



MISSISSIPPI

RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

OVERVIEW AND PROGRAM INITIATIVES

JUNE 2026



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Presentation Goals

- Provide an overview of the goals of the Mississippi Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)
- Discuss plans for the Mississippi RHTP including key initiatives, allowable uses of funds, and program timelines
- Explain what the state expects from potential funding recipients and describe the next steps

A large steel truss bridge spans a wide river. The bridge has multiple towers and a central section with a flag. The scene is overlaid with a blue gradient. The text "Rural Health Transformation Program Overview" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image. A thin yellow horizontal line is positioned below the text.

Rural Health Transformation Program Overview

What is the Rural Health Transformation Program?



- Sustainable Rural Access
- Workforce Recruitment & Retention
- Innovative Care Delivery
- Digital Health & Technology Expansion
- Prevention & Community Health (MAHA)

What is the Rural Health Transformation Program?

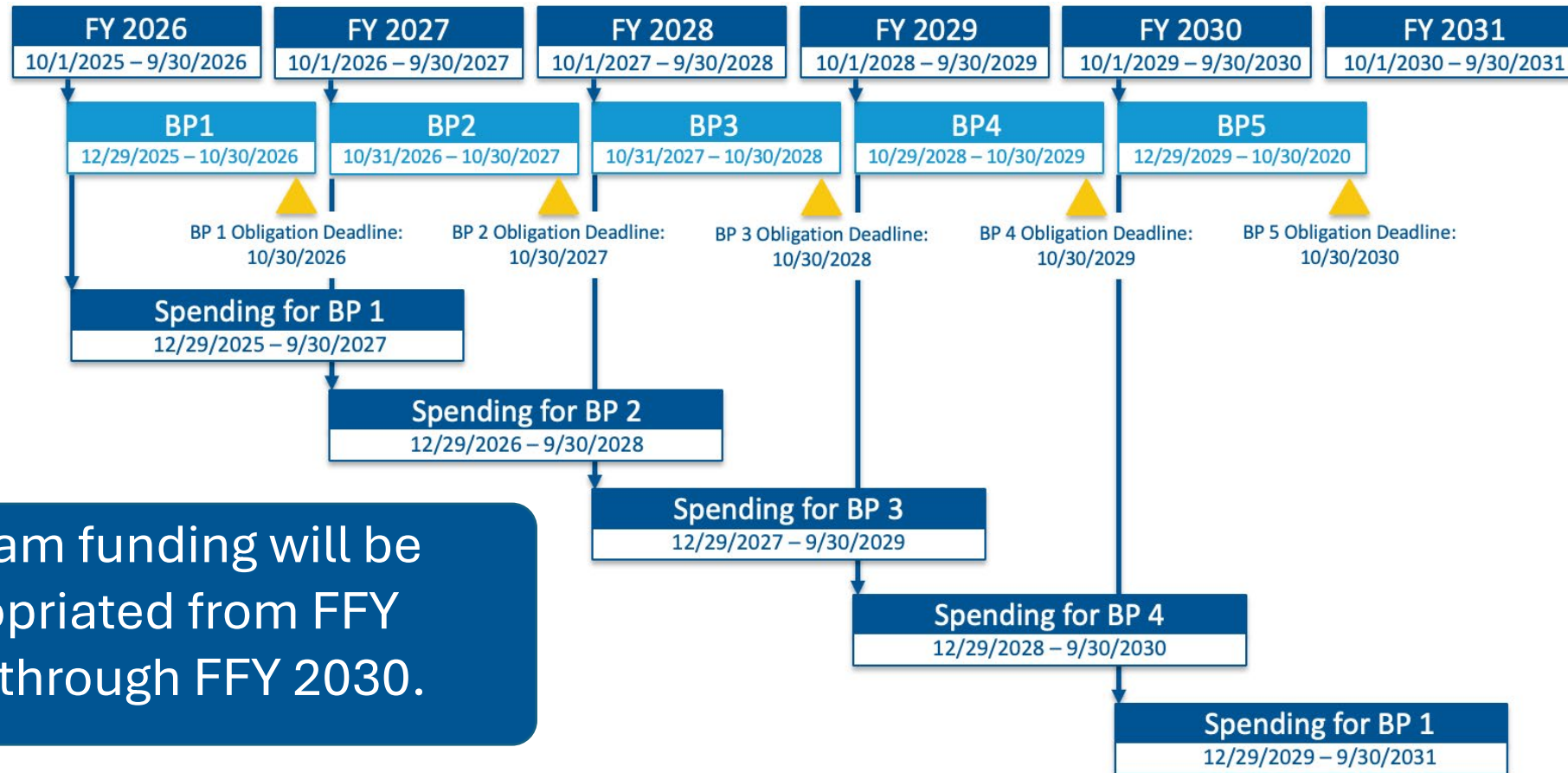


- Focused on long-term sustainability—not temporary funding fixes.
- Creating sustainable healthcare systems in rural communities.
- Improving access, quality, and coordination of care.

State Applications

- States submitted applications to CMS by the November 2025 deadline
- Each application included a detailed Rural Health Transformation Plan outlining initiatives, funding use, and expected outcomes

Program Timeline



Program funding will be appropriated from FFY 2026 through FFY 2030.

Allowable Use of Funds



Workforce recruitment,
training, and leadership
development



Targeted
renovations



Care delivery redesign
and service expansion



Telehealth and health
IT infrastructure



Care coordination
and clinically
integrated networks



Planning for long-term
sustainability

Disallowable Use of Funds



Paying down debt or covering operating losses



New construction



Supplanting existing funding sources



Purchased or programs without sustainability



Activities not aligned with approved initiatives of MS RHTP



Duplication or replacement of reimbursable services

Funding Limits

10%

Administrative Costs

