



Delaware

Title: The Delaware Rural Health Transformation Plan addresses critical healthcare access and outcome disparities affecting approximately 400,000 residents in rural Sussex and Kent Counties.

Abstract:

Delaware Rural Health Transformation Plan - Project Summary

Lead Organization: Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), in partnership with the Division of Public Health (DPH) and the Governor's Office

Project Goals: Delaware's Rural Health Transformation Plan addresses critical healthcare disparities affecting approximately 400,000 residents in rural Sussex and Kent Counties through 15 integrated initiatives. The plan aims to:

1. **Expand Access:** Establish Hope Centers for homeless populations, deploy mobile health units, create school-based health centers, and expand library-based health services to eliminate transportation barriers and bring care directly to rural communities.
2. **Strengthen Workforce:** Create Delaware's first medical school with a Primary Care-Rural Health track, establish "Train Here, Stay Here" programs with education awards for medical students and residents, and expand training programs for nurse practitioners, physician assistants, community health workers, and other critical healthcare roles.
3. **Drive Innovation:** Build comprehensive health IT infrastructure for real-time insurance verification and prior authorizations, launch a Catalyst Fund for telehealth and remote monitoring technologies, and implement a diabetes wellness pilot integrating continuous glucose monitoring with care management.
4. **Improve Outcomes:** Deploy Food is Medicine infrastructure with billing mechanisms and workforce development, establish value-based care readiness programs for rural providers and FQHCs, and create a Healthcare Workforce Data Center for real-time tracking of progress

Use of Funds: The \$1 billion investment will transform rural healthcare delivery in Delaware through infrastructure development (\$97.5M for Hope Centers, \$50M for health information exchange), workforce development (\$274M for medical school and training programs, \$60.25M for educational awards and recruitment), expanded access points (\$23M for mobile units, school health centers, and library services), technology innovation (\$106.5M for catalyst fund and diabetes pilot), and sustainable care delivery models (\$308M for value-based care readiness and Food is Medicine infrastructure and \$16.25M for workforce data infrastructure). By addressing root causes—workforce shortages, outdated care delivery models, and underutilized payment mechanisms—rather than providing temporary subsidies, this plan creates sustainable improvements in access, quality, and health outcomes for Delaware's rural communities.

This document includes the State's Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program Project Abstract submitted in its RHT Program Application. As outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), States were required to submit a one-page summary of their proposed project including its purpose and anticipated outcomes for the purposes of public information sharing. Budget amounts/requested funds highlighted in the State's Abstract are purely illustrative and hypothetical and do not reflect the State's final award amount or approved use of funds.