

Inside Missouri's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

Welcome to the first *Inside Missouri's RHTP* Newsletter!

Dear colleagues and partners,

We're excited to launch the Inside the Missouri Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Newsletter: a regular update designed to keep you informed, connected, and engaged as we continue advancing this important work.

Over the past several months, we have worked across Missouri agencies, providers, associations, and community partners to formalize the Rural Health Transformation Office (RHTO), align priorities across program strategic pillars, and advance the Transformation of Rural Community Health (ToRCH) Care Network, our statewide structure of Regional Coordinating Networks (RCNs) and Hubs that will drive local implementation and coordination.

With our Year 1 budget now approved by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), operating cadence underway, and pillar teams activated, we are entering a new phase focused on disciplined execution and measurable progress.

As this work accelerates, clear and consistent communication will be essential, and this newsletter is one way we will stay connected. You can expect regular updates on progress across program pillars and key milestones, summary of decisions shaping the RHTP, and ways to stay involved.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to strengthen rural healthcare systems across Missouri.

Warm regards,

Joe Miller

RHTO State Director



Missouri's RHTP Vision

Every rural Missourian has access to the high-quality care they need through a delivery system that is well aligned, community-anchored, and built to last

Inside Missouri's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

Overview of the Missouri RHTP

The RHTP is a statewide effort, funded through a CMS cooperative agreement, to strengthen rural healthcare systems by expanding access, building workforce capacity, and modernizing infrastructure to improve health outcomes for ~2.5 million rural Missourians through 5 strategic pillars

RHTP Strategic Pillars

1. Regional Coordinating Networks and Hub Activation

Create local and regional groups that help providers coordinate care and focus on critical needs, spanning 104 counties

2. Alternative Payment Models
Use new payment approaches that reward teamwork and better health outcomes

4. Rural Health Workforce Programs
Train, recruit, and keep health care workers in rural areas



3. Digital Backbone
Build shared technology systems so providers can communicate and share information easily

5. Provider Transformation
Help rural hospitals and clinics modernize how they operate, including strategic renovations

A Pillar is a major strategic domain of the RHTP that organizes related initiatives under a common objective, leadership structure, and set of performance goals to advance overall program vision



Inside Missouri's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

Celebrating our latest achievements

We're excited to highlight our latest progress across the RHTP Pillars



0. RHTO Operationalization

- Established Missouri's Rural Health Transformation Office
- Recruited new RHTO Director; designated State Initiative Owners to drive program refinement and implementation; and began recruitment activities for other key RHTO roles



1. RCNs/Hubs Activation

- Developed master communications plan with a series of webinars to cover RHTP details with throughout April
- Ran public survey to collect input from interested community stakeholders on Hub boundaries; final boundary maps to be released by early-June
- Finalizing Hub Anchor application, to be released by early-June with a set of wraparound communications (e.g., application guidance, launch manuals)



2. Alternative Payment Models (APMs)

- Preparing to stand up working group to engage payers/providers to baseline APM capabilities and design new incentive models

Inside Missouri's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

Celebrating our latest achievements

We're excited to highlight our latest progress across the RHTP Pillars



3. Digital Backbone

- Launched statewide Digital Readiness Survey to baseline rural providers' digital capabilities, with potential for other future survey topics
- Designed potential structure and role of RHTP Data & Governance Council
- Defined potential Y1 procurement needs to advance digital modernization and interoperability (details on procurements to be published on DSS/RHTP website)



4. Rural Health Workforce

- Built preliminary workforce needs assessment to identify gaps in health outcomes across counties relative to provider access
- Began developing framework for rural workforce retention and enablers program to address workforce instability



5. Provider Transformation

- Prepared an Invitation for Bids from hospitals for Horizon 1 of Strategic Renovations (program offers investment funding to rural health facilities facing extreme financial distress); providers will be able to apply by end of May

Inside Missouri's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

Frequently asked questions

What is a CMS Cooperative Agreement?

A cooperative agreement is a federal funding mechanism that provides financial assistance to support projects and requires substantial federal coordination, monitoring, and oversight

How is RHTP funding different from regular CMS grants?

As a cooperative agreement, there's a defined role for CMS staff in monitoring and evaluation, formal prior-approval pathways for program changes; and ongoing CMS program and financial oversight

When will RHTP funding be distributed? How much of the funding is funneled to the MO rural health ecosystem?

At this time, the State has not pre-selected vendors or subrecipients, except if specifically described in the formally submitted application materials.

