

Georgia Rural Health Transformation Program (GREAT Health)

Initiative 5: Leveraging Technology for Healthcare Innovations in Rural Georgia



STRATEGY: WORKFORCE RETENTION TECHNOLOGY

FUNDING

Total funding over 5 years:
\$20,000,000

1st Year grant funding:
\$2,000,000

Funds for initial costs of surgical robots. Costs beyond initial funding will be funded by respective hospitals pursuant to plans provided with their applications, along with an analysis by the applicants of baseline case volume/predicted revenue metrics with demonstrated financial stability.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Rural hospitals
- Surgeons
- Academic institutions
- Vendors

INITIATIVE 5 STRATEGIES

- Cybersecurity Enhancements
- Advancing Access to Robust Care and Health in Rural Georgia (ARCHER) Tech Catalyst Fund
- EMR Enhancements
- Workforce Retention Technology
- Eligibility Systems Enhancements
- Consumer Engagement Enhancements
- Behavioral Health State Assessment of Technology
- EMS Treatment vs. Transport

Funds for the Workforce Retention Technology Strategy are dedicated to integrating robotic technology in rural places to increase access to surgical services and contribute to surgeon recruitment and retention.

- Allow surgeons to perform more complex procedures, resulting in more precise and less invasive results, reduced patient recovery time and pain, less blood loss, lower risks of infection, and shorter hospital stays.
- 2 robots per year for a total of 10 robots in rural hospitals.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Q1 CY2026 (January-March)

- Determine candidate rural hospitals eligible for workforce retention technology investments.

Q2 CY2026 (April-June)

- Develop grant process, including eligibility criteria, application requirements, and selection framework.

Q3 CY2026 (July-September)

- Disseminate grant opportunities to candidate rural hospitals.

Q4 CY2026 (October-December)

- Review grant proposals submitted by hospitals.
- Make selection decisions for hospitals receiving workforce retention technology awards.
- Purchase and distribute surgical robots.

Q1 CY2027 (January-March)

- Train staff and providers at awarded hospitals.

Q2 CY2027 (April-June)

- Continuing training staff and providers at awarded hospitals.

Q3 CY2027 (July-September)

- Continuing training staff and providers at awarded hospitals.

Q4 CY2027 (October-December) to Q3 CY2030 (July-September)

- Provide technical assistance.
- Maintain systems.

Q4 CY2030 (October-December) to Q3 CY2031 (July-September)

- Conduct evaluation.

WORKFORCE RETENTION TECHNOLOGY OUTCOMES MEASURES

Number of procedures performed by surgical robots in rural hospitals.

INITIATIVE 5 OUTCOME MEASURES

Outcomes of Initiative 5 will be measured by increased number of hospitals with population health reporting capacity; reductions in health IT staff position vacancies; increase in number of consumers directly engaged in new health technology; and reduction in number of reportable cybersecurity incidents by county level.

- 5.1 Increase in number of hospitals with population health reporting capacity (Target TBD).
- 5.2 Reductions in health IT staff position vacancies by 20%.
- 5.3 Increase in number of consumers directly engaged in new health technology (Target TBD).
- 5.4 Enhanced cybersecurity practices and systems in rural healthcare organizations (Target TBD).
- 5.5 Decrease ED visits related to physical health, chronic disease, and mental/behavioral health in rural counties from 1,312,638 to 995,000.
- 5.6 Increase use of primary/preventive care services related to management of chronic disease and mental/behavioral health by 30%.