15%

Provider Payments

20%

Capital Expenditures

5%

EHR Replacement



Mississippi Rural Health Transformation Program

Mississippi's Approach

Mississippi's Approach

- 145 stakeholder responses from across the state.
- Input directly shaped the plan.
- Collaboration with MSDH, Medicaid, and the Department of Mental Health.

Mississippi's Rural Health Challenges

- Limited access to primary, specialty, maternal, and behavioral care
- Critical provider shortages
- High rates of chronic disease
- Poor maternal and child outcomes
- Financial instability threatening rural hospitals
- Social, economic, and transportation barriers

Success for Mississippi

- Integrated rural health system
- More access with fewer care gaps
- Strong, stable rural healthcare workforce
- Better outcomes for children, families, and older adults

By 2031, every rural Mississippian will have reliable access to high-quality healthcare, both in-person and through telehealth.

Mississippi Rural Health Transformation Initiatives



Statewide Rural Health Assessment



Coordinated Regional Integrated Systems (CRIS)



Workforce Expansion Initiative (WEI)



Health Technology Advancement and Modernization (HTAM)



Telehealth Adoption and Provider Support (TAPS)



Building Rural Infrastructure for Delivery, Growth and Efficiency (BRIDGE)

Statewide Rural Health Assessment



- Build on extensive stakeholder input from across Mississippi.
- Validate and strengthen the State's plan.
- Identify gaps and prioritize high-impact investments.
- Refine strategies to maximize impact, sustainability, and alignment with federal objectives.
- Develop a data-driven roadmap to guide long-term improvements in rural health access, quality, and outcomes.



Coordinated Regional Integrated Systems Initiative (CRIS)



CRIS Overview:

- Connects EMS, hospitals, public health, and social services through data-driven systems
- Creates Rural Healthcare Districts for better coordination and access



Sub-Initiatives:

- Regionalized EMS Systems
- EMS Treat In Place Pilot
- Clinical Integration & Post-Discharge Care Coordination
- 24/7 Remote Medical Assistance & Nurse Navigation
- AI & Decision Support for EMS Closed-Loop Referrals & Social Services
- Public Safety (911) Integration

Coordinated Regional Integrated Systems Initiative (CRIS)



CRIS Outcomes:

