

# Rural Health Transformation

**February 6, 2026**

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**JILL MAZZA OLSON, MEDICAID & HEALTH SYSTEMS DIRECTOR, AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
**TRACY O'CONNELL, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES**

# Key RHT Program Details

## Key Dates:

- Revised budget due to CMS: 1/30
- Release of state grant opportunities and RFPs will begin in February
- First annual report due to CMS: 8/30/2026
- Fund obligation deadline: 10/30/2026
- Spending deadline: 9/30/2027

- **Opportunity:** A \$50 billion Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) initiative (FFY 2026–2030) to help *states* modernize rural health systems — improving access, quality, and sustainability through infrastructure, workforce, and care model transformation.
  - Vermont's first year award: **\$195,053,740**
- **Award Type:** RHT is a cooperative agreement, not a grant, which has an impact on implementation and CMS oversight (see pg 4-5 of award for full list of details)
- **Awarded but Unexpended/Unobligated Funds** will be redistributed among states in the next funding year

# Application Parameters

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**Notice of Funding Opportunity** outlined areas of focus for the application, along with funding restrictions

**RHT Is Essentially One-time Funding**, best used for activities such as launching initiatives, transitions to new models, purchasing of technology and equipment, promoting collaboration

**Notable Funding Limitations include:**

- Restrictions on "supplantation" of the state budget
- Restrictions on funding construction that increases property values
- Restrictions on funding for otherwise billable services that are already being reimbursed
- Provider payments cannot exceed 15% of the total award (just over \$29 million)

# Vermont's RHT Initiative Categories

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- 1) Regionalization and Innovative Care Strategies**
- 2) Establishing a Clinically Integrated Network of Shared Services**
- 3) Strengthening Primary Care**
- 4) Health Care Workforce Development**
- 5) Price Transparency and Insurance Competition**

# Vermont's RHT Initiative Overview

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**Build Stronger Rural Health Networks:** Strengthen primary care, support transfers, enlist the EMS in a new way, create new mobile health and dental options, build out mental health urgent care, expand access to complex care in nursing facilities, expand recovery housing, implement pharmacy “test-to-treat”

**Technology and Shared Operations:** Shared EHR for interested providers, remote patient monitoring, “closed-loop” referrals, shared HR systems, support for AI transcription

**Strengthen the Rural Health Workforce:** Housing, training programs at clinical sites across the continuum, financial incentives for education

**Planning:** Exploring strategies to expand insurance options and a reinsurance model, consumer-facing price and quality transparency tools, data and expert support to regionalize some services

# RHT Staffing Plan

Dept	Business Office	Program	Total
CO/HCR/Blueprint/HCR Data	3.00	7.00	10
DVHA	1.50	2.00	4
DAIL	0.50	1.00	2
DMH	-	1.00	1
VDH	1.00	4.00	5
	6.00	15.00	21
Initial Limited Service Position Request			
Existing Limited Service Position			
Dept	Function	Title	
CO/HCR/Blueprint/HCR Data	Project Director	HCR Integration Manager	
CO/HCR/Blueprint/HCR Data	Project Director "deputy"	Admin Services Director III	
CO/HCR/Blueprint/HCR Data	Workforce	Director of Health Care Workforce	
CO/HCR/Blueprint/HCR Data	Transformation Grants (Planning/TA/Consultation)	Admin Services Director II	
CO/HCR/Blueprint/HCR Data	Transformation Grants (Grants)	Admin Services Director I	
CO/HCR/Blueprint/HCR Data	Blueprint/Transformation	Blueprint Payment Ops Admin	
CO/HCR/Blueprint/HCR Data	Technology/Shared Services Grants	Health Care Project Director	
CO/HCR/Blueprint/HCR Data	Business Office	Financial Manager II	
CO/HCR/Blueprint/HCR Data	Business Office Grants	Admin Services Mgr I	
CO/HCR/Blueprint/HCR Data	Business Office Contracts	Admin Services Mgr III	
DVHA	Business Office Grants	Financial Manager I	
DVHA	DVHA Health Plan Grant Program Oversight and Deliverable Management	Admin Services Director II	
DVHA	DVHA Health Plan Grant Program Oversight and Deliverable Management	Admin Services Director II	
DAIL	Administration/Grants Management	Admin Services Mgr I	
DAIL	Project Management	Business Project Manager	
DMH	Project Management/Clinical technical assistance	Admin Services Manager III	
VDH	EMS	Public Health Program Manager I	
VDH	EMS	Public Health Specialist III	
VDH	SUD - Recovery Housing	Public Health Program Manager I	
VDH	Workforce	Public Health Programs Administrator	
VDH	Business Office	Financial Administrator I	

# Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

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- AHS has an [RHT Program page](#) on the Office of Health Care Reforms website which includes:
  - A **public contact form**
  - The [project narrative, summary](#) and [list of projects](#)
  - Instructions to sign up for Vermont's RHT email list for updates about notices of grant opportunities, RFIs, RFPs and other RHT news
- AHS is leveraging standing committees (Workforce, Health Care Delivery Strategic Advisory Committee, Primary Care Steering Committee, and others) and other past and present health care reform planning activities such as Regionalization/Transformation planning activities