

Rural Health Transformation Program

Georgia Rural Enhancement and Transformation of Health (GREAT Health) program

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is a federal initiative created by H.R.1, the federal reconciliation bill from 2025. The program authorizes **\$50 billion nationally over five years to support rural health system improvements**, with funding awarded annually to states based on rural population, infrastructure, hospital need, and application strength.

Georgia's program application, named **Georgia Rural Enhancement and Transformation of Health**, or GREAT Health, **totaled \$1.4B over five years**. CMS has awarded Georgia **\$218M for year 1 strategies**.

\$218 Million

RHTP funding received in Georgia (Year 1 of 5)*

5

Strategies

29

Projects

Five Strategies:

1 **Transition to Value-Based Care: Transforming for a Sustainable Health System in Rural Georgia**[†]

Focused on preparing rural providers, particularly hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other primary care practices, for participation in the CMS Achieving Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design (AHEAD) model. The AHEAD model is a voluntary initiative where hospitals and primary care providers work with multiple payers—Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial insurers—to assume an increased role in population health, with reimbursements included as part of a global budget and tied to defined health outcomes. These models require advance planning, shifts in care delivery, and may involve financial risk.

2 **Continuum of Care: Strengthening Care Coordination in Rural Georgia**[†]

Invests in care coordination and service delivery across rural communities through transportation, emergency preparedness, school-based services, and initiatives that preserve access to timely care and reduce disruptions in the care continuum.

3 **Telehealth & Mobile Services: Connecting to Improve Healthcare Access in Rural Georgia**[†]

Expands access to healthcare in rural areas by supporting telehealth networks, mobile clinics, stabilization grants, perinatal support, and other strategies that reduce geographic and systemic barriers to care.

4 **Healthcare Workforce: Growing a Highly Skilled Healthcare Workforce in Rural Georgia**[†]

Strengthens the rural healthcare workforce pipeline through hospital-linked graduate medical education expansion, clinical recruitment and retention incentives, and targeted training programs in underserved areas.

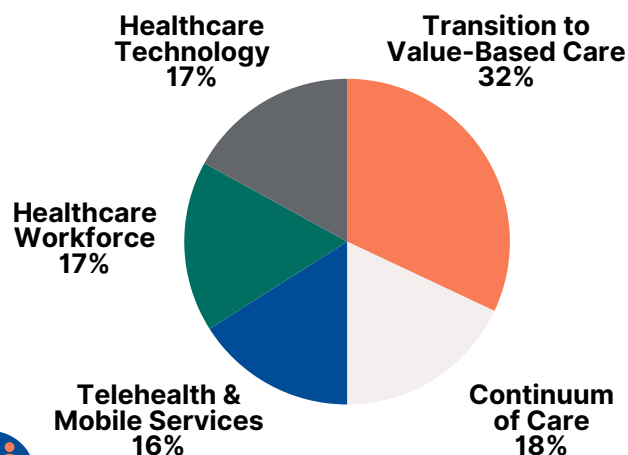
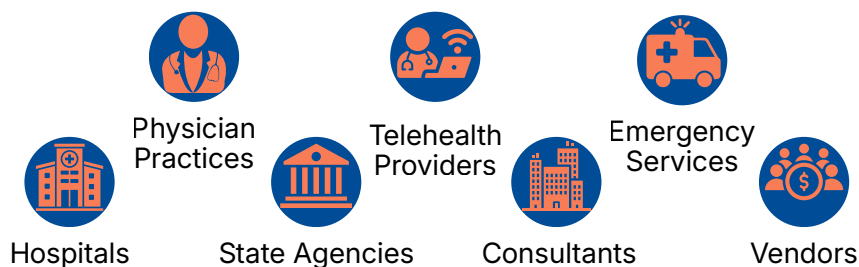
5 **Healthcare Technology: Leveraging Technology for Healthcare Innovations in Rural Georgia**[†]

Modernizes rural healthcare delivery through the establishment of a technology innovation fund and investments in cybersecurity, some electronic health record enhancements, telehealth infrastructure, and clinical technologies that support care coordination and data-driven decision-making.

Budget Breakdown: How Georgia Plans to Use the RHTP Funds

Georgia's application distributes funding to numerous types of healthcare providers, state agencies, consultants, vendors, and others across five major strategies, with the goal of advancing payment reforms, care access, workforce development, and technology modernization.

Entities Eligible for Funding:



Funding Limitations and Non-Allowable Uses

RHTP funding is subject to strict federal regulatory requirements regarding how funds may be used. The funds are also subject to federal oversight, including reporting requirements, accounting standards, and outcome measurements. Funds **MAY NOT** be used for the following purposes:



Construction and major capital projects: New construction, building expansion, purchase of buildings, major retrofits, or cosmetic upgrades that materially increase a facility's value or useful life.



Ongoing or non-sustainable operating costs: Permanent staff positions, recurring operating expenses, or programs that cannot be reasonably sustained after the five-year funding period.



Replacing existing funds: Existing funds that support programs or operations may not be supplanted with these new RHTP funds. RHTP funds are intended to supplement existing funds and are a one-time investment to boost rural healthcare.



Services already reimbursed by insurance: Clinical services billable to Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance, or provider payments beyond federally established limits.



Lobbying or political activities: Any activity intended to influence legislation, regulations, appropriations, or executive actions.



Restricted technology, equipment, and administrative costs: Prohibited telecommunications equipment, household broadband subsidies, large-scale replacement of existing electronic health record systems, or administrative and overhead costs exceeding federal limits.



Other prohibited uses: Pre-award costs, independent research and development, matching funds for other programs, financing the non-federal share of Medicaid, and activities prohibited under federal law.

Prohibited:

- ✗ Major construction
- ✗ Payment enhancements
- ✗ Replacement of existing state funding
- ✗ Ongoing operating costs
- ✗ State share of Medicaid funding
- ✗ Permanent staff positions
- ✗ Household broadband
- ✗ State share of Medicaid payments

Limited:

- ✗ Electronic health record system replacement
- ✗ Payment for clinical services