

**HFS**

Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services

We improve lives.

Public Meeting Notice

Rural Health Transformation Program - Virtual Listening Session Wednesday, September 10, 2025 – 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is hosting a listening session to gather ideas, insights, considerations, and project concepts that align with federal Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) goals. Under this new program, states can apply to use funds in a variety of ways, such as for promoting care interventions, paying for health care services, expanding the rural health workforce, and providing technical assistance with system transformation. The feedback received during this listening session will be considered for incorporation into the State of Illinois's forthcoming RHTP application.

Who should attend?

Rural health providers of all sizes including, but not limited to:

- Local departments of health and their health centers
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Rural health clinics
- Hospital providers
- Opioid treatment programs
- Community behavioral health clinics
- Community mental health centers
- Practicing professionals (physicians, dentists, pharmacists, etc.)
- Provider associations

Rural Illinoisans are also welcome to attend and provide input.

How do I attend?

Advance registration is required. Please [click here](#) to register. The meeting link and dial-in number will be emailed upon registration.

How do I provide feedback?

Upon registering, please email HFS.Boards.and.Commissions@Illinois.gov with the following subject line – **Request to Provide Public Comment on RHTP** – to state your intent to speak during the listening session. Please include your name, title and organization (if applicable), email address, and contact number in your email. All requests to provide comments must be

received by **12:00 PM on Tuesday, September 9, 2025**. Each speaker will be provided with no more than 3 minutes to provide public comments during the listening session. HFS will accommodate as many comments as possible.

Additionally, interested parties may also provide written comments to the Department in lieu of speaking during the meeting using this [online feedback form](#). This form is also available for interested parties who are unable to attend the listening session. All written comments must be received by **11:59 PM on Friday, September 12, 2025**.

What should I provide feedback on?

The Department welcomes comments on how RHTP funds can be used to support rural health communities as outlined in P.L. 119-21.

Section 71401 (2)(A)(i) of P.L. 119-21 states that an application must include a detailed rural health transformation plan. What thoughts, reactions, or information can you provide on the following points?

- Improving access to hospitals, other health care providers, and health care items and services furnished to rural residents of the State;
- Improving health care outcomes of rural residents of the State;
- Prioritizing the use of new and emerging technologies that emphasize prevention and chronic disease management;
- Initiating, fostering, and strengthening local and regional strategic partnerships between rural hospitals and other health care providers in order to promote measurable quality improvement, increase financial stability, maximize economies of scale, and share best practices in care delivery;
- Enhancing economic opportunity for, and the supply of, health care clinicians through enhanced recruitment and training;
- Prioritizing data and technology driven solutions that help rural hospitals and other rural health care providers furnish high-quality health care services as close to a patient's home as is possible;
- Outlining strategies to manage long-term financial solvency and operating models of rural hospitals in the State; and
- Identifying specific causes driving the accelerating rate of stand-alone rural hospitals becoming at risk of closure, conversion, or service reduction.

Further, section 71401 (6) of P.L. 119-21 states that funding shall be used for at-least three or more health-related activities. What are your suggestions, thoughts, and recommendations for prioritizing the following health-related activities?

- Evidence-based, measurable interventions to improve prevention and chronic disease management.
- Consumer-facing, technology-driven solutions for the prevention and management of chronic disease.
- Training and technical assistance for the development and adoption of technology-enabled solutions that improve care delivery in rural hospitals.
- Recruiting and retaining clinical workforce to rural areas.
- Technical assistance, software, and hardware for information technology advances to improve efficiency, enhance cybersecurity, and improve patient outcomes.
- Rural communities in right sizing their health care delivery services by identifying needed preventative, ambulatory, pre-hospital, emergency, acute inpatient care, outpatient care, and post-acute care service lines.
- Opioid use disorder treatment services and other substance use disorder treatment services and mental health services.
- Innovative models of care that include value-based care arrangements and alternative payment models.
- Additional uses that promote sustainable access to high quality rural health care services.

When providing feedback, please note:

- Feedback submitted for this listening session will not be used to fund specific, individual projects or providers.
- This session is not a forum for HFS to receive individual complaints about specific healthcare providers or service plans. It is also not the proper forum for HFS to receive information from a vendor about its supplies, services, and operating models.
- Regardless of how feedback is provided, note that it later may be shared outside of HFS pursuant to HFS's obligations under FOIA. Therefore, comments should not include personal health information or other details commenters wish to remain private.

Is the meeting accessible?

HFS is committed to ensuring that this listening session meets the access needs of all participants. Please contact HFS.Boards.and.Commissions@Illinois.gov with any disability access requests as early as possible. Please use the following subject line in your email:

Request for Disability Support for RHTP Listening Session.