

Georgia Rural Health Transformation Program (GREAT Health)

Initiative 3: Connecting to Care to Improve Healthcare Access in Rural Georgia



STRATEGY: CARE TO CONSUMER – POINT-OF-CARE TELEPODS

FUNDING

Total funding over 5 years:
\$17,180,000*

1st Year grant funding:
\$7,371,401*

Hospitals can request to have telepods co-located to add 24/7 capacity.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Charity clinics
- Rural hospitals
- Medical schools
- Nursing schools
- Other allied health schools
- AHECs
- DPH
- FQHCs
- CCBHCs
- SORH
- EMS
- Community-based partners

INITIATIVE 3 STRATEGIES

- Care to Consumers: Point-of-Care Telepods & Mobile Units
- Telehealth Enhancements
- Rural Stabilization Grants
- Strengthening Perinatal Systems of Care
- Public Health Telehealth Infrastructure
- Rural Telepsychiatry: Consultations & Primary Care Provider Training

Grantees for this initiative will be asked to commit to aligning with innovative care strategies that are focused on improving health outcomes and transitioning providers to participate in value-based care.

- 25 Point-of-Care Telepods deployed through a vendor selection process by the State Office of Rural Health and staffed by/connected to regional hospitals for follow-up.
- Located in community areas, such as libraries or workplaces.
- Will offer rural residents 24/7 access to providers.

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Q2 CY2026 (April-June)

- Host a kickoff meeting to determine components of the needs assessment.

Q3 CY2026 (July-September)

- Conduct vendor selection process for needs assessment activities and Point-of-Care Telepods.
- Complete assessment of care needs, geographic service areas, and sustainability feasibility.
- Develop Requests for Grant Applications (RFGAs) for Point-of-Care Telepods.
- Disseminate RFGAs to rural candidate organizations.
- Host local stakeholder meetings for operational logistics of launching Point-of-Care Telepods.

Q4 CY2026 (October-December)

- Continue completing assessment of care needs, geographic service areas, and sustainability feasibility.
- Begin training staff and coordinating technical assistance for service lines needed in each area.
- Continue hosting local stakeholder meetings to address operational logistics for launching Point-of-Care Telepods.
- Begin marketing plans in rural communities.

Q1 CY2027 (January-March)

- Continue hosting local stakeholder meetings to address operational logistics for launching Point-of-Care Telepods.
- Begin launch services in initial 5 Point-of Care Telepods.

POINT-OF-CARE TELEPOD STRATEGY OUTCOMES MEASURES

- Number of unique individuals served by Point-of-Care Telepods.
- Number of Point-of-Care Telepods placed in rural areas.

INITIATIVE 3 OUTCOME MEASURES

Outcomes of Initiative 3 will be measured by increased access to prenatal and postpartum visits; reduced 30-day readmission rates for inpatient visits; decreased non-emergency ED visits; and increased use of primary care services at the county level.

- 3.1 Increase adequate care for prenatal and postpartum visits by 25%.
- 3.2 Reduce 30-day readmission rates for inpatient visits by 10%.
- 3.3 Decrease ED visits related to non-emergent physical health, chronic disease, and mental/behavioral health in rural counties from 1,312,638 to 995,000.
- 3.4 Increase use of primary care/preventive care services related to management of chronic disease, and mental/behavioral health by 30%.
- 3.5 Increase in number of methods of technological coordination between primary care, behavioral health, and community organizations for individuals engaged in the initiative (Target TBD).
- 3.6 Increase screenings for individuals served in initiatives (screenings include behavioral health, newborn screenings, social service screeners) by 10%.
- 3.7 Percent of rural practitioners trained (Target = 50%).