

For Public Release: Alaska's Draft Preliminary Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Initiatives

In accordance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) CMS-RHT-26-001: Rural Health Transformation Program, Alaska will apply for [Rural Health Transformation Program \(RHTP\)](#) funding. Established earlier this year through the passage of H.R. 1, the RHTP provides \$50 billion in funding over five years to improve rural health care across all fifty states. This landmark investment creates a unique opportunity for Alaska, where the vast majority of communities are rural or frontier, and Alaskan community members and health care providers face significant geographic and operational challenges.

*This document outlines **Alaska's six draft, preliminary RHTP initiatives**, including for each a description and list of potential uses of funds. These initiatives were informed by [stakeholder feedback](#) previously gathered by the State. Note that this is a preliminary document; the listed uses of funds are illustrative, not exhaustive, subject to CMS approval, and may change.*

The intent of these initiatives is to strengthen community-led and regionally designed health care systems that give Alaskans access to a full continuum of care as close to home as possible, with measurable improvements in health outcomes. Recognizing that Alaska's regions and organizations vary in size, capacity, and readiness, these initiatives are designed to be flexible, phased, and voluntary, allowing each community and provider to engage at a pace and scale that aligns with their local priorities and resources. The department recognizes that every organization, community, and region are at different stages of development and may have different needs. Ultimately, these initiatives aim to create a pathway tailored to Alaska's diverse communities and regions to enable local innovation, stronger partnerships, long-term sustainability, and a healthier state.

#1) Healthy Beginnings

Description:

The Healthy Beginnings initiative invests in maternal and child health as a cornerstone of Alaska's rural health system and the foundation for healthy families, addressing challenges that are especially severe in rural areas. Many communities are off the road system and must contend with vast distances to maternity care, unreliable multi-modal transportation, and persistent shortages of local providers. As a result, pregnant women are often travel from their communities well before delivery, placing emotional, financial, and logistical strain on families. After childbirth, mothers and infants face isolation and limited support while navigating critical early-stage needs such as lactation, infant nutrition, and continuity of care. Beyond infancy, the initiative continues to support children's early growth and development, expanding access to programs that help kids thrive throughout childhood.

This initiative responds by: (a) expanding access to **prenatal and postpartum care**, including support for pre- and postpartum depression, closer to home or in community settings; (b) strengthening **infant care** during the first year through home visits, lactation support, and developmental programming; and (c) enhancing rural and frontier access to affordable **child care, in-school programs, and after-school activities** that promote healthy, active lifestyles. These strategies prioritize building a strong foundation for keeping families healthy and connected within their communities.

Potential Use of Funds:

- **Expand technology-enabled maternal care infrastructure:** Develop and implement cloud-based maternal health information platforms modeled after proven telehealth and remote monitoring systems, enabling rural and frontier providers to coordinate care using patient data, consult virtually with specialists, and support high-risk pregnancies. Invest in remote fetal monitoring devices, interoperable electronic medical records, and patient-facing mobile apps for appointment scheduling and patient education. Provide technical assistance and training for clinics in rural communities to maximize the use of new technologies, improving outcomes, and patient experience. *(Key Intersection with Initiative #6: Spark Technology and Infrastructure)*
- **Modernize rural maternal care facilities:** Fund targeted capital improvements for maternal care facilities including but not limited to labor and delivery and birthing centers and clinics to achieve high-quality care. Eligible renovations could include creating or updating labor and delivery suites, installing or enhancing telehealth and fetal monitoring equipment, converting underused patient rooms into family-friendly maternity spaces, and retrofitting entryways and bathrooms for accessibility. These renovations promote the availability of safe, patient-centered care close to home.
- **Strengthen and expand rural maternal health workforce:** Fund and implement comprehensive programs that recruit, train, and retain obstetricians, gynecologists, midwives, doulas, Community Health Aides/Practitioners (CHA/Ps) and Behavioral Health Aides/Practitioners (BHA/Ps) to serve in rural and frontier communities. Support provider development through virtual and in-person training, invest in training centers, simulation-based skill-building for pregnancy, labor and postpartum care, behavioral health, and rotations in higher-volume settings to maintain clinical competencies suited for rural Alaskan practice. Incorporate training in remote consultation and monitoring technologies and invest in community engagement activities that raise awareness of the roles and contributions of the maternal health workforce in delivering high-quality care. These activities help address rural workforce shortages and promote culturally appropriate, patient-centered care for mothers and infants. *(Key Intersection with Initiative #5: Strengthen Workforce)*
- **Enhance maternal child health home visiting programs:** Provide start-up funding to establish or expand prenatal and postpartum home visiting services that build on Alaska's existing health clinic infrastructure. Home visiting teams made up of clinical and non-clinical health and community workers will partner with clinics to provide culturally appropriate, family-centered care in home and community settings. These teams will offer screening for prenatal and postpartum depression and other health risks, as well as education and support for breastfeeding, nutrition, safe sleep practices, and infant development during the first year after birth. The program will connect families with local resources, strengthen coordination across health systems, and strengthen the role of providers in supporting maternal and child health outcomes statewide. This program will also support the enhancement and expansion of Tribal maternal health programs.
- **Expand access to lactation consultation and early infant support:** Invest in programs that support access to lactation consultants through telehealth and in-person visits, especially in rural and frontier areas. Support early intervention and parenting education programs to foster healthy infant development, including the expansion of safe sleep education programs. *(Key Intersection with Initiative #5: Strengthen Workforce)*

