



Indiana Rural Health Transformation Program

IHCP Works Annual Seminar
Ashten Shetterley



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History

- The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) introduced a \$50 billion funding opportunity for states to pursue a Rural Health Transformation Program. This is a federal relief program to transform care and improve health outcomes in rural communities.
- Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) creates opportunities for states to support rural communities to improve healthcare access, quality and outcomes through system transformation. The RHT Program focuses on promoting innovation, strategic partnerships, infrastructure development and workforce investment.



RHTP Program Structure

- Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) funding is \$50 billion to be allocated over five fiscal years, with \$10 billion of funding available each year, beginning in 2026 and ending in 2030.
 - 50% to be distributed equally amongst all States.
 - 50% will be allocated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), based on the unique needs and goals of each State.



Indiana RHTP Application

- In response to this opportunity, the State of Indiana established the RHTP Working Group. This was a collaborative effort led by the Family & Social Services Administration (FSSA) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) to identify the best use of the funds.
- Indiana's RHTP Application seeks to help rural communities meet these strategic goals:
 - Make rural America healthy again
 - Sustainable access
 - Workforce development
 - Innovative care
 - Tech innovation



Indiana RHTP Award – Year 1

- On Dec. 29, 2025, Indiana was awarded a grant of nearly \$207 million for the first year of a five-year program to address health outcomes in the state's rural communities.
 - Statewide initiatives 1-11 will receive **40%** of the total grant.
 - Initiative 12, which includes Growing Rural Opportunities for Wellbeing (GROW) Regional Grants, will receive **60%** of the total grant.



Indiana RHTP Initiatives Overview

Initiatives 1-11



Initiative 1

Growing Care Coordination: Medical Operations Coordination Center (MOCC) and Alternate Payment Model Feasibility Study

- A 24/7 statewide hub to coordinate patient transfers, EMS resources and hospital capacity. The MOCC helps rural communities get timely access to trauma, stroke, psychiatric and maternal care by streamlining referrals, reducing inappropriate ER use, and strengthening preparedness for mass casualty events.
- An Alternate Payment Model Feasibility Study will be conducted to assess the potential for a variety of alternate Medicaid payment models.



Initiative 2

Growing Community Connections through Indiana 211

- Indiana is developing a coordinated care network designed to help people in rural communities' access essential resources more easily.
- The initiative brings together healthcare providers, community organizations, and Indiana 211 to connect individuals with services such as food assistance, housing support and behavioral health programs.



Initiative 3

Growing Improved Patient Outcomes Through Enhanced Interoperability and Technology

- Modernize Indiana's health information exchange (HIE) through Electronic Medical Record (EMR) integration and technology enhancements.
- Mobile integrated health programs allow EMS to assess, treat and connect patients to the most appropriate level of care, reducing the number of times patients may have to visit the emergency room and allowing them to receive timely care.



Initiative 4

Growing Pediatric & Obstetric Readiness in Rural Emergency Departments

- Strengthening emergency care capacity in rural hospitals and EMS by ensuring readiness for pediatric and obstetric emergencies.
- Improving the quality and level of care for kids and mothers at rural hospitals, allowing facilities to provide care and timely transportation to the most appropriate level of care.



Initiative 5

Growing Cardiometabolic Health Standards of Care in Rural Indiana

- Launch a statewide collaborative care model to combat obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease by establishing Cardiometabolic Centers of Excellence.
 - 6,000 rural health professionals to receive Lifestyle Medicine training
 - 2,000 clinicians to receive Lifestyle Medicine Board Certification



Initiative 6

Growing Access to Hospital Post-Discharge Medications

- Ensures patients receive prescribed medications before leaving the hospital, eliminating access and transportation barriers.
- By charging outpatient prices and providing bedside counseling, the program improves recovery readiness and reduces readmissions.



Initiative 7

Growing Specialty Provider Access through Expanded Tele-consult Capabilities

- Assesses existing provider networks and specialty gaps while building a secure teleconsultation system to expand access to high-need specialties such as psychiatry and behavioral health.
- Expands the reach of access to critical and specialty provider types that may not be present in rural areas.



Initiative 8

Growing Telehealth Access and Infrastructure

- Indiana will conduct a statewide feasibility study to assess rural provider networks, infrastructure gaps, and opportunities for remote health monitoring using wearable devices to reduce clinician burnout and improve patient outcomes.
- Findings will guide the rollout of a unified telehealth system, with solutions designed for rural connectivity and enhanced by AI-driven decision support.



