



# Rural Health Transformation Program For Tribal Nations

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[NVHA.nv.gov](http://NVHA.nv.gov)



# Agenda

## 1 | **Quick Overview of the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program**

High-level review of RHT background and structure.

## 2 | **Four Strategic Priorities**

Strategic priorities formed through stakeholder engagement that frame rural health system improvement.

## 3 | **RHT Funding for Nevada Tribes**

Discuss application and evaluation strategies for Tribal RHT funds.

## 4 | **Focus Areas for the Coming Year**

A broad preview of the areas the NVHA will center its work on in 2026 to advance RHT goals.

## 5 | **Questions and Discussion**

Open discussion and questions.



# Rural Health Transformation Overview



# Rural Health Transformation Program



[H.R. 1 Section 71401](#), the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), enacted July 4, 2025, establishes a new federal grant program called the Rural Health Transformation Program.



The program is intended to make investments in rural health and lead to truly sustainable transformation of health care in rural areas.



\$10 billion per federal fiscal years 2026-2030 for a total of \$50 billion available across all 50 states. States were awarded based on **50% baseline** funding and **50% workload** funding.

All 50 states applied and were awarded.



# Workload Funding: Overview

Workload funding is based on two scores

Budget period

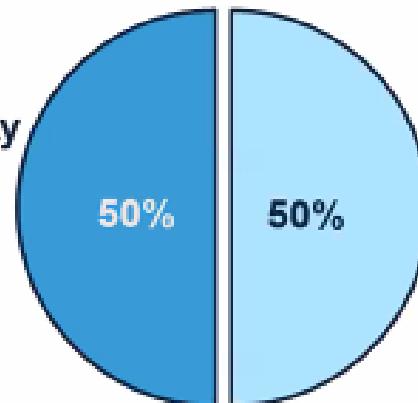


Scores

①

Rural Facility  
and  
Population

d



②

Technical

d i s

③

State policy actions:

Scores are awarded based on three types of funding score factors

d

**Data-driven:**

value of State's metrics compared to other States

i

**Initiative-based:**

qualitative assessment of programmatic initiatives outlined in the application and subsequent follow through

s

**State policy actions:**

current State policy, proposed policy action that the State commits to by accepting the award, and subsequent follow-through toward meeting policy action commitments

For all three score factor types,  
scores are indexed to 100 points total  
for a given factor



# Nevada Awarded RHT Grant Funds



**Year 1 award amount = \$179,931,608**

- Original request of \$200M annually per CMS guidance
- Award amounts varied among all states based on adjustments to workload funding and technical score factors
- Budget revision due to CMS by Jan. 30
- NVHA must apply annually to CMS for continued funding under the cooperative agreement



# Strategic Priorities



# Federal RHT Program Strategic Goals

## Make Rural America Healthy Again

- Support rural health innovations and new access points to promote preventative health and address root causes of disease

## Sustainable Access

- Help rural providers become long-term access points for care by improving efficiency and sustainability

## Workforce Development

- Attract and retain a high-skilled health care workforce by strengthening recruitment and retention of healthcare providers in rural communities

## Innovative Care

- Spark the growth of innovative care models to improve health outcomes, coordinate care, and promote flexible care arrangements

## Tech Innovation

- Foster use of innovative technologies that promote efficient care delivery, data security, and access to digital health tools by rural facilities, providers, and patients



# Nevada RHT Strategic Goals & Priorities



*Make Rural America  
Healthy Again*



*Sustainable Access*



*Workforce*



*Technology Innovation*

## Rural Health Outcomes Accelerator Program

- Evidence-based, outcomes driven initiatives
- Chronic disease prevention & management
- Behavioral health
- Prenatal care

## Flex Fund to Strengthen Rural Health Infrastructure

- Rural CAHs and clinic infrastructure needs
- Leverage regional buying power; regional purchasing strategies
- Shared resources
- No new construction

## Workforce Recruitment & Rural Access Program

- Grow-Your-Own Pipeline
- Tuition & training support
- CHWs, CHRs, PSS recruitment & training
- Addressing burnout, isolation & retention
- Incentives for new rural provider hires
- Rural residency programs

## Rural Health Innovation & Technology

- Digital health ecosystem in rural Nevada
- Rural telehealth infrastructure
- Access to patient-centered care
- Interoperable health data sharing systems



# Additional RHT Priorities

## Rural Tribal Health Transformation

- 4.5% annual award
- Only the state's 28 federally recognized Tribal nations, bands and councils eligible for these funds
- Must apply for funds through NVHA application process (need input!)
- *Examples may include:*
  - Projects to foster/bolster regional partnerships across Tribal Health Clinics and rural hospitals or provider health systems
  - Training and recruitment of CHRs, PSS, behavioral health aids
  - Support pipeline programs for Tribal youth pursuing careers in nursing, medicine, or behavioral health

## Rural Veteran and Correctional Health Transformation

- 2.65% annual award
- Only state VA, state prisons, local county jails, and youth correctional centers eligible for these funds
- Must apply for funds through NVHA application process
- *Examples may include:*
  - Support veteran specific resources/services expanding health care access to veterans in rural communities
  - Expand telehealth data exchange and interoperable EHRs between correctional institutions, as aligned with the CMS Health Tech Ecosystem

**AND...** Year 1 RHT funding approved for vendor support and expertise to assist NVHA with a waiver application to align traditional healing practices with Medicaid requirements!



# RHT Funding for Nevada Tribes



# Fund for Rural Tribal Health Transformation

## **Federal RHT requirements:**

- Terms and conditions of federal awards will flow down to subrecipients per relevant cost limitations and subawards must be consistent with the requirements specified by CMS and the state's approved application.
- Budgets must include supporting information for all costs. Each activity/cost must be described and fully itemized. Lump sum totals will not be accepted. The necessity for a particular cost or how a particular cost/activity links to the program must not be assumed.
- Progress in implementing RHT initiatives will be measured quantitatively and qualitatively through milestones and target metrics. Quarterly and annual progress reports are required.



# Discussion – RHT Tribal Applications (1)

How can NVHA make the application process as easy as possible for Tribes to apply, while still meeting all federal requirements?



# Discussion – RHT Tribal Applications (2)

What barriers have you faced in past federal/state grant programs (i.e., access to funds, regulations, limited TA, etc.) – and how can NVHA help mitigate those moving forward with the RHT Tribal funds?



# Discussion – RHT Tribal Applications (3)

Who would like to be on the **planning team** to develop the Request for Applications (RFA) for the Fund for Rural Tribal Health Transformation?



# Discussion – RHT Tribal Applications (4)

Who would like to be on the **evaluation committee** to evaluate applications received under the RFA for the Fund for Rural Tribal Health Transformation?



# RHT Focus Areas in 2026



# Next Steps in the RHT Program



- NVHA Public Workshop January 27
- Assemble RHT Steering Committee – first meeting March 2026
- Hire NVHA RHT Program Staff
- Draft and publish RFA for Rural Tribal Health Transformation
- Draft RFPs and RFAs for 4 Primary RHT Initiatives – publish spring/summer 2026



# Questions?



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