- **Increase access to affordable and quality child care in rural and frontier communities:** Fund the development, improvement, and stabilization of licensed child care centers, family-based programs, and flexible care options tailored for rural and frontier Alaska. Promote integration of health and developmental supports by funding programs to offer evidence-based nutrition and physical activity curricula, routine developmental screening, behavioral health referrals, and breastfeeding supports, all of which positively impact lifelong health. Provide grants and subsidies for facility renovations, workforce recruitment and training, and operational support to help local providers meet demand and quality standards. Collaborate with partners to connect families to available services and provide technical assistance for new and existing providers, while aligning child care expansion with broader health and early childhood priorities. Child care programs include those designed to meet the needs of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities by funding specialized staff training, adaptive equipment, and care models that support full participation and early developmental success.
- **Expand youth programming through school-based enrichment:** Support school districts, home-schooling programs, community organizations with dedicated funding to launch and grow school and after-school programs that build a foundation of lifelong health. These programs emphasize physical activity, fitness, and skill-building activities for children and youth that foster strength, endurance, and healthy habits, drawing on national benchmarks such as the Presidential Fitness Test. Prioritize rural and frontier communities where access to such programming is limited and fund the use of dual-purpose spaces (such as remodeled school buildings) for extracurricular learning, recreation, and wellness. Fund evidence-based mental and behavioral health supports to build resilience and positive social connections, core drivers of better long-term health outcomes.

#2) Health Care Access

Description:

This initiative is designed to expand and sustain access to essential health services across Alaska's road system and off-road system communities, where geography, harsh weather, and limited workforce often make it difficult for people to receive timely and comprehensive care. By building a more reliable, resilient, and community-centered system that brings most care close to home and supports specialized care at higher-volume, high-quality regional providers when needed, it strengthens the foundation for long-term health and well-being across Alaska's rural and most remote frontier communities.

This initiative strengthens health care access by: (a) expanding access to **integrated primary/behavioral and integrating oral health care**; (b) improving access to **specialty care** through telehealth, remote care monitoring, and mobile specialist teams; (c) ensuring 24/7 access to **urgent and emergency services**, adapted for rural and frontier realities; (d) supporting seniors with **aging-in-place and home and community-based services**; and (e) supporting healing and transitions with **post-acute and recovery care** at home or in the community.

