CALIFORNIA
RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

Rural Health Policy Council Meeting #2

October 27, 2026

HCAi
Department of Health Care Access and Information

Meeting Logistics

- **Platform:** This meeting is hosted on Zoom and is being recorded to assist with accurate notetaking. Your controls are in the toolbar at the bottom of your screen. Please mute your line unless you are speaking.
    - Members of the public can participate virtually and provide public comment via the Zoom platform during the designated time.
- **Materials:** Meeting minutes and materials will be posted on the RHPC website.
- **Transparency:** Council meetings are not subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. All meetings will be open to the public.

Agenda

Item #1 Welcome

Item #2 CalRHT Program Updates

Item #3 Budget Period 1 CalRHT Program Grants

Item #4 Planning for Budget Period 2 CalRHT Program Grants

Item #5 Public Comment

Item #6 Next Steps & Adjourn

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.

Item #1

Welcome

Athena Chapman, Chapman Consulting

Land Acknowledgement

The Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) acknowledges that its Sacramento and Los Angeles offices are situated on land taken from the Miwok, Nisenan, Chumash and Gabrielino-Tongva peoples. We acknowledge the historical injustices of government-sanctioned forced displacement and cultural genocide experienced by these communities and honor their resilience and fortitude. In solidarity with native peoples, HCAI commits to being a catalyst for change by sharing information on the ongoing impacts of past actions, listening to tribal voices to help eliminate barriers to health workforce participation, and revisiting our programs to allocate resources equitably and help address disparities.

New Program Staff

Dr. Andrew Flynn, MD

CalRHT Program Chief Medical Officer



Item #2

California Rural Health Transformation (CalRHT) Program Updates

Jennifer Hernandez, Director, California Rural Health Transformation, HCAI

CalRHT Program Budget Period 1 Overview

Transformative Care Model

- Accelerator Partners
- Transformative Payments
- Expand and Support Rural Workforce Capacity (Family Medicine with Obstetric Fellowship)*
- Train-the-Trainer (Clinical Skill-Building Programs)

Workforce Development

- Workforce Development Recruitment and Retention
- Career Pathways
- Rural Clinical Placement Support and Training Pathways

Technology and Tools

- Electronic Health Records (EHR) Modernization

Support Services

- Rural Technical Assistance Center
- Rural Collaboratives Adoption and Technical Support
- Workforce Mapping Tool
- Program Integration
- Innovative Payment Strategies Analysis
- Third-Party Grant Administrator

5% Tribal Set-Aside
$11.65M**

CALIFORNIA RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

*Expand and Support Rural Workforce Capacity budget is inclusive of a $5 million Tribal Set-Aside. Total Tribal Set-Aside totals 11.65 million.

**The $11.65M Tribal Set-Aside will be distributed among the programs shown based on the Tribal partners' selected uses of funds. The reserved amount is included within the listed funding amounts; it is not additional funding.

HCAI Department of Health Care Access and Information

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Site Visit

Purpose

CMS's Office of Rural Health Transformation conducted programmatic site visits to learn about states' implementation of the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).

Two-day California visit

From state-level program discussions to on-the-ground rural health visits

1

Sep 23–24, 2026

2

DAY 1

HCAI staff meetings

Program discussion and coordination with HCAI staff.

DAY 2

Rural site visits

Marshall Medical Center, Divide Wellness Center, and Shingle Springs Health and Wellness Center

Thank You for Your Partnership

Input from RHPC Meeting #1

- Provide clear, timely, and accessible communication
- Support participation across organizations with varying capacity
- Facilitate collaboration and partnership-building
- Align CalRHT with broader statewide priorities
- Promote knowledge sharing and replication of successful approaches
- Address population- and community-specific needs

Item #3

Budget Period 1
CalRHT Program Grants

Jennifer Hernandez, Director, California Rural Health Transformation, HCAI

Rural Demand

The actual demand far exceeded the funds available.

BP1 Grants	# of Applicants	Total Funding Request	Budgeted Funding
Accelerator Partners	126	$454M	$39M
Transformative Payments	11	$35M*	$35M
Expand and Support Rural Workforce Capacity	7	$2.7M	$11.5M**
Workforce Development Recruitment and Retention	70	$85.5M	$54M
EHR Modernization	37	$53.7M	$11.65M

* $35M was earmarked by HCAI for Transformative Payments and was not derived from submitted grant funding requests.

