



WYOMING MEDICAL SOCIETY

# Rural Health Transformation

*Member Town Hall - September 24, 2025*

# Innovative rural health delivery models to improve access, quality, and sustainability - \$50 Billion (FY 2026-2030)

Funds will be divided into two main categories:

- Equally to Approved States: Half of the total funding will be distributed equally among all states that successfully apply and receive approval. (\$100M/yr x 5 yrs)
- Based on State Performance: The remaining \$25 billion will be distributed based on a state's specific rural characteristics and the quality of their proposed plans.

Timeline:

- State applications are due to CMS by November 5, 2025.
- WDH is seeking proposals from state associations - due October 10, 2025



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# Factors for Distribution of Performance-Based Funding

**Performance-based half is allocated based on several factors, including:**

- State-Proposed Initiatives: A qualitative review of the initiatives a state plans to fund through the program.
- State Progress: A state's progress in implementing its plan in subsequent years.
- Rural Population & Facilities: The number of rural residents and rural health facilities in the state.
- State Policies: Whether a state has adopted or committed to certain policies relevant to rural health.

**Proposals must detail how states will invest in at least three priority areas:**

- Prevention and chronic disease initiatives
- Payments to healthcare providers
- Clinical workforce recruitment and retention

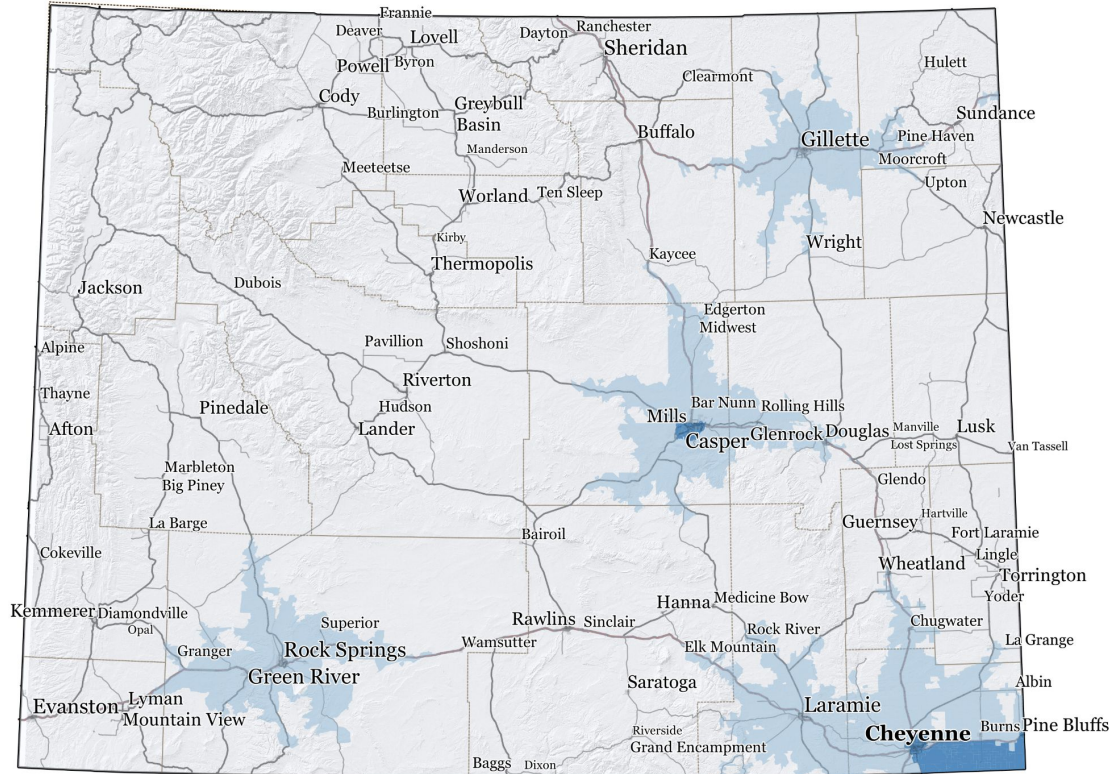
**Funding Priorities: Proposals must detail how they will:**