- Faster EMS response and improved coverage
- Fewer unnecessary hospital visits and readmissions
- 24/7 access to clinical support
- Improved care for chronic and complex conditions

Workforce Expansion Initiative (WEI)



WEI Overview:

- Statewide effort to strengthen the rural healthcare workforce
- Focused on recruitment, retention, training, and career pathways
- Builds a sustainable pipeline through high schools and colleges



WEI Sub-Initiatives:

- Workforce Recruitment & Retention
- Residency Program Expansion Grants
- Preceptor Expansion Program
- Secondary Education Medical Career Outreach
- Earn While You Learn

Workforce Expansion Initiative (WEI)



WEI Outcomes:

- Increased number of healthcare professionals
- Improved training, recruitment, and retention

Health Technology Advancement & Modernization Initiative (HTAM)



HTAM Overview:

- Modernizes rural healthcare technology infrastructure
- Strengthens digital foundation for coordinated, secure care
- Advances health IT, cybersecurity, and data sharing



HTAM Sub-Initiatives:

- Rural Provider Technology Grant Fund
- Small Rural Provider EHR Replacement Grant Fund
- Cybersecurity & Technology Modernization (including FQHCs)
- Health Information Exchange (HIE) Implementation

Health Technology Advancement & Modernization Initiative (HTAM)



HTAM Outcomes:

- Interoperable EHR adoption and expanded digital health capacity
- Stronger cybersecurity, data sharing, and reduced administrative burden
- Improved patient access, trust, and health outcomes

Telehealth Adoption and Provider Support (TAPS)



TAPS Overview:

- Expands rural healthcare through telehealth
- Expands access to preventive, primary, specialty, and behavioral care
- Supports providers in adopting and sustaining virtual care



TAPS Sub-Initiatives:

- Telehealth Adoption & Payment Innovation
- Telehealth Education & Community Outreach
- Telehealth Hub Connectivity & Equipment
- School-Based Telehealth & Nursing Expansion

Telehealth Adoption and Provider Support (TAPS)



TAPS Outcomes:

- Expand access through telehealth.
- Support telehealth adoption.
- Improve outcomes and care continuity.

Building Rural Infrastructure for Delivery, Growth, and Efficiency Initiative (BRIDGE)



BRIDGE Overview:

- Strengthens rural healthcare infrastructure statewide
- Improves access, coordination, and sustainability
- Builds physical, operational, and program capacity



BRIDGE Sub-Initiatives:

- Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES)
- Targeted Pilot Programs Development Pilot
- Rural Capital Project – Care Gap Closure

Building Rural Infrastructure for Delivery, Growth, and Efficiency Initiative (BRIDGE)



BRIDGE Outcomes:

- Expand access to critical services and close rural care gaps.
- Strengthen healthcare infrastructure and provider capacity.
- Test and scale innovative models that improve outcomes.

A large steel truss bridge spans a wide river, with a blue overlay and the text "Funding Opportunities". The bridge features a prominent American flag on a tall pole in the distance. The scene is framed by lush green trees in the foreground and a clear blue sky above. The text "Funding Opportunities" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and partially overlaid by a thin yellow horizontal line.

Funding Opportunities

How Funding Will Be Awarded

- All RHT Program funding will flow through Mississippi state agencies.
- Funding will be awarded through a combination of competitive procurements and grant programs.
- Award processes will comply with all applicable federal and state requirements.
- Funding opportunities will be publicly announced and accessible to eligible organizations.

Two Funding Mechanisms

Competitive Procurement

- Used when the State is purchasing goods or services.
- Competitive solicitation process.
- Governed by state procurement requirements and federal regulations.
- Open to qualified vendors and service providers.

Grant Programs

- Used to support eligible organizations carrying out program objectives.
- Application process.
- Funding awarded based on published eligibility and evaluation criteria.
- Administered by state agencies.

Designed To Be Accessible

- Grant programs are being designed to be accessible to all eligible applicants.
- Specialized grant-writing expertise will not be required.
- Clear instructions, guidance, and application materials will be provided.
- Technical assistance will be available throughout the application process.

