



MISSISSIPPI

RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

MRHT:

Today's Speakers



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MRHT:

Today's Agenda



01	Mississippi's Initiatives Initial Program(s) Launch: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key Dates• Eligibility• Application Submission & Evaluation• Fund Disbursement
02	BRIDGE: Rural Capital Care Gap Closure Grant Program (RCGC)
03	HTAM: Rural Technology Grant Program (RTG)
04	TAPS: Telehealth Hub Connectivity, Equipment & Education Grant Program (TCE)
05	Questions

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Mississippi's Initiatives & Initial Program Launch

MRHT:

Mississippi's Initiatives



1

**COORDINATED
REGIONAL
INTEGRATED
SYSTEMS
(CRIS)**

2

**WORKFORCE
EXPANSION
INIATIVE
(WEI)**

3

**HEALTH
TECHNOLOGY
ADVANCEMENT
AND
MODERNIZATION
INITIATIVE
(HTAM)**

4

**TELEHEALTH
ADOPTION AND
PROVIDER
SUPPORT
INITIATIVE
(TAPS)**

5

**BUILDING RURAL
INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR DELIVERY,
GROWTH, AND
EFFICIENCY
(BRIDGE)**



Mississippi RHTP: *Programs to launch first*

- **BRIDGE: Rural Capital Care Gap Closure Grant Program (RCGC)**
- **HTAM: Rural Provider Technology Grant Program (RTG)**
- **TAPS: Telehealth Hub Connectivity, Equipment & Education Grant Program (TCE)**

Program Launch: *Key Dates*



Application Launch:

- June 15, 2026

**Application Window
Closes:**

- July 15, 2026

Application Review Period:

- July 16, 2026-July 31, 2026

Subaward Execution Period:

- August 2026

Year 1 Performance Period:

- August 2026-July 31, 2027

MRHT:

Who can apply?



- **Eligible Providers, include:**

- ***MUST be located in Mississippi rural areas OR serving rural populations**

- Hospitals
 - Physician practices (including solo practitioners)
 - Rural health clinics
 - Federally qualified health centers
 - Local health departments
 - Tribal healthcare facilities
 - Certified community behavioral health clinics
 - Substance use disorder facilities
 - Dental care services
 - Licensed long-term care facilities

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How do eligible providers apply?

- Applications will be accepted starting 6/15/26.
- Applications must be submitted using the online portal.
- Any Eligible Provider may apply for funding.
- Any Eligible Provider may submit multiple applications, for each separate proposed project.
- Applicants must possess a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) to be considered.

MRHT:

Application Evaluation Process

- All applications will be evaluated for completeness and responsiveness
- The State will contact applicants with incomplete submissions during the evaluation process
 - Failure to promptly supply all required documentation will result in disqualification
- All applications will be scored using the published scoring rubric
- Selected applicants will be classified as 'subrecipients' and will be required to execute subawards

MRHT:



How will funds be disbursed?

- Selected applicants will be classified as 'subrecipients'
- Subrecipients must follow all terms and conditions of the executed subaward
- Subrecipients must comply with all applicable provisions of 2 CFR 200
- Funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis (Limited exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis)
 - Subrecipients must submit payment requests on an agreed-upon cadence using a prescribed request form
 - Reimbursement requests must include all required payment and procurement supporting documentation
 - Upon approval and drawdown from CMS, the State will disburse funds to the subrecipient



Rural Capital Care Gap Closure Grant Program (RCGC)

RCGC:

Program Objectives

- **Increase service capacity**
- **Improve local access to healthcare services by reducing the travel burden across rural Mississippi**
- **Support critical access hospitals**
- **Enhance operational efficiency to reduce barriers to care**
- **Commitment to support the Statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE) developed under the RHT Program**
- **Other activities that address identified healthcare service gaps may also be considered.**
 - **modernization of healthcare facilities and/or equipment**
 - **patient access enhancements**
 - **expansion of specialty or support services**
 - **other activities that demonstrably strengthen rural healthcare capacity and outcomes**

RCGC:

Eligible Uses of Awarded Funds



- **Fund MUST be used to:**
 - **Make necessary facility renovations; and/or**
 - **Facilitate infrastructure projects to transform the way they serve their communities; and/or**
 - **Service-delivery optimization in healthcare is the systematic process of streamlining clinical workflows, resource allocation, and patient logistics to provide high-quality care at a lower cost.**

