WISCONSIN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
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Vol. 70, Issue 46
Thursday, November 19, 2026

State Awards More Than $25 Million For Rural Health Clinic Technology Investments

More than $25.8 million has been awarded to 23 Wisconsin hospitals and health systems to support technology investments in their rural health clinics, according to an announcement today from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

State health leaders used National Rural Health Day to announce the awards and provide updates on the first year of the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), which was authorized under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA).

According to DHS, eligible uses of the rural health technology funding include upgrading IT infrastructure and electronic health record (EHR) systems, subscribing to data analytics and other digital tools, and purchasing patient-facing technologies such as continuous glucose monitors, as well as provider tools such as ambient AI documentation software.

Earlier this year, DHS announced a second round of rural technology grants will open in summer or fall of 2027, with eligible hospital organizations receiving grants totaling an estimated $48 million, pending approval by CMS. The funding will support technology investments over three to four years.

The agency noted in today's announcement that Rural Care Coordination planning grants, part of the program's second-year initiatives, will be awarded in the coming weeks and posted to the RHTP Care Coordination project webpage.

A total of $10 million was available for health care providers and community partners to apply for six-month planning grants designed to establish or expand care coordination partnerships across systems and sectors in rural communities.

Organizations receiving rural care coordination planning grants will be eligible to apply for full implementation awards covering the remaining four years of the program. DHS estimates that total funding for these awards will reach approximately $205 million. The agency expects to release applications for the second phase of funding in February 2027.

Earlier this month, CMS announced that Wisconsin will receive $203.7 million for the second year of the Rural Health Transformation Program.

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EDUCATION EVENTS

Dec. 1, 2026
Fall 2026 Annual Survey Training

Dec. 3, 2026
Fall 2026 Annual Survey Training

Jan. 26, 2027
2027 WHA Health Care Leadership Academy