WASHINGTON
RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Washington's RHT funds are 100% obligated

Earlier this year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded Washington state about **$181 million** for year 1 of the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program. As of this week, these funds are **100% obligated**, which means CMS legally commits to providing all the funding.

The money is now at work, reaching all 30 of Washington's rural counties and serving 1.1 million rural residents.

Where the money is

Washington's RHT Program has six initiatives that support health care innovation in rural communities. Each was built with rural partners and approved by CMS. Here's how year 1 funds were shared.

- **Initiative 1: Ignite innovation in rural hospitals**
- **Initiative 2: Prevent disease and manage care**
- **Initiative 3: Invest in the health of Native families**
- **Initiative 4: Adopt technology and data solutions**
- **Initiative 5: Develop Washington's rural workforce**
- **Initiative 6: Expand rural behavioral health**
- **Administrative costs**

Initiative 1: Ignite innovation in rural hospitals

Initiative 1 focuses on sustainable improvements in rural hospitals. This includes technology that supports better collaboration between 30 rural hospitals, building capacity to share staff and tools and support peer learning.

Activities	Estimated amount
The Rural Collaborative: 30 member hospitals	$5.43 million
Rural Health Redesign Center: payment model	$2.14 million
Washington State Hospital Association: hospital technology	$41.99 million
Maternal, emergency, and specialty services	$9.67 million
Total	**$59.24 million**

Maternal, emergency, and specialty services

As part of Initiative 1, hospitals could apply for funding to sustain and maintain essential maternal, emergency, and specialty services. **Twenty-eight hospitals** were approved through a competitive bid process:

- Astria Sunnyside Hospital
- Astria Toppenish Hospital
- Cascade Medical Center
- Confluence Health
- EvergreenHealth Monroe
- Forks Community Hospital
- Garfield County Hospital
- Grays Harbor Community Hospital
- Island Health
- Jefferson Healthcare
- Kittitas Valley Healthcare
- Mid Valley Hospital
- Newport Community Hospital
- North Valley Hospital District
- Odessa Memorial Healthcare Center
- Olympic Medical Center
- Othello Community Hospital
- Prosser Public Hospital
- Providence St. Mary Medical Center
- Samaritan Healthcare
- Seattle Children's Hospital
- Skagit Regional Health

- Skyline Health
- Snoqualmie Valley Health
- St. Elizabeth Hospital
- Summit Pacific Medical Center
- Trios Health
- Whitman Hospital

Initiative 2: Prevent disease and manage care

Rural communities need health care that reaches beyond the walls of clinical systems. This funding provides training for community health care workers and increases the reach of mobile health care units.

Activities	Estimated amount
Community-based workforce	$2.20 million
Long-term care workers	$4.28 million
Dementia-capable communities	$3.43 million
Emergency medical services interfacility transport	$3.00 million
Community center refit, Care-A-Van	$1.32 million
Area Agencies on Aging vans, WA 211, community center refit	$5.26 million
Total	**$19.49 million**

Initiative 3: Invest in the health of Native families

Washington state set aside 10% of funding for the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington. Each Tribe receives the same amount, approximately $669,000 each, and determines how to best make critical investments to improve the health and wellbeing of Native families.

Activities	Estimated amount
29 federally recognized Tribes	$19.41 million
Total	**$19.41 million**

Initiative 4: Adopt technology and data solutions

Initiative 4 gives a boost to the University of Washington's Project ECHO, a long-standing program that helps rural health care providers consult with specialists.

Activities	Estimated amount
University of Washington: Project ECHO	$4.28 million
University of Washington: e-Consult	$2.46 million
Provider technology	$17.02 million
Total	**$23.76 million**

Provider technology

Initiative 4 also supports rural providers in upgrading telehealth and other technology. **Forty-five providers** were approved for funding through a competitive bid process:

- Action Health Partners (Community Choice)
- American Medical Response Ambulance Service
- Astria Sunnyside Hospital
- Astria Toppenish Hospital
- BHC Fairfax Hospital, Inc.
- Colville Tribal Health Care
- Community Health of Central Washington
- Coulee Medical Center
- Encounter Telehealth, Inc.