Initiative 9

Growing our Rural Health Paraprofessional Workforce

- Grow and retains the rural healthcare, behavioral and oral health paraprofessional workforce by establishing career pipelines and pathways through Rural Healthcare Academies, employer technical assistance, and Community Health Worker planning and integration in care settings.



Initiative 10

Growing Clinical Training and Readiness

- Advance rural healthcare access and clinical workforce strength through expanded physician training pathways, increasing clinical rotation capacity and targeted investments in maternal health.
- Exposure to rural healthcare increases likelihood of future practice and provides an opportunity for rural healthcare entities to recruit students.



Initiative 11

Growing our Rural Behavioral Health Workforce

- Indiana will grow and retain the rural behavioral health workforce through career pathways, employer support and expanded training. This initiative will support a university-based career pathway for high school students, offering early exposure and training.
- This makes rural practice more accessible and viable, directly increasing the number of providers who choose to live and work in these communities.



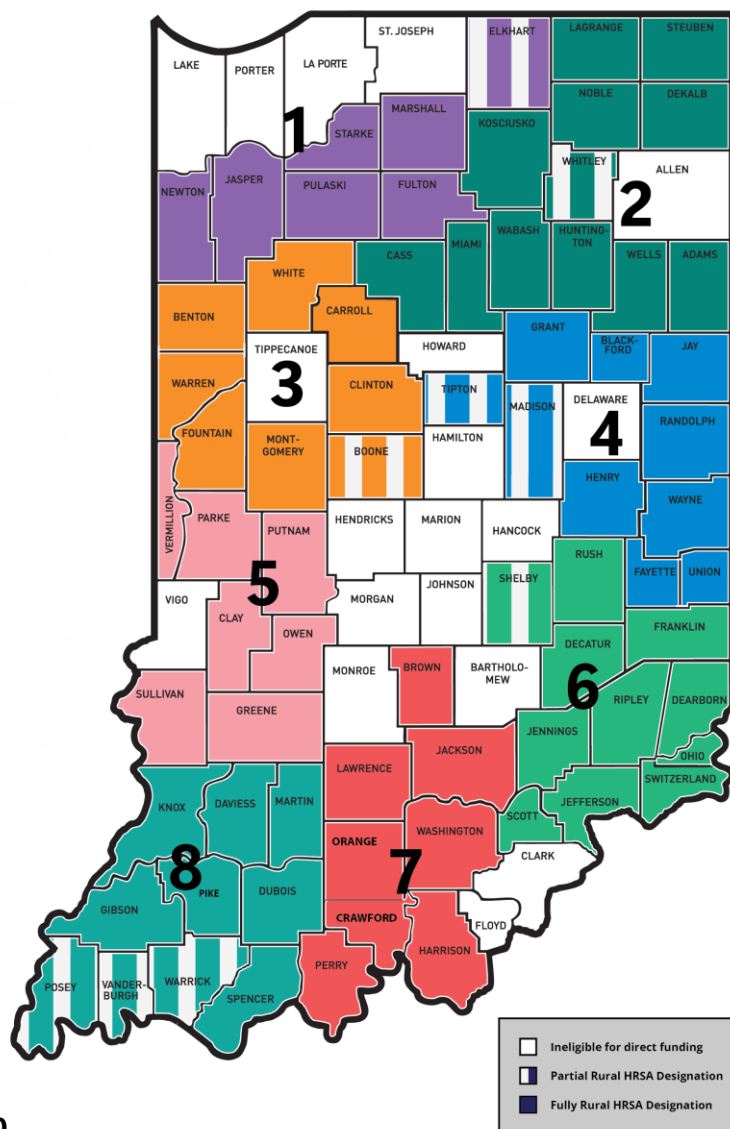
Initiative 12

Growing Rural Opportunities for Well-being
(GROW) Regional Grants



Growing Rural Opportunities for Well-being (GROW) Regional Grants

The GROW (Growing Rural Opportunities for Well-being) initiative brings the federal RHTP program to the state level. Indiana understands that rural communities know their own needs best and are well-positioned to create effective local solutions. The state has a strong track record of helping communities use data to identify their biggest opportunities and leverage local resources and partnerships to address them.





