



MISSISSIPPI

RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Mississippi RHTP: *Today's Speakers*



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Mississippi RHTP:

Today's Agenda



01	Workforce Expansion Initiative (WEI) Program Launch: •Key Dates •Eligible Applicants •Application Submission & Evaluation •Fund Disbursement
02	Workforce Expansion Initiative (WEI) Program Overview: • Workforce Retention and Sustainable Ecosystem Development Initiative • Secondary Education Medical Career Outreach Initiative • Earn While You Learn (EWYL) Initiative • Preceptor Expansion Initiative
03	Workforce Expansion Initiative (WEI): • Eligibility Criteria
04	Questions

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Mississippi's Upcoming Program Launch *Workforce Expansion Initiative (WEI)*

WEI Launch:

Key Dates



Application Launch:

- July 15, 2026

Application Window Closes:

- August 17, 2026 at 5:00 pm CST

Application Review Period:

- August 18, 2026-August 31, 2026

Subaward Execution Period:

- September 2026

Year 1 Performance Period:

- September 2026-July 31, 2027

WEI:

Who can apply?



- Rural hospitals
- Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)
- Rural healthcare providers
- Rural health clinics
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Nonprofit healthcare organizations
- Public health agencies
- Physicians' practices
- Local health departments
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics
- Substance use disorder treatment facilities
- Dental providers
- Long-term care facilities
- Nursing homes
- EMS providers
- School districts
- Community colleges
- Residency programs
- Universities
- Institutions of higher learning
- Public health organizations
- Native American Sovereign Tribe healthcare facilities
- Private training organizations
- Workforce development organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Other entities working to address workforce shortages and improve healthcare access in rural Mississippi communities.

WEI:

How do eligible providers apply?

- Applications will be accepted starting 7/15/26.
- 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.

WEI:

Application Evaluation Process

- **All applications will be evaluated for:**
 - Completeness
 - Responsiveness
 - Eligibility
- **The State/BDO will contact applicants with incomplete submissions during the evaluation process**
 - **Failure to promptly supply all required documentation within 72 hours of the request will result in disqualification**
 - Applicants will be contacted by email and phone via the contact information provided in the application portal-please be sure to check this email regularly
- **All applications will be scored using the published scoring rubric by a team of SMEs**
- **Selected applicants will be classified as 'subrecipients' and will be required to execute subawards**

WEI:

How will funds be disbursed?

- **Selected applicants will be classified as subrecipients under 2 CFR 200**
- Subrecipients must follow all terms and conditions of the executed subaward
- Subrecipients must comply with all applicable provisions of 2 CFR 200
- Subawards must be executed within 10 business days of receipt of the subaward from the State
- **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 (*details to come*)
 - 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

A large steel truss bridge spans a wide river. The bridge features two prominent towers with intricate lattice structures. An American flag flies from a tall pole on the right tower. The foreground shows a grassy hillside with trees, and the background is a clear blue sky. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Workforce Expansion Initiative (WEI): *Program Overview*

WEI Program Overview

WEI focuses on the full pipeline:

This includes not just physicians and nurses, but the full care team—EMS, behavioral health, dental, pharmacists, technicians, community health workers, and critical support roles like IT and billing.

**Recruiting new
providers into rural
communities**

**Training and developing
the next generation of
healthcare workers**

**Supporting and
retaining the workforce
already serving these
communities**

WEI Program Objectives

- **Expand Access**
- **Strengthen Workforce**
- **Build Talent Pipelines**
- **Advance Skills & Credentials**
- **Increase Clinical Training Opportunities**
- **Improve Health & Economic Outcomes**

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Workforce Expansion Initiative (WEI): ***Sub Initiatives Launching July 15, 2026***

WEI Sub-Initiatives

1

**Workforce
Recruitment &
Sustainable
Ecosystem
Development
Initiative**

2

**Secondary
Education
Medical Career
Outreach
Initiative**

3

**Preceptor
Expansion
Initiative**

4

**Earn While You
Learn Initiative**

5

**LATER DATE:
Residency
Program
Expansion
Grant**

WEI:

***Workforce Recruitment & Sustainable
Ecosystem Development Initiative***



- **Goal:** Recruit and retain healthcare professionals in rural communities while creating sustainable workforce support systems.

Workforce Recruitment & Sustainable Ecosystem Development Initiative: Eligible Uses of Funds



- Recruitment campaigns
- Vendor management services
- Signing bonuses
- Residency and fellowship expansion
- Apprenticeship programs
- Internship development
- Certification and credentialing programs
- Behavioral health workforce development
- Simulation-based training
- Professional development activities
- Accreditation costs
- Onboarding support
- Community partnership development
- Workforce sustainability investments
- Service Commitment Requirement

WEI:

Secondary Education Medical Career Outreach Initiative



- **Goal:** Increase awareness and interest in healthcare careers among secondary education students and create long-term workforce pipelines.

