

# Rural Hospitals Fret Over Possibly Missing Out on Federal Rural Health Funds

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The [Rural Health Transformation Program](#) (RHTP), administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is a \$50 billion 5-year program (2026-2030) that aims to strengthen, modernize, and improve health care access and outcomes in rural U.S. communities. In December 2025, [CMS awarded](#) each state an average of \$200 million. However, before rural hospitals can apply for funding, states must open applications, which many have failed to do, condensing the timeline for organizations to submit applications by the [September 2026 deadline](#). Additionally, rural hospitals, many of which do not have experience in grant writing or have limited administrative resources, are [reportedly](#) concerned they will miss this significant funding opportunity.