- Family Health Centers
- Ferry County Health
- Genetic Support Foundation
- Gillespie Eye Care
- Grays Harbor County Public Hospital District #2
- Greene Health Services
- Heart Central of Washington, PLLC
- Island Health
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Jefferson Healthcare
- Kittitas Valley Healthcare
- Klickitat Valley Health
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Mason Health
- Moses Lake Community Health Center
- NEW Health
- Newport Community Hospital
- North Olympic Healthcare Network
- North Valley Hospital District
- Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare
- Olympic Medical Center (Clallam County District #2)
- Oregon Recovery Treatment Centers, LLC – Tri-Cities Treatment Center
- Othello Community Hospital
- Recovery and Wellness Center of Eastern Washington
- Sea Mar Community Health Centers
- Seattle Children's Hospital
- Skyline Health
- Summit Pacific
- UW Medicine Division of Healthcare Simulation Sciences
- Valley Ultrasound, LLC
- Wahkiakum County
- Washington Odd Fellows Home
- Washington Poison Center
- WhidbeyHealth
- Whitman Hospital & Medical Clinics
- Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

Initiative 5: Develop Washington's rural workforce

Work under this initiative assists in recruiting and retaining the rural health workforce, focusing on key health roles:

- Nurses
- Primary care providers
- Maternity care providers (including midwives and doulas)
- Dental hygienists
- Long-term care workers
- Community-based care professionals

Activities	Estimated amount
University of Washington: WWAMI residency	$5.46 million
Washington State University: rural practitioner training programs	$2.57 million
Rural nursing education	$3.77 million
Grow-your-own training	$10.08 million
Grow-your-own long-term care workers	$1.70 million
Rural workforce incentives	$9.89 million
Total	**$33.47 million**

Initiative 6: Expand rural behavioral health

This initiative improves standards for behavioral health care and gets people into care faster. This includes expanding schools' access to Medicaid funding, with 32 school districts participating this year.

Activities	Estimated amount
Mobile crisis supports	$10.76 million
Transition to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model	$3.20 million
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: youth in rural areas	$5.14 million
Opioid treatment program recruitment and retention	$2.82 million
Total	**$21.92 million**

Mobile crisis supports

Under Initiative 6, these Behavioral Health – Administrative Services Organizations received funding for mobile crisis supports:

- Carelon Behavioral Health (Southwest and North Central Regions)
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Great Rivers Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC
- Greater Columbia Behavioral Health, LLC
- North Sound Behavior Health Administrative Services Organization
- Salish Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization
- Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health
- Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

These Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics received funding under Initiative 6:

- Cascade Community Healthcare – Lewis County
- Comprehensive Healthcare – Walla Walla County, Yakima County
- Excelsior Wellness Center – Spokane County
- Lake Whatcom Residential Treatment – Whatcom County
- Peninsula Behavioral Health – Clallam County

Opioid treatment program recruitment and retention

These opioid treatment programs received funding under Initiative 6:

- Bay Area Addition Research and Treatment Programs Bremerton
- Bay Area Addition Research and Treatment Programs Port Angeles
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Nisqually Generations Healing Center
- Oregon Recovery Treatment Centers, LLC – Tri-Cities Treatment Center
- Oregon Recovery Treatment Centers – Walla Walla Treatment Center

Administrative costs

To support running Washington's RHT Program, including completing 144 total contracts to move funds, we've currently budgeted 5% of funding for administration. CMS allows states up 10% of the total funding for administration.

Learn more about the RHT Program

The **RHT Program** is part of the H.R.1 budget reconciliation bill. The program offers $50 billion in funding nationwide to improve rural health care. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) administers the program.

In this first year, CMS awarded Washington state about $181 million. These funds will support the hospitals, clinics, and providers that rural communities rely on every day.

Disclaimer

This program is supported by CMS/HHS as a financial assistance award totaling $181,257,515.06 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS/HHS or the U.S. Government.