**RHT Program funding can not be used for
new construction or major building expansion**

RCGC:

Ineligible Uses of awarded funds



- **RCGC Fund Restrictions:**

- Applicants' total administrative costs may not exceed 5% of the award
- Salaries charged to the award may not exceed the federal salary cap (\$225,700)
- Renovations require prior CMS approval

- **RCGC Funds may NOT be used for:**

- To replace existing funding
- Funds may not support ongoing costs without a sustainability plan
- Provider payments
- New construction or major building expansion
- Lobbying or advocacy activities
- Investment vehicles or endowments that generate profit
- Demolition of buildings

RCGC:

Limitations on awarded funds



Funding for capital expenditures and infrastructure funding cannot exceed 20% of the total funding CMS awards states in a given budget period.

RCGC:

What must applicants demonstrate?



- Capacity to complete the proposed project by 7/31/27
- How the proposed scope can operate independently or support future expansion
- High-level overview of why the project is needed and how it will advance the goals of the RCGC Program.
- Specific need or needs to be addressed through the proposed capital investment
- At least one quantified need indicator.
 - Examples of quantified indicators:
 - wait time
 - appointment backlog
 - capacity utilization
 - service interruption counts
 - travel distance
 - equipment downtime, etc.
- At least two intended outcomes of the project
- Major components of the capital investment and the need(s) and intended outcome(s) each component will address.
- Communities and populations impacted by the project.
- Mississippi rural communities and/or populations currently served by the applicant.
- How the project creates a rural impact.
- Identify challenges, obstacles, or risks presented by the project.
- Implementation workplan and timeline.
- Budget Narrative.
- Key performance metrics and how applicant will track these metrics.



RCGC:

What must applicants demonstrate?

- RHTP funding is structured as a one-year award period.
- Mississippi strongly encourages applicants to propose phased or scalable projects that can achieve meaningful implementation milestones within the available funding timeframe.



RCGC:

Required Application Documentation

- **Completed and signed IRS Form W-9.**
- **SAM.gov registration documentation (if available)**
- **Most recent financial statement audit or internally developed financial documentation**
- **Summary of audit findings, if applicable**
- **Written policies and procedures**
- **Documentation demonstrating applicant's service to rural populations in Mississippi**
- **Completed budget template**



Rural Provider Technology Grant Program (RTG)

RTG:

Program Objectives

Rural Provider Technology Grants

- Includes acquiring and upgrading essential technology systems needed for modern care delivery

Cybersecurity & Technology Modernization

- Helps providers strengthen cybersecurity and IT infrastructure
- Preference in scoring for cybersecurity projects will be given to FQHCs

RTG:

Eligible Uses of Awarded Funds

- **Awardees must use funds to support necessary enhancements to technology hardware and software.**
- **Rural Provider Technology Grant Funds:**
 - Hardware and software upgrades
 - Vendor selection, system integration, and training
 - Ongoing technical assistance and system optimization
- **Cybersecurity & Technology Modernization Fund:**
 - Cybersecurity software and network protections
 - Risk assessments and security planning
 - Staff training and awareness programs
 - Incident response and compliance systems

RTG:

Ineligible Uses of awarded funds

- **RTG Fund Restrictions:**

- Applicants' total administrative costs may not exceed 5% of the award
- Salaries charged to the award may not exceed the federal salary cap (\$225,700)
- Renovations require approval

- **RTG Funds may NOT be used for:**

- Telehealth investments (should be applied for under the TCE program)
- Broadband infrastructure is not an allowable use of funds
- To replace existing funding

RTG:

What must applicants demonstrate?



- Describe the technology enhancement, requested investment, rural population served/impacted, and expected improvement.
- Specific need(s) to be addressed through the proposed technology investment.
- At least one quantified need indicator.
 - Examples of quantified indicators:
 - system downtime hours per month
 - number of outages in the last 6-12 months
 - percent of aging devices/servers/endpoints
 - number of vulnerabilities identified in most recent risk assessment, etc.
- At least two intended outcomes of the project.
- Major components of the technology investment and map each component to the need indicator(s) and intended outcome(s).
- Communities and populations impacted by the proposed project.
- Mississippi rural communities and/or populations currently served by the applicant.
- How the project creates rural impact.
- At least two challenges, obstacles, or risks that may affect achievement of the intended outcomes.
- Implementation Workplan & Timeline.
- Applicant's capacity to manage the project.
- Key performance metrics and the applicant's plan for tracking these metrics.
- Budget narrative.

