



Rural Health Transformation Program

Public Webinar

October 30, 2025

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RHTP Application Overview

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) offers **\$50B funding over 5 years to improve access to healthcare in rural America**. Only states can apply, and each must submit a detailed plan aligned with **five strategic goals**:

| Strategic Goal | Description |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Make Rural America Healthy Again | Focus on preventive care, chronic disease management, behavioral health, and prenatal care using evidence-based approaches. Address root causes of poor health and improve long-term outcomes |
| Sustainable Access | Help rural providers become long-term, reliable access points by improving efficiency and encouraging collaboration across facilities and systems (e.g., better coordinate primary, specialty, and emergency care) |
| Workforce Development | Strengthen recruitment and retention of health care workers in rural communities |
| Innovative Care | Promote new ways to deliver care , such as value-based payment models or Accountable Care Organizations, to improve quality and reduce costs |
| Tech Innovation | Invest in digital health tools, telehealth, data sharing, and cybersecurity to modernize health care delivery |

RHTP Funding Overview

This outlines **eligible funding usage & funding restrictions** under CMS guidance and notes that Arizona must select *at least 3 eligible activities* as part of the RHTP application:

Eligible Funding Usage



1. Providing **IT tools and upgrades**
2. Right-sizing rural health systems
3. Improving **access to mental health** and substance use care
4. Developing innovative care models
5. Ensuring **sustainable access** to high-quality rural healthcare
6. Training and technical assistance
7. Providing **payments to healthcare providers**
8. Promoting consumer-facing technologies
9. Promoting **evidence-based interventions**
10. Recruiting & retaining **clinical workforce**