** Expand and Support Rural Workforce Capacity budget is inclusive of a $5 million Tribal Set-Aside. Total Tribal Set-Aside totals $11.65 million.

Accelerator Partners

TRANSFORMATIVE CARE MODEL

FUNDING AVAILABLE – BUDGET PERIOD 1

$39M

Recommended Awards: 19 subrecipients

Number of Applicants: 126

Cumulative Funding Request: $454 million



Transformative Payments

TRANSFORMATIVE CARE MODEL

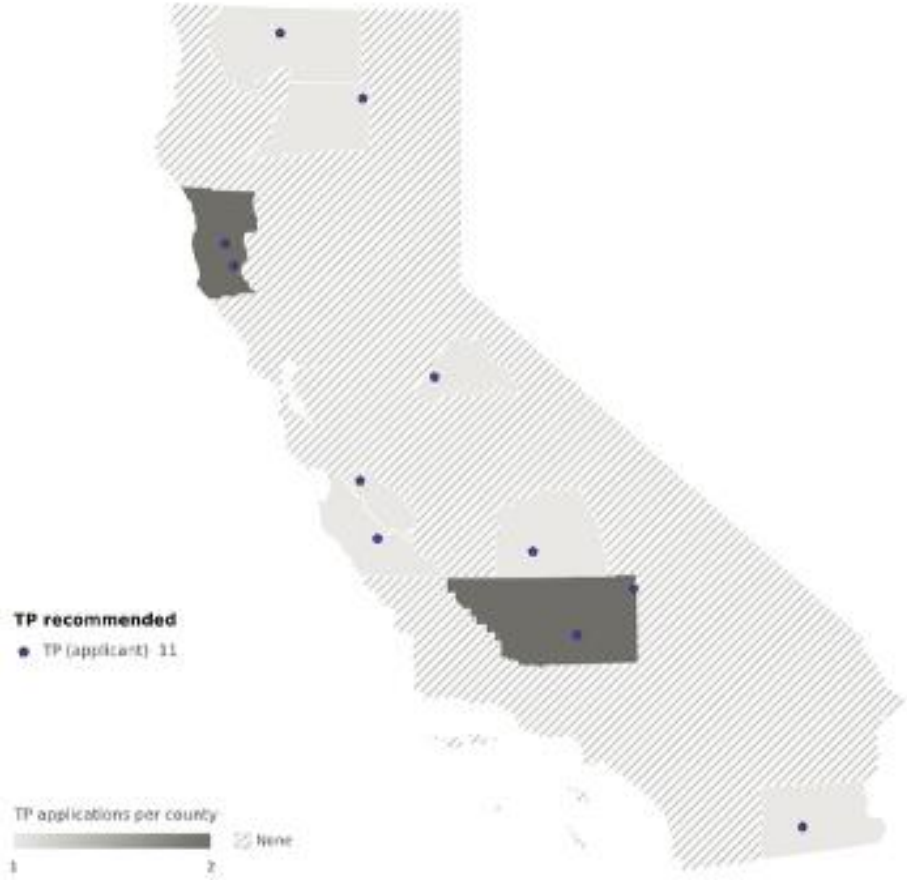
FUNDING AVAILABLE – BUDGET PERIOD 1

$35M

Recommended Awards: 11 subrecipients

Number of Applicants: 11

Cumulative Funding Request: $35 million



Expand and Support Rural Workforce Capacity

[Family Medicine with Obstetrics (FM-OB) Fellowship]

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING AVAILABLE – BUDGET PERIOD 1

$11.5M

Recommended Awards: 5 subrecipients

Number of Applicants: 7

Cumulative Funding Request: $2.7 million



Workforce Development Recruitment and Retention

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING AVAILABLE – BUDGET PERIOD 1

