to support health system transformation in Wisconsin (if our application is accepted by CMS).

# RHTP – Background

- According to the Act, key themes will include:
  - Technology enhancements to improve care delivery in rural areas
  - Clinician workforce incentives in rural areas
  - Financial support for rural health facilities
  - Prevention, chronic disease, and mental health initiatives

# RHTP – Funding

- \$50 billion over 5 years to states (FFY 2026 to 2030)
  - \$25 billion divided equally among all successful applicants
  - \$25 billion at discretion of CMS administrator
  - Allocations should consider:
    - ◆ Percent of population in a rural census tract
    - ◆ Proportion of rural health facilities (compared to national proportion)
    - ◆ Situation of hospitals that serve low-income patients with special needs

# RHTP – Allowable Activities

## ■ Each state must do 3 or more of the following:

- Recruit and retain clinical **workforce** talent to rural areas, with a 5-year commitment
- Provide **payments to providers** for health care items or services
- Develop projects that support **innovative models of care** (value-based care, alternative payments)
- Promote **sustainable access** to high quality rural health care services
- Assist rural communities to **right size their health care delivery systems** (preventative, ambulatory, pre-hospital, emergency, acute inpatient care, outpatient care, and post-acute care services)
- Support access to opioid use disorder treatment, substance use treatment, and **mental health services**
- Provide training and technical assistance to develop and adopt **technology-enabled solutions** to improve care delivery in rural hospitals (**remote monitoring, robotics, AI**)
- Provide technical assistance, software, and hardware for **IT advances** to improve efficiency, enhance **cybersecurity** capacity, and improve health outcomes
- Promote consumer-facing, technology-driven solutions for the **prevention and management of chronic diseases**
- Promote evidence-based, measurable intervention to improve prevention and chronic disease management

# RHTP – Provider Types

## ■ “Rural Health Facilities”

- Hospital located in a rural area
- Critical access hospital
- Sole community hospital
- Medicare-dependent, small rural hospital
- Low-volume hospital
- Rural emergency hospital
- Rural health clinic
- Federally qualified health center
- Community mental health center
- Health center that is receiving a grant under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act
- Opioid treatment program located in a rural census tract of an MSA
- Certified community behavioral health clinic located in a rural census tract of an MSA

# RHTP - DHS Priorities

- Expand on past initiatives and address known challenges:
  - Task Force on the Healthcare Workforce
  - Interagency Council on Mental Health
  - ARPA Initiatives
  - Hospital Services Grant Program (Proposed)

# RHTP - DHS Priorities

- Collaborative or **regionally coordinated approaches** that strengthen care across service areas
- Opportunities to support **workforce, infrastructure, and technology** in rural areas
- Insights into **gaps or barriers** in the current system that limit access, quality, or innovation
- Strategies that are designed for **long-term sustainability**
- Initiatives that could transform rural health care delivery, especially in **primary care, behavioral health, OB/GYN care, emergency care, EMS services, and complex care**

# RHTP - Timeline

Date	Description
August 11	RFI Published
August 14-15	Webinars
August 18-19	Questions Due, Responses Posted
September 3	RFI Responses Due, DHS Reviews Responses
TBD – September	CMS Releases Application
TBD – September	Wisconsin Submits Application
December 31	CMS Announces Awards

# RFI Overview

- **Purpose:** To gather ideas, insights, considerations, and project concepts to help shape Wisconsin's application for the RHTP.
- **Caveats:** The RFI is for planning and information-gathering purposes only. Submission does not constitute a commitment by DHS to fund any proposed activity. This RFI does not constitute a solicitation of proposals, a commitment to conduct procurement, an offer to contract, or a prospective contract. No contract will be awarded by DHS as a result of this RFI. DHS will not be liable for any costs incurred by respondents in the preparation and submission of information in response to this RFI. All RFI responses become the property of the State of Wisconsin and will not be returned. Responses will be kept confidential if a solicitation for the same or similar services is expected in the future. A formal Request for Proposals (RFP) or grant application process may follow at a later stage.

