



Funding Opportunity Announcement

The information provided below is intended to assist eligible applicants with developing and submitting applications within the GREAT Health Application Portal. This funding opportunity is for **Budget Period 1** of the federal Rural Health Transformation Program, which runs from the date of award through October 30, 2026. All funds awarded from this announcement must be spent by September 30, 2027.

For assistance with this application, please contact GREATgrant@rsmus.com with questions.

Funding Opportunity:	Initiative 1: Transforming for a Sustainable Health System Strategy: Pre-Implementation	
Application Portal Information:	Round: 3 Opening: May 15, 2026 Closing: June 15, 2026	Tier: 3
Funding Amount and Number of Awards:	\$750,000 per award	87 awards available
Funding Eligibility:	This funding opportunity is available to rural hospitals who signed a Letter of Intent for the Achieving Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design (AHEAD) model pre-implementation planning.	
Description and Purpose of Funding:	This funding is intended to help LOI signed hospitals in their preparation for movement to the AHEAD model. Funding should support the hospital’s migration to the AHEAD payment system, increase primary care reach, and improve regional collaboration.	
Additional Information and Guidance for Application Development:	<p>The amount of \$750,000 is approved for Year 1 GREAT Health funding only. Year 1 funding is not indicative of future year awards. Applicants must follow all instructions within the application portal to submit an application for this funding.</p> <p>Approved Uses of Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Technology and infrastructure modernization b. Workforce recruitment and retention 	

This Funding Opportunity Announcement solicits applications for a Grant award pursuant to the GREAT Health Program and Notice of Award for such program issued to DCH by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Grantee shall comply with all applicable federal law, regulations and policies pertaining to the Grant award. Additionally, Grantees will be required to execute the GREAT Health Grant Award Terms and Conditions and abide by the provisions of the GREAT Health Program’s Policies and Procedures Manual. This funding opportunity is intended to guide prospective applicants seeking funding through GREAT Health. This document is not exhaustive, binding, or final. The requirements set forth herein override all other guidance documents specifically related to this program. DCH reserves the right to fund all, part, or none of the submitted applications.



	<p>c. Innovative care models and service delivery d. Strategic partnerships</p> <p>This is not an exhaustive list of uses of funds. DCH encourages hospitals to evaluate their individual needs against the disallowed uses below and Year 1 timelines to propose transformative solutions for their individual institution and situation.</p> <p>Per CMS guidelines, funding cannot be utilized on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. New construction*b. Clinical services that could be paid for by insurancec. Food/mealsd. Total replacement of an existing EMR**e. Pre-award costsf. Projects with current or planned fund sources <p>* Minor renovations are allowed per CMS guidelines. However, the funding available for this funding (Category J, as laid out in the RHTP NOFO) is limited to 20% of the state's total award. Each renovation project must be line-item approved by CMS. Hospitals that elect to utilize Category J minor renovation funding will be allotted on a first-come, first-serve basis, pending CMS approval. DCH encourages hospitals who intend to pursue this type of funding to discuss their specific plans, including timelines, with the team ahead of application.</p> <p>**No more than 5% of the state's total award may be spent replacing an EMR system if a previous HITECH certified EMR system was in place as of September 1, 2025. Should hospitals elect to pursue funding in this category, it will be allotted on a first-come, first-serve basis, pending CMS approval.</p> <p>Applicants must also provide a detailed sustainability plan for the project proposed, including but not limited to: increase in billable service lines, decreased operational costs, increased efficiency, etc. These funds cannot be utilized on projects that will require continuous out-year funding from an external source.</p>
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	<p>Note that these funds cannot go toward projects that are currently funded, either through other means (grants, service lines, etc.) or other <i>already awarded</i> RHTP initiatives.</p> <p>Additional funds will be made available to hospitals in future years for technical advisors (TA) of the hospital's choosing to aid in assessment of the model. Technical advisors are an acceptable use of funds for Year 1 Pre-Implementation funding.</p> <p>Provided the application meets all requirements as stated above and applicable items are approved by CMS, awards will be made to every hospital with a signed Letter of Intent.</p> <p>Notification of awards will be provided once applications have been reviewed and approved.</p> <p>Pre-award costs associated with applicant projects, including costs incurred to apply for grant funds, are not considered an allowable cost under the GREAT Health program. Pre-award costs are those incurred before the project start date or execution of grant agreement.</p> <p>All funds must be fully expended by September 30, 2027.</p>
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