

EMERGING INSIGHTS

RHTP YEAR 1: TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION INITIATIVES

SEPT 2026

BUILDING MAINE'S RURAL EMR STRUCTURES

The Maine Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) supports healthcare organizations in modernizing their electronic medical record (EMR) systems and using technology to improve care for people living in rural communities.

MCD Global Health (MCD) is leading the EMR Modernization work in collaboration with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (Maine DHHS).

Maine has made significant progress in implementing its Year 1 RHTP EMR Modernization activities, engaging rural health provider organizations and establishing a substantial pipeline of EMR modernization projects.

Getting Ready

Working closely with MCD, the Maine DHHS implemented a coordinated outreach and technical assistance strategy.

Two virtual office-hour sessions provided opportunities for applicants to ask questions and receive clarification, and frequently asked questions (FAQs) were developed and updated throughout the application period. Additionally, weekly registration and deadline reminders were sent to support successful application completion.

55

requests for technical assistance received and responded to by MCD

\$29.4

million was requested for 206 EMR modernization projects

89%

of eligible organizations submitted applications for funding

Key Results



We identified **62 eligible organizations** across hospitals and integrated health systems, FQHCs, CCBHCs, OTPs, independent primary care practices, and rural health clinics.



We responded to **more than 55 technical assistance requests** regarding eligibility, application portal functionality, troubleshooting, and project development. Office hour questions were compiled in a FAQ resource.



Fifty-five organizations submitted applications for funding, representing approximately 89% of eligible organizations.



Applicants **requested a total of \$29,453,912** across 206 individual EMR modernization projects.



Proposed **projects span more than 26 EMR vendors** and include EMR replacements, upgrades, enhancements, and module additions.



Applicants represented **a wide range of rural health providers:**

- 20 FQHCs,
- All 32 of Maine's general hospitals and their associated primary care practices,
- 10 independent primary care practices,
- One rural health clinic,
- Six CCBHCs, and
- Five OTPs.

Acronyms

CCBHC: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic

EMR: Electronic Medical Record

FQHC: Federally Qualified Health Center

OTP: Opioid Treatment Program

Funding Methodology

The funding methodology was designed to account for differences in organizational size and rurality. Anticipated awards were based on the number of eligible sites and whether sites were located in federally designated rural areas.

While all 318 sites provide care to rural populations, sites physically located in a rural area were eligible for approximately 50% higher funding.

Distinct funding levels were established for hospitals, comprehensive care providers, and focused care providers/OTPs as follows:

Critical Access Hospitals and General Hospitals with a Dedicated Emergency Department	Estimated \$306,000 for hospitals located in rural areas and \$204,000 for non-rural hospitals
Comprehensive Care Providers	Estimated \$81,000 per site for rural sites and \$54,000 per site for non-rural sites
Focused Care Providers	Estimated \$42,000 per site for rural sites and \$28,000 per site for non-rural sites

Conclusion

The strong participation and breadth of proposed projects demonstrate substantial demand for EMR modernization across Maine's rural health system. The application process has provided Maine with a clear understanding of needs and established a strong foundation for moving into implementation and investment in technology infrastructure that supports rural providers and the communities they serve.

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