Majority of RHTP funding (~90%) will be directed into the Missouri rural healthcare ecosystem, including:

Pillar	Funding allocated
Hubs and Regional Coordination Networks	~\$28M
Digital backbone (inc. tech/data enablement)	~\$56M
Alternative Payment Models (APMs)	~\$12M
Workforce expansion and retention program	~\$18M
Provider transformation	~\$57M
Evolving program priorities	~\$24M

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

SHARE WITH THE RHTO TEAM VIA DSS.RHTP@dss.mo.gov

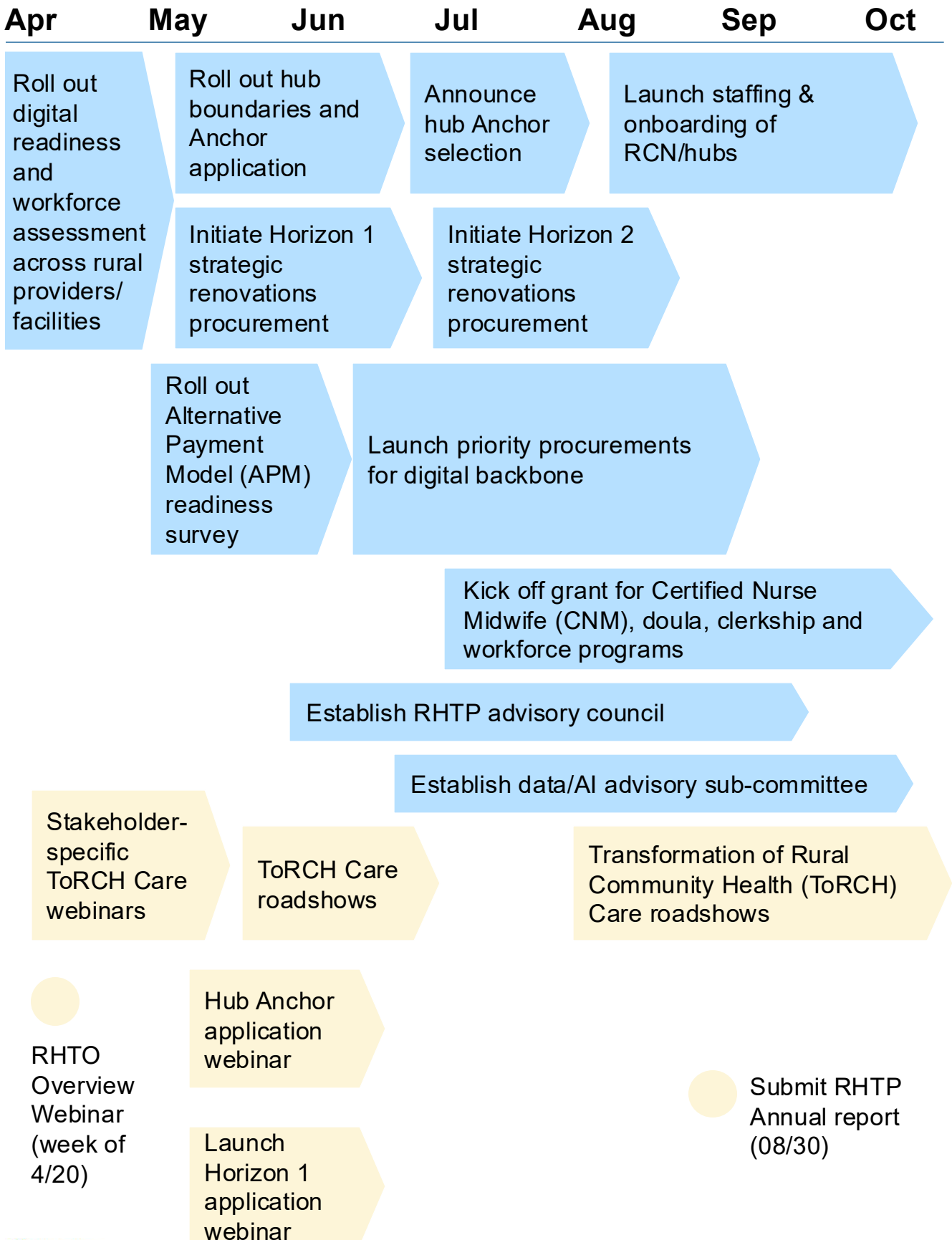


Inside Missouri's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

 Milestones  Information Sessions

Major 2026 milestones

SELECT MAJOR EVENTS AND MILESTONES (NON-EXHAUSTIVE)



Inside Missouri's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH RHTP UPDATES ...

RHTP newsletter



Regular updates highlighting pillar progress, key milestones, and upcoming engagement opportunities

Key messages & highlights



Monitor the [RHTP website](#) for briefs across pillars, summarizations on key program messages and answers to frequently asked questions

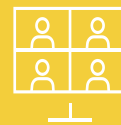
RHTP Mailbox



Want to be notified? [Subscribe](#) to our email list to receive regular updates

Have questions or ideas? Contact DSS.RHTP@dss.mo.gov

Upcoming Info Sessions



Monitor the [RHTP Website](#) for state-wide virtual session to share updates, answer questions, and gather partner input
(details and registration coming soon)