# RFI Overview

- Link to DHS website with more information on the RFI:
  - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/business/rhttp.htm>
  
- Direct link to the RFI:  
[https://esupplier.wi.gov/psp/esupplier/SUPPLIER/ERP/c/WI\\_SS\\_SELF\\_SERVICE.WI\\_SS\\_BIDDER\\_PAGE.?&Page=WI\\_SS\\_BIDDER\\_PAGE&Action=U&WI\\_SS\\_EVENT\\_NBR=13762](https://esupplier.wi.gov/psp/esupplier/SUPPLIER/ERP/c/WI_SS_SELF_SERVICE.WI_SS_BIDDER_PAGE.?&Page=WI_SS_BIDDER_PAGE&Action=U&WI_SS_EVENT_NBR=13762)

*While the RFI is posted on Wisconsin's eSupplier webpage, registration is not required. Anyone can visit the eSupplier webpage, download the RFI as a pdf, and respond by sending an attachment via email.*

# Partners Encouraged to Respond

- **DHS welcomes responses from any interested party, such as:**
  - Behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment providers
  - Community-based organizations
  - Educational institutions and health care workforce programs
  - Emergency Medical Services organizations
  - Federally Qualified Health Centers and rural health clinics
  - Hospitals and health systems
  - Local governments
  - Rural resident, patients, and advocates
  - Tribal health organizations
  - Potential vendors, such as software companies or information technology platforms

# Required RFI Questions

- **Option 1 (Recommended) – total limit 2,500 words**

1. Identify allowable activities (from the list of 10)
2. Abstract
  - ♦ Provide a high-level summary of your input or idea
3. Organizational background and experience
  - ♦ Describe your organization
  - ♦ Identify lead entity and key contact person(s)

# Required RFI Questions

- **Option 1 (Recommended) – total limit 2,500 words**

- 4. Detailed response

- High-level summary of the idea; identify corresponding RHTP required activities
    - Quantify the community need behind this idea; describe anticipated impact
    - Outline your sustainability strategy beyond RHTP funding

- 5. Implementation strategy

- Identify key partners and their roles
    - Describe your organization's capacity and readiness to implement the idea and provide a high-level timeline for implementation activities, if applicable
    - Identify any major implementation risks or barriers and briefly describe mitigation strategies for any financial or operational risks

# Required RFI Questions

- **Option 2 (NOT Recommended) – total limit 2,500 words**

## General Input or Feedback

This is an open format option. Responses do not need to follow a set structure. Respondents may submit data to identify rural health care challenges, narrative responses describing regional challenges, gaps in the current system or continuum of care, written reflections, emergency community needs or ideas, and any other feedback on how the Department should approach its application for RHTP funds.

# How to Submit a Response to the RFI

- **Responses due by September 3 at 2:00pm**
  
- **Option 1: Respond by Email**
  - Send an email with the subject line "S-1833 OS-26 RHTTP Response" to:  
[DHSProcurement@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSProcurement@dhs.wisconsin.gov)
  - Attachments in Microsoft format are preferred, submitted as PDF, Microsoft Word, Adobe, Microsoft Excel, or PowerPoint files.
  
- **Option 2: Respond via eSupplier**
  - Vendors can use the eSupplier System (<https://esupplier.wi.gov>) to respond.
  - Registration is optional. Those who don't wish to register can respond by email (Option 1).

# How to Submit Questions

- During this webinar, you can submit questions using Zoom Q&A.
- Send an email to [DHSProcurement@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSProcurement@dhs.wisconsin.gov) by August 18.  
Please use the subject line **S-1833 OS-26 RHTP - Questions**
- On August 19, we will post the Q&A on the DHS website:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/business/rhttp.htm>

# **Thank you!**

**The presentation has ended but you can submit questions about the RFI through the Zoom Q&A feature.**

**We will post all submitted questions and their answers to the DHS webpage on August 19, by the end of the day.**