Secondary Education Medical Career Outreach Initiative: *Eligible Uses of Funds*



- Healthcare career awareness campaigns
- Career exploration modules
- Healthcare pathway development programs
- Healthcare camps
- Job shadowing opportunities
- Clinical observation experiences
- Work-based learning programs
- Apprenticeships
- Dual enrollment healthcare programs
- Paramedic pathway programs
- Career coaching
- Simulation experiences
- Evening healthcare academies
- Student tuition assistance
- Instructor recruitment incentives

Secondary Education Medical Career Outreach Initiative:

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with:



Healthcare
employers



K-12 school districts



Community colleges



Universities



Community-based
organizations



Workforce
development
organizations

WEI:

Preceptor Expansion Initiative

- **Goal:** Increase rural clinical training capacity through recruitment, development, and retention of healthcare preceptors and mentors.

Preceptor Expansion Initiative:

Eligible Uses of Funds



- Preceptor Recruitment and Retention
- Preceptor stipends
- Incentive payments
- Recognition programs
- Recruitment activities
- Training and Development
- Clinical teaching certifications
- Mentorship training
- Competency-based assessment training
- Continuing education activities
- Rural health training
- Clinical Placement Expansion
- Rural rotation site development
- Residency and fellowship support
- Apprenticeship placements
- University partnerships
- Community college partnerships
- Infrastructure Support
- Preceptor management software
- Placement coordination staff
- Tele-precepting technology
- Learning management systems
- Student outcome tracking systems
- Faculty development
- Instructor certification
- Simulation instructor support

WEI:

Earn While You Learn Initiative

- **Goal:** Create workforce pathways through paid training, credential attainment, and employment-focused healthcare programs.

Earn While You Learn Initiative: Eligible Uses of Funds



- Participant stipends
- Participant wages
- Apprenticeship programs
- Paid clinical rotations
- Rural residency support
- Fellowship support
- Incumbent worker upskilling
- LPN-to-RN career pathways
- Leadership development programs
- Childcare assistance
- Transportation assistance
- Uniforms and training equipment
- Certification fees
- Licensure examination fees
- Mobile simulation labs
- Accelerated credential pathways

A large steel truss bridge spans a wide river. The bridge features multiple tall, triangular truss towers and a long approach span. An American flag is visible on a pole near the right tower. The foreground shows a grassy hillside with trees. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Workforce Expansion Initiative (WEI): *Eligibility Criteria*

Ineligible Uses of WEI Funds

- Direct payments not aligned with WEI workforce goals
- Incentives (bonuses, stipends, relocation assistance, etc.) without a 5-year rural service commitment.
- Provider payments that violate RHT Program funding restrictions.
- Activities unrelated to workforce recruitment, retention, training, or pipeline development.

WEI Funding Guidelines

- Financial incentives should require a minimum five-year rural service commitment.
- Activities must align directly with WEI goals.
- Arrangements cannot impact provider ownership or independence.
- Provider payments remain subject to applicable federal funding requirements and restrictions.
- All expenditures must support workforce development objectives

WEI:



What must applicants demonstrate?

- Identify all partnerships and collaborations to support the project
- Provide detailed implementation timeline, activities, and key milestones for each quarter
- Provide a performance monitoring plan
- Describe how data will be collected and verified for reporting purposes
- Describe how success will be measured (short, intermediate, and long-term outcomes)
- Describe how the project will improve healthcare access and outcomes in communities served
- Plan for sustainability post grant funding
- Complete budget narrative

WEI:



What must applicants demonstrate?

- Capacity to complete the proposed project by 9/30/27
- 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 WEI Initiative
- Organizational overview and capacity
- Project overview including target population served, geographic areas where services are delivered, and workforce challenges or need
- Project goals and measurable objectives (up to three)
- Scope of work by providing detailed description of activities that will occur during the grant period
- Identify existing and proposed personnel who will support the proposed project

WEI:



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.

WEI:

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



Key Resources

Key Resources

- WEI NOFO posted on program website
- 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 RHTP Program FAQs:
 - <https://mississippirhtp.com/faq/>
- 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>

Public Q&A Period



- Applicants may submit questions regarding these four grant opportunities during the open question and answer period.
- Questions should be submitted as follows:
 - Questions about this Grant Application, including requests for clarification or additional information, must be made in writing and submitted via email to info@mississippirhttp.com
 - **Deadline for Questions and Requests for Clarification: 11:59 PM CST on Wednesday, July 22.**
 - All responses will be posted on the Mississippi RHTP website following the close of the public question period.



Questions?
