

Welcome

Transforming Emergency Medical Services in Alaska:
Funding opportunities through the Rural Health
Transformation Program



February 5, 2026



Advancing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Transformation: From Point of Crisis to Point of Restoration



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Agenda

Welcome

Overview of RHTP

Future of EMS in Alaska

EMS Priorities

Application Guidance

Questions



Advancing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Transformation: From Point of Crisis to Point of Restoration



Heidi Hedberg

Commissioner,
Alaska Department of Health



Robert Lawrence, MD

Chief Medical Officer,
Alaska Department of Health



Tracey Loscar

Deputy Director,
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Tricia Franklin

Acting Section Chief
Alaska State Office of Rural
Health Director

Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Basics



The RHTP is a **one-time, five-year \$50 billion federal initiative** to catalyze rural health care delivery transformation and improve access and health outcomes across the country.



Alaska submitted application for funding in November 2025.



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded Alaska **\$272 million** to allocate between January and October 2026.

Transforming Alaska's Health Care System



Our North Star vision

Healthier Alaskans

Lifelong health and wellbeing for all Alaskans.

What people experience

Health Care Access Across the Full Lifespan

Prenatal → Infant/Early Childhood → Youth/Adolescent → Adult → Elder/Senior Care



What enables the system

Workforce

Build resilient health care teams



Technology and Innovation

Invest in technology and innovation



What sustains the system

Pay for Better Health Outcomes

Advance models to financially align reimbursements with improved health outcomes



Alaska's RHTP Goals and Initiatives



Goal 1: Promote Lifelong Health and Wellbeing for Rural, Remote, and Frontier Alaskans

Healthy Beginnings

Health Care Access

Healthy Communities

Goal 2: Build Sustainable Outcomes-Driven Health Systems

Pay for Value:
Fiscal Sustainability

Goal 3: Drive Workforce and Technology Innovations

Strengthen Workforce

Spark Technology & Innovation

EMS in Alaska: From Crisis to Restoration



EMS professionals fill a critical link in the healthcare ecosystem

Outpatient care

Inpatient care

Mental Health Care

Primary
Care



Private
Residence

Residential Care

EMS
911

Mobile
Integrated
Health

Mobile Crisis
Health

Inpatient
Rehab

Acute Crisis
Center



Inpatient
Psychiatric
Hospital

General
Acute
Hospital

Alaska EMS Vision Statement



The Alaska EMS system is an essential service that provides for the life, health, and safety of all Alaskan communities.



The Future of EMS

Promote Lifelong
Health and Wellbeing



Patient and Clinical
Care



Community
Informed Services

Build Sustainable
Outcomes-Driven
Health Systems



Funding and
Financial Services

Drive Workforce and
Technology
Innovations



Workforce



Infrastructure and
Technology

Examples of Potential Uses of Funds

Example	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
Upgrade communication & medical equipment	Healthy Communities	Sustainability	Workforce
Implement community paramedicine and alternate destination transport models	Healthy Beginnings	Sustainability	
Test drones, kiosks, and remote dispensing	Health Care Access		Innovation
Develop infrastructure and capacity for alternative site of care treatment	Healthy Communities		Innovation
	Health Care Access		
Strengthens EMS providers' financial stability		Sustainability	
Deploy mobile clinics & preventative care units	Healthy Communities		Innovation
	Health Care Access		
Pilot alternative EMS payment models		Sustainability	
Expand EMS training programs			Workforce

Federal Limitations on RHTP Funding



Examples of CMS-defined unallowable uses of RHTP funding include:

- Construction of new facilities or building expansions
- Purchasing land and/or buildings
- Funding clinical services already covered by insurance
- Supplanting existing funding
- Broadband infrastructure, internet installation costs and certain telecommunications equipment
- Provider loan repayments
- Direct payments to individuals (e.g., cash assistance, gift cards)
- Supplanting state contribution to Medicaid match
- Food



Funding Pathways



Thank You!

For more information, please visit:

health.alaska.gov/RHTP

Email:

RHTP@alaska.gov

Resources include:

[Webinars](#)

[Initiatives](#)

[Convenings](#)

[FAQs](#)

**Register for the
RHTP Application
Process
webinar on
February 10, 2026
@ 1:00pm**



RHTP Application
Process Webinar
Registration