



Maine Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Year 1 Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Funding

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) plans to invest approximately \$30 million in Year 1 of Maine Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) funds to help eligible providers replace, upgrade, and enhance their electronic medical record (EMR) systems. These investments are intended to modernize and interconnect EMR systems, foster innovative technologies, and ultimately support better health and health outcomes for people living in rural communities across Maine.

Who May Apply

- Critical Access Hospitals and General Hospitals with a dedicated Emergency Department
- Hospital-owned Primary Care Practices and Rural Health Clinics
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and “FQHC-look alike” Health Centers
- Independent Rural Health Clinics
- Independent Primary Care Practices located in rural areas
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)
- Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)

Applicants and all their owned sites must be physically located in Maine, be enrolled as a MaineCare provider and actively serving MaineCare members, hold appropriate Maine licensure, be in good standing* with the State, and serve patients living in rural communities.

How Funding Will Be Distributed

All eligible organizations that submit a qualifying application are expected to receive an award. Award amounts will be based on the number of eligible sites and whether those sites are located in federally designated rural areas. Rural sites will receive approximately 50% higher funding than comparable non-rural sites. Final award amounts for each organization will depend on the total number of eligible applicants.

Anticipated Year 1 Award Amounts

Maine DHHS will allocate funds to a core set of eligible providers critical to serving rural communities as described below. Projected Year 1 funding amounts outlined below are planning estimates only. Actual awards will vary based on the number of eligible sites, rural designation, and the total number of approved applicants.

• Critical Access Hospitals & General Hospitals with a dedicated ED

Given the key role of Maine hospitals serving rural communities, Maine DHHS has allocated 30% of Year 1 EMR funding for hospitals, totaling an estimated \$9M. This amount recognizes that hospitals play a critical role in Maine’s rural healthcare infrastructure, and that all Maine hospitals serve individuals from rural communities. We anticipate that each qualified hospital that applies for RHTP EMR funding will receive an estimated minimum award of ~\$306K for hospitals located in rural areas and ~\$204K for non-rural hospitals. Note that total Year 1 awards to hospitals will also include funding for hospital-owned primary care practices, classified under Comprehensive Care Providers (see below).

• Comprehensive Care Providers

This category includes Primary Care Practices and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), recognizing that these organizations provide comprehensive care to patients. We anticipate that each qualified Comprehensive Care Provider organization that applies for RHTP EMR funding will receive a minimum award of ~\$81K per site for rural sites and ~\$54K per site for non-rural sites, totaling an estimated \$20.4M in Year 1 EMR funding. This amount recognizes that primary care practices and CCBHCs provide comprehensive care to individuals throughout the state and serve as the cornerstone of care and often are the first point of contact for individuals in rural communities.

• Focused Care Providers

Focused Care Providers in RHTP Year 1 includes Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs). We anticipate that each qualified OTP that applies for RHTP EMR funding will receive a minimum of ~\$42K per site for rural sites and ~\$28K per site for non-rural sites, totaling an estimated \$600K for Focused Care Providers/OTPs. This amount recognizes that OTPs provide a key element of focused care for individuals with SUD and play an important role in Maine's overall rural healthcare infrastructure.

Eligible Uses of RHTP EMR Funding

- EMR system replacements
- EMR system upgrades
- EMR enhancements (e.g. population health bundles, AI modules, coding systems)
- EMR peripherals or other hardware (e.g. laptops, mobile carts)
- Associated staff time for implementing EMR improvements (e.g. IT consultant)

Application Process

Organizations will submit one application covering all owned eligible sites. The application form will include space to propose multiple projects that total up to the anticipated award amount. Organizations may allocate funding across eligible sites as appropriate, provided all eligible sites receive a direct benefit from the RHTP funding. The EMR funding application form will be hosted by MCD Global Health and is anticipated to open in mid-July. Additional communications with links to a web-based application will be forthcoming.

****In order to be considered in good standing*** with the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), the provider should:

- *Have successfully complied with the terms and conditions of its most recent DHHS-issued contract and have no unresolved or outstanding compliance concerns.*
- *Not received letters for performance concern, corrective action plans, breach of contract, terminations, or other similar actions for the past two years related to contractual agreements between DHHS and the Provider.*
- *Not have any past due reporting or deliverables for DHHS-issued contracts in the past two years, including financial reports sent to DHHS Audit, closeout reports for subrecipient contracts, programmatic reports, and up-to-date certificate of insurance on file.*
- *Not be under payment suspension based on credible allegations of fraud or otherwise according to MaineCare's Program Integrity.*
- *Not be on a conditional license, a directed plan of correction, or other disqualifying DHHS Division of Licensing & Certification (DLC) engagement.*