GROW Regional Grants

Indiana offers competitive regional grants focused on improving rural health. These grants support:

- Innovative health solutions
- Collaboration to reduce costs across organizations
- New access points for preventive care
- Chronic disease prevention and management
- Workforce training and readiness
- Technological advancements in healthcare



GROW – Region 1

\$12.6 Million Awarded

Includes Fulton, Jasper, Marshall, Newton, Elkhart, Pulaski and Starke counties.

- **Initiatives & Activities**

- Regional Community Navigation & Care Coordination Network
- Healthcare Innovation & Digital Care Expansion
- Healthcare Access Expansion & Mobile Care Delivery
- Integrate Rural Access Network
- Healthcare Workforce Development & Talent Pipeline Network



GROW – Region 2

\$20.7 Million Awarded

Includes Adams, Cass, Dekalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Miami, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells and Whitley counties.

- Initiatives & Activities
 - Coordinated regional network
 - Reduce barriers to care
 - Improve healthcare workforce
 - Modernize and expand rural transportation systems
 - Establishing county and regional Coalition Coordinators



GROW – Region 3

\$9.7 Million Awarded

Includes Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Warren and White counties.

- Initiatives & Activities
 - Expand Mobile Integrated Health
 - Leverage transportation and navigation
 - Provide new access points
 - Improve rural prenatal care access
 - Support chronic disease prevention



GROW – Region 4

\$15.2 Million Awarded

Includes Blackford, Fayette, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph, Tipton, Union and Wayne counties.

- Initiatives & Activities
 - Expand community-based access to care
 - Implement a regionwide maternal health access model
 - Transform behavioral health and crisis response
 - Strengthen emergency medical response and rural clinic readiness
 - Build a long-term rural healthcare workforce pipeline



GROW – Region 5

\$16.7 Million Awarded

Includes Clay, Greene, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan and Vermillion counties.

- **Initiatives & Activities**
 - Connect hospitals, clinics, EMS, behavioral health providers, and public health partners
 - Regionwide tele-specialty infrastructure
 - Enhance the behavioral health crisis continuum
 - Scale up Mobile Integrated Health services
 - Create a coordinated regional transportation network



GROW – Region 6

\$13 Million Awarded

Includes Dearborn, Decatur, Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Rush, Scott, Shelby and Switzerland counties.

- Initiatives & Activities
 - Expand primary, preventive, dental, behavioral health, maternal-infant and trauma care
 - Prescribe-the-Y
 - Expand Catch-a-Ride
 - Build durable regional capacity



GROW – Region 7

\$13.1 Million Awarded

Includes Brown, Crawford, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Orange, Perry and Washington counties.

- Initiatives & Activities
 - Build a coordinated provider ecosystem
 - Improve maternal and infant outcomes
 - Increasing crisis service access
 - Address distance-based disparities
 - Strengthen long term rural health capacity
 - Focus on healthy families



GROW – Region 8

\$11.4 Million Awarded

Includes Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Martin, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties.

- Initiatives & Activities
 - Expand access to care
 - Build a regional rural health workforce pipeline
 - Launch Mobile Integrated Health teams



The Road Ahead



Year 1 – Winding Down

Indiana has recently completed all annual reporting requirements as specified by CMS for Year 1, highlighting all of the work that was accomplished during this period in pursuit of the 12 identified initiatives.

This information will be used to support Indiana's request for funding for Year 2. States will be reassessed annually to evaluate progress on initiatives and policy commitments.



Year 2 – Ramping Up

Indiana was initially awarded a nearly \$207 million grant to support Year 1 activities. As Year 1 approaches its conclusion, IDOH & FSSA have collaborated to prepare Indiana's request for funding to support the work planned for Year 2.

Indiana has submitted its application for funding for Year 2. Availability of this funding is contingent on the State making adequate progress towards goals, compliance with terms and conditions of the previous budget period, and availability of funds. CMS is anticipated to announce awards October 15, 2026.



Conclusion

Indiana is excited to continue investing in and supporting the health of rural communities.

FSSA and IDOH are committed to connecting rural Hoosiers to the **RIGHT CARE**, at the **RIGHT TIME**, and at the **RIGHT PLACE**.



Additional Information

- [Indiana RHTP Website](#)
- [CMS RHTP Website](#)



Submit questions by email to
GrowRuralHealth@health.in.gov



Thank You!



Please scan the QR code and complete the
session evaluation survey!