HCAi
Department of Health Care Access and Information

Agenda Item 10:

California's Rural Health Transformation Program Workforce Update

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Agenda

- CalRHT Overview
- Workforce Development Initiative Updates
- Budget Period 2

The CalRHT program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $233,639,308.46 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of CalRHT and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

CalRHT Program Vision/Goals
2026 – 2031



The California Rural Health Transformation (CalRHT) program vision is a **connected, resilient rural health system** in which every rural Californian can access timely, person-centered primary, maternal, specialty, chronic condition, and behavioral health care close to home, **supported by a sustainable workforce, modern technology and data infrastructure**.

CalRHT will expand regional care collaboratives and partnerships; apply evidence-based care; deploy tools that work in low resource settings; and invest in local readiness and health care services.

CalRHT Programs

November/December 2026	
➢ Execute Subrecipient Agreements ➢ Disburse Funds	➢ Onboard Subrecipients ➢ Support Models (Office Hours, CalRHT Assistant Center)

Program	# of Recommended Subrecipients
Workforce Recruitment & Retention	65
Accelerator Partnerships	18
Transformative Payments	11
Family Medicine with Obstetrics	4
Electronic Health Record	9

CalRHT Initiative: Workforce Development

Vision

Grow and retain a homegrown rural health workforce through statewide mapping, education pathways, clinical pipelines, and recruitment and retention supports.

Goals

- **Expand and strengthen the skillset of the rural primary care and maternal health workforce**
- **Increase recruitment and improve retention of rural Health Professionals**
- **Increase pipeline to clinical training opportunities in rural communities**
- **Reduce vacancy rates**

CalRHT Initiative: Workforce Development Updates



- Recruitment and Retention
- Statewide Clinical Placement Tool
- Train-the-Trainer
  - UC Irvine
  - UC San Francisco
- Career Pathways

Recruitment and Retention (WDRR)

Program Vision

Grow and retain a homegrown rural health workforce through recruitment and retention supports with a focus on the Primary Care and Maternal Health teams.

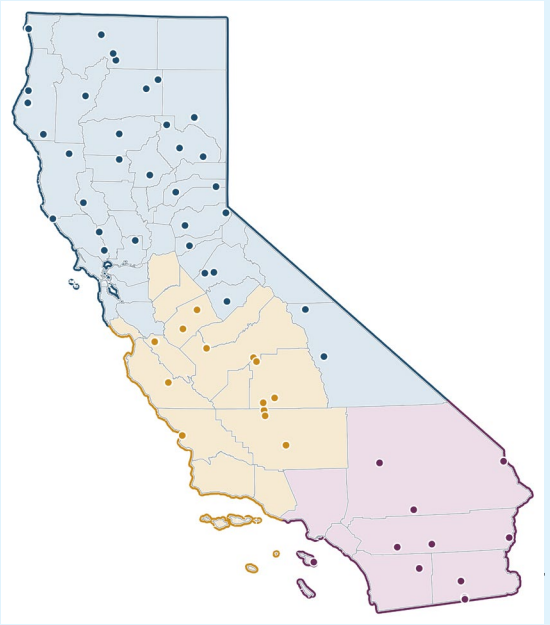
Program Goals

- Increase recruitment of health professionals
- Stabilize current workforce and reduce vacancy rates
- Expand continuity of care
- Support a responsive and sustainable health workforce

WDRR Subrecipient Composition

The recommended 65 **subrecipients** represent:

- **Geographic Reach**
  - 44 counties | 287 sites
- **Professions**
  - 1,005 Priority Professions: Primary Care, Maternity Care, Nursing, Community-Based Direct Care, Other Advanced Practice Health Professionals and Allied Health Professionals (when on primary or maternal care teams)
  - 23 Secondary Professions: Behavioral Health Professionals (when integrated into primary or maternal care teams), Other Advanced Practice Health Professionals, Allied Health Professionals.
- **Organization Types**
  - 25 Hospital, Health System or District
  - 21 Rural Clinic, FQHC, CHC
  - 9 Consortium/Collaborative
  - 10 Tribal Clinic/Native American Health Center



Applications submitted
70
Total funding requested
$86M
Eligible Applications
67
Awards
65
Total funding amount
54.17M

This data reflects the recommended subrecipients and is subject to revision. Final figures will be confirmed upon full execution of all subrecipient agreements.