Funding Eligibility



Rural
hospitals
and clinics



Post-acute,
ambulatory and
community based
care providers
and services



Schools and
community
organizations

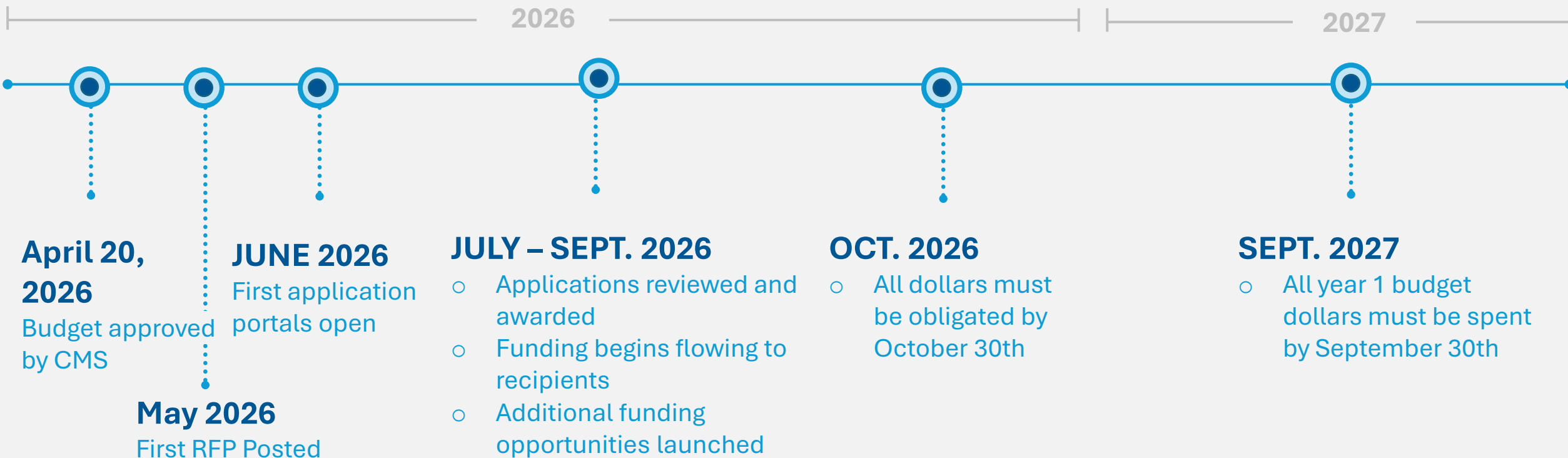


Universities
and workforce
programs

Mississippi's Expectations of Subrecipients

- Implement the project as proposed and use funds for approved purposes.
- Report on project progress, outcomes, and expenditures.
- Maintain required records and comply with applicable federal and state requirements.
- Participate in monitoring, technical assistance, and program evaluation activities.
- Share data needed to measure impact and support continuous improvement.
- Participate in statewide Health Information Exchange efforts, as applicable.

Program Timeline – Year 1



A large steel truss bridge spans a wide river. The bridge features multiple tall, lattice-structured towers and a long, flat deck supported by numerous piers. An American flag is visible on a tall pole in the distance. The foreground shows a grassy hillside with trees. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Key Takeaways

Key Takeaways



Mississippi's goal is redesigning rural healthcare, not just stabilizing it.



Hospitals and providers are central to success, but community involvement is key.



This is a multi-year, system-wide transformation.



Collaboration, accountability, and sustainability matter.

Next Steps

1

**Visit
MississippiRHTP.com
and sign up for
communication.**

2

**Identify initiative
alignment
opportunities.**

3

**Prepare internal
leadership and
boards for program
requirements.**

4

**Begin regional and
community
partnerships.**

A large steel truss bridge spans a wide river. The bridge features multiple tall, triangular truss towers and a central section with a flagpole flying the American flag. The river is calm, and the surrounding landscape is lush with green trees and grass. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The word "Questions?" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image, with a thin yellow horizontal line extending from its base across the width of the image.

Questions?