- Stabilize and strengthen rural hospitals and providers
- Recruit and train healthcare workers
- Invest in new technology and infrastructure
- Improve access to mental health and opioid use disorder treatment
- Promote preventive care and chronic disease management



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Rural will be defined using HRSA FOHP definition applied to 2020 Decennial census tracts.  
Frontier will be defined using FAR2 area codes from USDA based on 2010



### Map shows:

- Dark blue = urban
- Light blue = Rural

*Everything else = Frontier*



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# Permissible Uses of Funds: part 1

Permissible Use of Funds	Notable Parameters
<b>Prevention and Chronic Disease:</b> Implementing evidence-based, measurable interventions to improve prevention and chronic disease management.	
<b>Provider Payments:</b> Supporting payments to providers for delivering healthcare services that fill a gap in care coverage (e.g., uncompensated care).	States may not spend more than 15% of the funding they receive on this initiative category in a given budget period.
<b>Consumer Technology Solutions:</b> Expanding consumer-facing, technology-driven tools for chronic disease prevention and management.	
<b>Training and Technical Assistance:</b> Building capacity for adoption of technology-enabled solutions in rural hospitals.	
<b>Workforce:</b> Recruiting and retaining clinicians in rural areas, with a minimum five-year service commitment.	
<b>IT Advances:</b> Upgrading information technology at rural health facilities to improve efficiency and health outcomes.	States may not spend more than 5% of awarded funding in a given budget period on electronic medical record (EMR) upgrades if a previous Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act certified EMR system was in place as of September 1, 2025. In addition, state spending on initiatives similar to the “Rural Tech



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# Permissible Uses of Funds: part 2

Permissible Use of Funds	Notable Parameters
	Catalyst Fund Initiative <sup>2</sup> cannot exceed the lesser of 10% or \$20 million per budget period.
<b>Right-Sizing Care Availability:</b> Helping rural communities align healthcare service lines (preventive, ambulatory, emergency, inpatient, post-acute) with community needs.	
<b>Behavioral Health:</b> Expanding access to opioid-use disorder treatment, other substance-use disorder services, and mental healthcare.	
<b>Innovative Care Models:</b> Supporting value-based care, alternative payment models, and other innovative delivery arrangements.	
<b>Capital Expenditures and Infrastructure:</b> Investing in facility upgrades, minor renovations, and equipment to ensure sustainable operations.	States may not spend more than 20% of the funding they receive on this initiative category in a given budget period.
<b>Community Collaboration:</b> Fostering partnerships between rural facilities and other providers to strengthen quality, financial stability, and access. <sup>3</sup>	Initiatives should fund both rural providers and other participating providers (e.g. academic medical centers or other tertiary providers); programs should also avoid models aimed solely at increasing referrals to tertiary providers



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# WMS: Stakeholder proposal

In 5 pages or less: How will your organizations solution strengthen and sustain Wyoming's rural health care infrastructure?

- 1.) WHAT is the problem you want to solve?
- 2.) HOW do you know it is a problem?
- 3.) HOW does your proposal address the problem?
- 4.) Summary of costs
- 5.) Proposed timeline for incurring those costs



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# WMS: Stakeholder proposal

## **Categorize each solution into the following categories:**

- Emergencies - what challenges are at crisis level?
- Needs - which are important/immediate?
- Innovations - creative solutions
- Wants - meaningful opportunities

\*Initiatives that require significant development time or ongoing financial support are not likely to be funded in this application

\*The final application will be approved by the Governor and appropriated by the WY legislature



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# Priority Categories for WMS and our Members

**Final proposal from WMS will categorize funding ideas within large focus areas:**

- Maternal Health
- Behavioral Health
- Healthcare Professional pipeline
- Primary care infrastructure and support

**Examples of proposals received thus far:**

- Expanded RTT seat, potentially Buffalo
- Endowment of funds to sustain healthcare into the future
- Pharmacy - direct dispensing infrastructure establishment for independent clinics
- Graduate Medical Education - Council



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# Links to more information

[Grants.gov site](#)

[CMS Priorities](#)

[Wyoming's Rural facilities](#)

[WDH RHT Website](#)



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