



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON —

September 25, 2025

The Honorable Dr. Mehmet Oz
CMS Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Administrator Oz:

Washington State is submitting this non-binding letter of intent to confirm our plan to apply for federal funding under the Rural Health Transformation Program [CMS-RHT-26-001]. From central Washington's farms to Tribal lands, to our coasts and islands – our state has at its core, rural communities that support agriculture, fishing, energy infrastructure, and our military. Despite significant investments in health care, Washington's rural communities continue to experience unique challenges, including a healthcare system that faces an aging workforce, a need for innovative technology and rural health infrastructure, and an increasing demand for transformation to address root causes of chronic disease and behavioral health.

Rural Health Transformation Program funding would position Washington to transform our rural community delivery system in alignment with the priorities laid out by CMS in its Notice of Funding Opportunity. Washington will seek to use this funding to increase and sustain access, particularly to primary care, maternity services, long-term care, and behavioral health. Funds will be deployed to directly support hospitals, workforce development, innovation, technological investments, and evidence-based chronic disease management.

We look forward to submitting our application by November 5th and to continued engagement with your administration.

Funding Opportunity Number and Title: CMS-RHT-26-001, Rural Health Transformation Program

State applicant: Washington State

State agency designee: Washington State Health Care Authority

Does Washington plan to apply for funding? Yes

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Governor's office contact: Caitlin Safford, Senior Policy Advisor, 564-250-1554, caitlin.safford@gov.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Bob Ferguson
Governor