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RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Rural Health Transformation

Health Workforce Council | April 9, 2026

Washington State Health Care Authority
DSHS Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Washington State Department of Health

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- RHT Overview
- 3 Workforce Activities
- Advisory Committee
- Q & A

Disclaimer: The Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by CMS/HHS as a financial assistance award totaling $181,257,515.06 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Rural Health Transformation Program Overview

- Five-year CMS cooperative agreement authorized under H.R. 1
- Public input gathered statewide - application submitted 11/05/25
- Washington awarded $181,257,515.06 for Budget Year 1 on 12/29/25
- Joint effort of HCA, DOH, DSHS, in partnership with the Governor’s Office
- State accountable for delivering initiatives in the approved application
- Program Goal: Strengthen rural health care access, resilience, and financial sustainability

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Washington's 6 Rural Health Transformation Initiatives

1. Ignite Innovation in Washington's Rural Hospitals
2. Prevent Disease & Manage Care in Community Settings
3. Invest in the Health of Native Families
4. Adopt Technology & Data Solutions to Enable Health Improvements
5. Develop Washington's Rural Workforce to Support Rural Communities
6. Expand & Sustain Washington's Rural Behavioral Health System

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Develop Washington's Rural Workforce to Support Rural Communities

$32 Million

Strengthen rural health workforce, focusing on key health roles such as nurses, PCPs, maternity care providers, dental hygienists, long-term care workers, and community-based care professionals

- WWAMI Family Medicine Residency Network
- WSU rural practitioner training programs
- Rural Nursing Education Program
- Grow-your-own training programs
- Rural workforce incentive programs

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Washington's RHT Advisory Committee

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RHT Advisory Committee

The RHT Advisory Committee will include rural community members and providers who can lend their expertise towards recommendations for investments in future years of the program.

1 **GOV**	1 **HCA**	1 **DOH**	1 **DSHS**
1 **OFM**	2 **Tribes**	1 **Rural Hospitals**	1 **Local Public Health**
1 **Federally Qualified Health Centers**	1 **Behavioral Health Providers**	1 **Medical Association**	1 **Labor Organizations**
1 **Allied Health Professional**	1 **State Council on Aging or Area Agency on Aging**	2 **Rural Community Representative from Eastern Washington**	1 **Rural Community Representative from Western Washington**

☆ Number denotes the total # of representatives to be included from each group

Joining the RHT Advisory Committee

Committee position description and announcement posted on the HCA RHT webpage

Application deadline for the RHT Advisory Committee: 04/24/26

DOH Staff Support the RHT Advisory Committee

- Blinded review of applications for a review panel including HCA, DOH, and DSHS using a standardized scoring rubric

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RHT Resources

Attend the WA State RHT Program Webinar:
April 14th 10:00 – 10:45 AM | Join on Teams

For information about the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program:
Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program | CMS

Check out WA State RHT Program Website:
Rural Health Transformation Program | Washington State Health Care Authority

Application Project Narrative:
RHT Program Project Narrative

Contact Us:
RHT Program Inbox

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Thank you!