$54M

Recommended Awards: 65 subrecipients

Number of Applicants: 70

Cumulative Funding Request: $85.5 million



EHR Modernization Grants

TECHNOLOGY & TOOLS

FUNDING AVAILABLE – BUDGET PERIOD 1

$11.6M

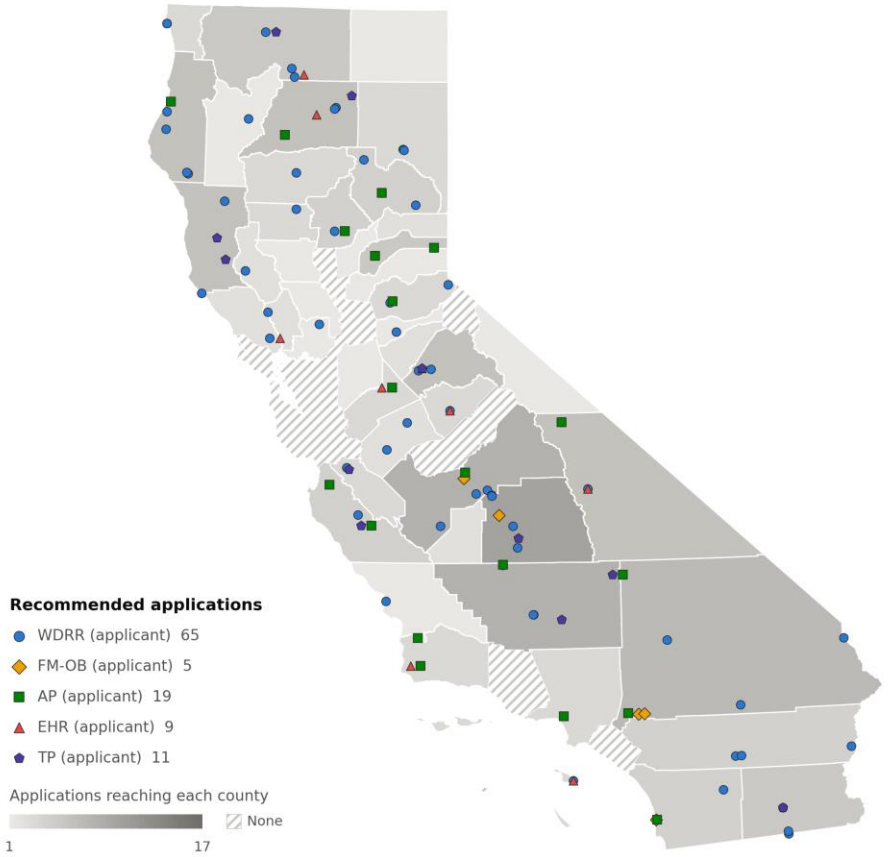
Recommended Awards: 9 subrecipients

Number of Applicants: 37

Cumulative Funding Request: $53.7 million



Distribution of Tentative Awards



Budget Period 1 Grants Discussion



What questions or feedback are you hearing about the Budget Period 1 grant opportunities?



What additional information or support would be helpful?

Item #4

Planning for Budget Period 2 CalRHT Program Grants

Jennifer Hernandez, Director, California Rural Health Transformation, HCAI

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

Council Perspectives

Item #5

Public Comment

Athena Chapman, Chapman Consulting

How to Make a Comment

- Press “Raise Hand” in the “Reactions” button on the screen
- The Chair will call on individuals in the order in which their hands were raised.
- If selected to share your comment, you will receive a request to “unmute,” please ensure you accept before speaking.
- Individuals are encouraged to limit their time to two minutes so we can hear from as many members of the public as possible.
- Individuals may, but are not required to, state their name and organizational affiliation at the top of their statements.

Item #6

Next Steps & Adjourn

Athena Chapman, Chapman Consulting

Upcoming Meeting Dates

RHPC Meeting	Date	Time
Virtual Meeting #3	February 2, 2027	10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Virtual Meeting #4	April 6, 2027	10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Potential Meeting #3 Topics

- Early learnings from Budget Period 1 CalRHT grant implementation
- Topics suggested by Council Members

Stay Engaged

Sign Up for the Mailing List: https://hcai.ca.gov/mailing-list

Select "Rural Health News and Updates"

Visit the CalRHT website: https://hcai.ca.gov/rural-health/calrht

For general CalRHT questions:
Email: CalRHT@hcai.ca.gov

For questions regarding grant applications:
Email info@calruralhealth.org or call 855-CAL-RHTP (855-225-7487)