RTG:

Required Application Documentation

- **Completed and signed IRS Form W-9.**
- **SAM.gov registration documentation**
- **Most recent financial statement audit or internally developed financial documentation**
- **Summary of audit findings, if applicable**
- **Written policies and procedures**
- **Copies of existing executed vendor contracts for EHR systems**
- **Completed budget template**



Telehealth Hub Connectivity, Equipment & Education Grant Program (TCE)

TCE:

Program Objectives

Telehealth Hub Connectivity/Equipment

- Supports improved connectivity, equipment availability, and technology capacity for providers and community-based telehealth hubs.

Telehealth Education (Provider & Patient Outreach)

- Supports understanding and effective use of telehealth among both providers and patients with the goal of increased utilization.

TCE:

Eligible Uses of Award Funds

- **Awardees must use funds to increase telehealth visits across Mississippi rural and underserved communities by:**
 - improving connectivity and encouraging higher utilization among patients, OR
 - providing training on telehealth delivery, technology use and compliance, and patient outreach campaigns.
- **Eligible expenses include:**
 - Expenses related to efforts to increase telehealth utilization among rural providers
 - Examples of eligible expenses:
 - Provider participation in telehealth adoption
 - Telehealth hub readiness and connectivity
 - Telehealth competency and training completion

TCE:

Ineligible Uses of awarded funds

TCE Fund Restrictions:

- Applicants' total administrative costs may not exceed 5% of the award
- Salaries charged to the award may not exceed the federal salary cap (\$225,700)
- Renovations require prior CMS approval

TCE Funds may NOT be used for:

- Cybersecurity investments (should be applied for under the HTAM/RTG program)
- EHR investments (should be applied for under HTAM/RTG program)
- Broadband infrastructure is not an allowable use of funds
- To replace existing funding
- Funds may not support ongoing costs without a sustainability plan
- Provider payments
- New construction or major building expansion
- Lobbying or advocacy activities
- Investment vehicles or endowments that generate profit
- Demolition of buildings

TCE:

What must applicants demonstrate?

- **High-level overview of why the project is needed and how it will advance the goals of the TCE Program.**
- **Specific need(s) to be addressed through the proposed capital investment.**
- **At least one quantified need indicator.**
 - **Examples of quantified indicators:**
 - **travel time for care**
 - **appointment backlog**
 - **capacity utilization**
 - **ED utilization for non-emergent conditions**
 - **equipment downtime, etc.**
- **At least two intended outcomes of the proposed project.**
- **Major components of the investment and map each component to the need indicator(s) and intended outcomes(s)**
- **Communities and populations impacted by the proposed project.**
- **Mississippi rural communities and/or populations currently served by the applicant.**
- **How the project creates rural impact.**
- **Implementation Workplan & Timeline.**
- **Budget Narrative.**
- **Key performance metrics and how the applicant will track these metrics.**
- **Applicant's capacity to manage the project.**
- **Identify challenges, obstacles, or risks presented by the project.**

TCE:

Required Application Documentation

- **Completed and signed IRS Form W-9.**
- **SAM.gov registration documentation**
- **Most recent financial statement audit or internally developed financial documentation**
- **Summary of audit findings, if applicable**
- **Summary of Findings, if applicable**
- **Written policies and procedures**
- **Copies of existing executed vendor contracts for EHR systems**
- **Completed budget template**



Key Resources

Key Resources

- To submit questions regarding MRHTP please email info@mississippirhtp.com
- **Mississippi Rural Health Transformation Website:**
 - <https://mississippirhtp.com/>
 - **Interested in receiving updates about the MS RHTP please fill out the contact form on the website.**
- **MS Notice of Award:**
 - <https://mississippirhtp.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/CMMSNoticeOfAward4.20.26.pdf>
- **MS Project Narrative:**
 - https://mississippirhtp.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Project-Narrative_GovOffice4_28_26.pdf
- **CMS FAQs:**
 - <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/rural-health-transformation-frequently-asked-questions.pdf>
- **CMS Website:**
 - <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/rural-health-transformation-rht-program/overview>



Questions?