WDRR Subrecipient by Provider Type

Provider type	Recruitment	Retention	Total
Physician (MD/DO)	190	210	400
Advanced Practice Provider (NP/PA/CNM)	67	175	242
Nurse Practitioner	50	116	166
Physician Assistant	10	54	64
Certified Nurse Midwife	7	5	12
Other Advanced Professional	12	2	14
Registered Nurse	33	91	124
Licensed Vocational Nurse	15	18	33
Nursing Support (CNA / Medical Assistant)	27	134	161
Community Health Worker / Promotor	17	29	46
Perinatal Support (Doula / Lactation)	2	1	3
Care Coordination / Case Management	0	5	5
All provider types	**363**	**665**	**1,028**

This data reflects the recommended subrecipients and is subject to revision. Final figures will be confirmed upon full execution of all subrecipient agreements.

WDRR Subrecipient Applications/Funding by Region

Region	# of Applications (% of total)	Funding (% of total)
Northern California	38 (58%)	$29.82M (55%)
Central California	16 (25%)	$13.60M (25%)
Southern California	11 (17%)	$10.75M (20%)
Total	**65 (100%)**	**$54.17 (100%)**



This data reflects the recommended subrecipients and is subject to revision. Final figures will be confirmed upon full execution of all subrecipient agreements.

Statewide Clinical Placement Tool

Program Vision

Improve the efficiency, transparency, and coordination of clinical training opportunities among healthcare providers, educational institutions, workforce partners, and regional collaborative

Program Goals

- Increase pipeline to clinical training opportunities in rural communities
- Reduce administrative burden associated with clinical placement coordination
- Improve visibility into clinical placement demand, capacity, utilization, and unmet need
- Prioritize priority and secondary professions

Targets

Community of Practice
February 2027

Platform Role Expansion
April 2027

Cohort 1
June 2027

Train-the-Trainer UC Irvine Clinical Skill Building

Program Vision

Strengthen California's rural primary care and maternal health workforce through career-long learning, mentorship, and clinical leadership in geriatric care and maternal behavioral health.

Program Goals

- Develop rural champions to strengthen person-centered care delivery in maternal and geriatric behavioral health
- Focus on prevention, wellness, and behavioral health
- Expand and strengthen the skillset of the rural primary care and maternal health workforce

Contract Executed and Funding Disbursed

Application Period
October 16 – November 2

Participants Notified
November 2026

Training Program
January – September 2027

Train-the-Trainer UC San Francisco Clinical Skill Building

Program Vision

Strengthen California's rural primary care workforce through evidence-based workforce training, tele-mentorship, implementation support, technical assistance, and specialty consultation focused on geriatrics and dementia care.

Program Goals

- Expand rural providers' capacity to deliver person-centered dementia and geriatric care
- Increase access to specialty knowledge via ECHO mentoring and consultation supports
- Support implementation of dementia care workflows
- Build sustainable technology-enabled models

Contract Executed and Funding Disbursed → Prospective trainees enroll through Dementia Care Aware → Trainees screened for eligibility → Training Program TBD – September 2027

Expand and Support Rural Workforce Capacity Family Medicine Obstetrics Fellowship Program

Program Vision

Ensure rural Californians have access to high-quality maternity and perinatal care through a sustainable, locally trained obstetric workforce.

Program Goals

- **Expand new and existing Family Medicine Obstetrics (FM-OB) fellowship programs serving rural communities.**
- **Increase rural clinical training opportunities and capacity for advanced obstetric care.**
- **Strengthen faculty, preceptor, and training infrastructure to support sustainable workforce development.**
- **Foster regional partnerships that encourage long-term rural practice and improve maternal and infant health outcomes.**

Budget Period 2 CalRHT Program Grants

Key Dates

Applications

Spring 2027

- Begin release of Budget Period 2 Requests for Applications (RFAs)

Selection

Spring – Summer 2027

- HCAI reviews applications and selects Budget Period 2 award subrecipients

Award Review

Spring – Summer 2027

- HCAI verifies subrecipient eligibility
- HCAI announces Budget Period 2 CalRHT awards

Grant Funding

Summer – Fall 2027

- HCAI and subrecipients sign grant agreements
- Subrecipients must use funds by September 30, 2028

Questions?

For CalRHT program updates, Subrecipients, FAQs and more, visit the

HCAI CalRHT webpage

OR

Please email
CalRHT@hcai.ca.gov

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RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Thank You!