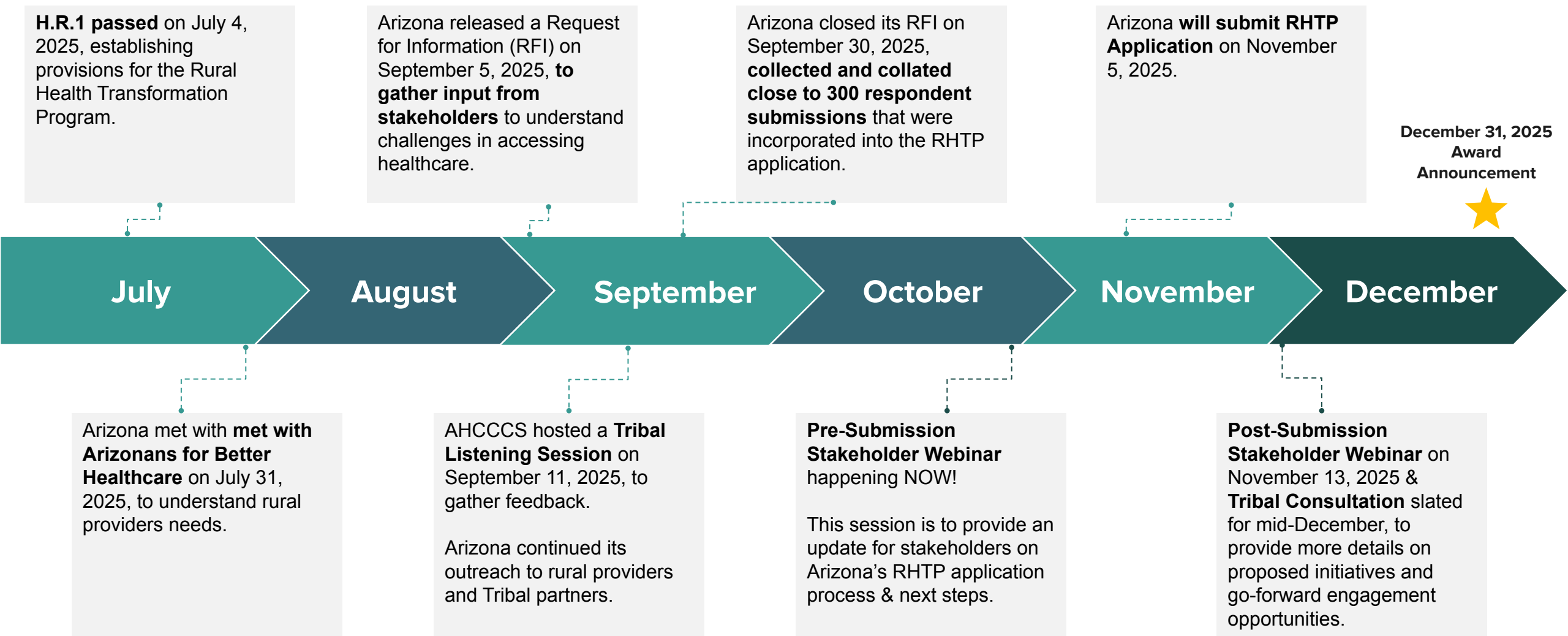
Funding Restrictions*



- **New construction**
- Meeting **matching requirements** for any other federal funds or local entities
- Replacement of **payment for reimbursable clinical services** or **changes to existing fee schedules**
 - Provider payments cannot exceed 15% of total funding per budget year
- 5% limitation per budget year for **EMR replacement** if system is in place as of 9/1/25
- **Broadband infrastructure**
- Clinician salaries for facilities that subject clinicians to non-compete agreements.
- **Meals**, including medically tailored meals
- **Supplanting** existing State, local, tribal, or private funding of infrastructure or services.

Stakeholder Engagement Journey

Arizona solicited feedback through **multiple channels from a diverse range of stakeholders**, including hospital systems, rural providers, universities, tribal representatives, and rural residents.



Arizona's Stakeholder Engagement Efforts to Date

Tribal Representatives

- AHCCCS hosted Tribal listening session at the National Tribal Health Conference on September 11, and will update Tribal partners at Tribal Consultation on November 3.
- Arizona met with IHS representatives on October 7 & 21. IHS advised the State to ensure Arizona's application included comprehensive options for Native American and Tribal populations and emphasized the need for culturally appropriate care.
- Arizona facilitated meetings with Arizona's Tribal 638 hospitals on October 9 & 27.
- Arizona coordinated with the Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care (AACIHC) on October 6 & 30.
- Offered individual meetings to leadership for all 22 Tribes.

General Public

- Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) administered a Request for Information (RFI) between September 5 – 30.
 - The RFI was open to the public,
 - AHCCCS, ADHS, and the Governor's Office promoted the opportunity to provide feedback in anticipation of RHTP, and
 - The RFI was also promoted by all 20+ State health boards and commissions, which promoted the RFI to their licensees.
- The State incorporated Arizonans for Better Healthcare's Provider Survey into its RFI, which also incorporated feedback from listening sessions with rural health providers.

Provider & Medicaid Facilities

- Arizona facilitated meetings with:
 - Arizonans for Better Healthcare on July 31 & October 16,
 - the Arizona Council of Human Service Providers on October 23,
 - the Arizona Association of Health Plans on October 17 & 27,
 - the Health System Alliance of Arizona on October 16 & 24,
 - the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association on October 3 & 17,
 - the Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers on October 23,
 - Phoenix Children's Hospital on October 30,
 - the Arizona Health Care Association on October 27, and
 - several healthcare professional associations.

Specific Area of Expertise

- Arizona met with:
 - the Arizona Center for Rural Health on September 8, October 22 and 24,
 - Northern Arizona University on September 4,
 - representatives for Arizona State University on October 27,
 - Arizonans Chamber of Commerce's Health Care Committee on October 23,
 - the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging on September 15,
 - Contexture, the State's Health Information Exchange, on October 17 and 28, and
 - County Public Health Officers on October 16.

Arizona's RHTP Proposed Initiatives

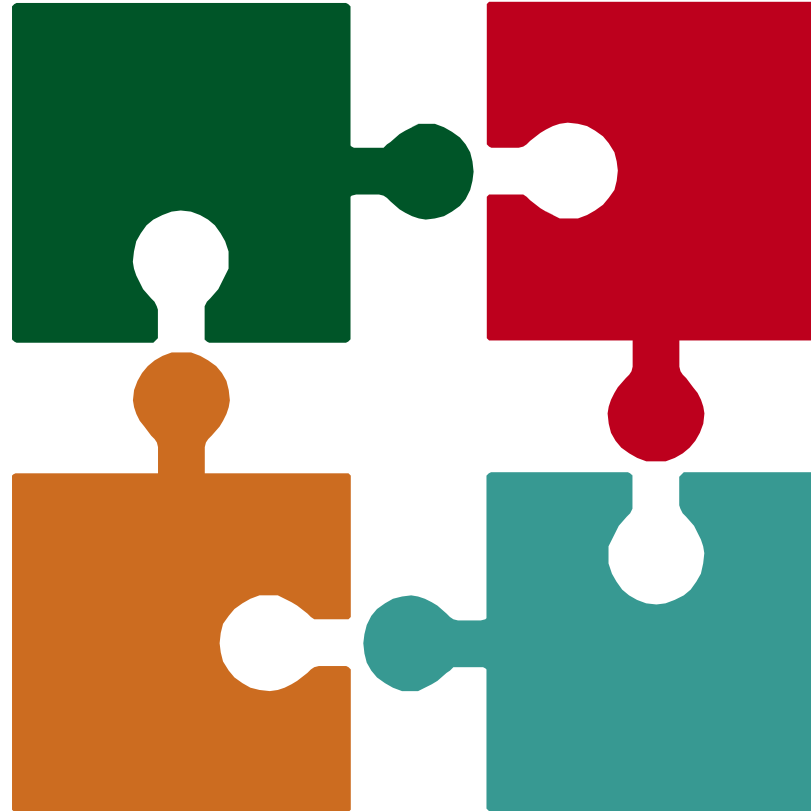
Below are **4 overarching priorities** that Arizona is focusing on to address the key challenges related to access to healthcare in rural communities:

Workforce Development

- **Recruit, train, and retain skilled health professionals** serving Arizona's **rural and Tribal communities** by creating new and expanding existing workforce initiatives
- Create **financial incentives to encourage recruitment and retention** of rural healthcare professionals in collaboration with colleges, universities, Arizona Area Health Education Centers, with an emphasis on allied health disciplines

Priority Health Initiatives Grant

- Focused on **Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder (SUD), Child and Maternal Health, and Chronic Disease Prevention & Management**
- Expand prevention and treatment access via grant opportunities, including for mobile/digital units, and telehealth integration



Rural Health Access

- Expand access to care in rural communities by deploying mobile units and satellite sites, and expanding telehealth services for **specialty, primary, and preventive care in remote areas**
- Integrate **regional coordination** for referrals, scheduling, and continuity of care, and telehealth-enabled access to improve rural health outcomes

Resiliency & Operational Efficiency

- Implement shared services models to reduce administrative and financial burdens by **leveraging EMRs, HIE, and scaling back-office support**
- Provide **technical assistance** to strengthen rural network **performance and coordination** for better care delivery

What's Ahead



Application Finalization

Arizona is in the process of completing the RHTP application to meet the CMS deadline of November 5, 2025



Submission

Arizona will submit the RHTP application to CMS.



Post-Submission Webinar

Join our post-submission webinar on November 13, 2025, where we will share more details as we await award announcement



Direct Convening

Arizona will engage other governmental partners, including congressional health staff. Additionally, AHCCCS will facilitate a meeting with tribal stakeholders in mid-December. Invitations will be sent out soon—please stay tuned for more details!



Award Notification

Await the CMS award announcement on or before December 31, 2025

RHTP Resources

The following resource materials are intended to help you develop a more comprehensive understanding of RHTP and provide latest updates on the application process while we await the CMS award announcement:

| Resource Material | Link to Resource Material | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS): Rural Health Transformation Program Webpage | Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program CMS | Details the CMS initiative, including program intent, structure, and shares important dates |
| CMS Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) | Rural Health Transformation Program | Outlines the full details of the application and all the requirements |
| CMS RHTP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) | Rural Health Transformation FAQs | Clarifies items outlined in the NOFO and answers key questions from respondents |
| Arizona Center for Rural Health (AzCRH), University of Arizona | Home Center For Rural Health | Coordinates statewide rural health initiatives, including leadership in research and advocacy |
| Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) | AHCCCS News & Updates | Provides updates on the RHTP process and timeline |