Potential Use of Funds:

- **Support meaningful co-location of behavioral health services with primary care to deliver integrated whole-person care:** Invest in facility renovations to expand availability of behavioral health and substance use disorder services in hospitals, rural and frontier health clinics, and health and wellness centers. Support trainings to empower existing workforce to implement integrated care delivery models.
- **Deploy mobile dental clinics:** Fund the start-up, implementation and deployment of mobile dental clinics equipped to provide preventive and basic restorative dental care in rural and frontier communities. These clinics can travel to communities lacking local dental providers, offering services like dental exams, cleanings, fluoride varnish, sealants, and oral health education on a regular schedule, in partnership with local community organizations and schools. This initiative will also support the enhancement and expansion of existing Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) programs.
- **Modernize facilities to improve access to high-quality specialty care:** Provide targeted investments for renovations that expand access to specialized services such as emergency psychiatric care, time-sensitive events, substance use treatment and recovery programs, complex care homes, therapeutic treatment homes, and neurorehabilitation. These improvements help ensure that comprehensive care is available when and where patients need it most.
- **Create virtual specialty care access programs to better connect rural and frontier residents to providers:** Invest in and expand existing virtual care and remote-monitoring infrastructure and protocols that connect rural and frontier health care sites with remote specialty providers. Include funding for mobile specialist teams to provide in-person consultations on a rotating schedule. (*Key Intersection with Initiative #6: Spark Technology & Infrastructure*)
- **Establish incentives for providers to develop and sustain innovative complex care models:** Develop and enhance care models serving individuals with cooccurring complex needs, such as intellectual and developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injury, autism spectrum disorder, and dementia. Support care delivery that integrates medical, behavioral, and long-term services that result in improved access, better care coordination, and improved quality of life.
- **Support partnerships between rural clinicians and regional health systems to enable local specialized care when possible:** Deploy tele-mentoring to enable collaboration when managing complex cases across coordinated providers and improving quality of care delivered.
- **Strengthen Tribally-led Traditional Healing in care delivery:** Support and expand existing Indigenous Traditional Healing practices within the Tribal health system by funding service expansion supports (including home visits where appropriate), mentorship and for traditional healers, and orientation/education for clinic staff and providers to foster culturally appropriate, holistic care.
- **Enhance statewide pharmacy capacity to expand access:** Implement funding to establish and expand access to pharmacy services including, but not limited to medication management, adherence support, substance use treatment assistance, and disease-specific counseling. Support pharmacist training and licensure to implement test and treat programs, expanding access to point-of-care testing and diagnostic

services. Create or pilot payment models that reimburse pharmacists for these clinical services, incentivizing expanded chronic care roles and improving care continuity outside traditional clinical settings. This program will also support the enhancement and expansion of existing Tribal pharmacist networks. *(Key Intersection with #5: Pay for Value)*

- **Pilot technology-enabled care model to serve rural and frontier residents with intellectual and development disabilities:** Develop targeted care coordination and delivery program for rural Alaskans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) that recruits and trains interdisciplinary clinical and non-clinical community and health workers to help individuals and their families connect with IDD specialists, navigate rural health care systems, access health services, and connect to other IDD support programs. The program will establish regional partnerships with local providers and Tribal Health Organizations to deliver culturally appropriate, integrated care tailored to rural and frontier community needs.
- **Drive transformation of the statewide EMS system:** Engage with public and private stakeholders to move toward a cohesive emergency medical system that meets rural and frontier community needs and promotes long-term financial sustainability. Build the operational backbone needed for EMS to function as a true extension of regional health systems, ensuring every Alaskan can access higher levels of care without delay in critical situations.
- **Provide targeted training to improve financial viability of EMS providers:** Train EMS agencies to use compliant and appropriate billing codes to seek reimbursement for services delivered. Pilot alternative payment structures to support long-term financial sustainability. *(Key Intersection with Initiative #4: Pay for Value: Fiscal Sustainability)*
- **Support aging-in-place through workforce development for long-term care providers:** Fund training programs for home health aides, personal care attendants, and family caregivers to expand the skilled workforce needed to help Alaska's seniors safely remain in their homes. This includes supporting state and community-based initiatives that provide job training and employment opportunities in caregiving roles. Emphasis will be placed on culturally appropriate care models and ongoing professional development to improve retention and quality of care in rural and frontier communities.
- **Foster community-based senior programs to maintain or improve health:** Invest in evidence-based programs that educate and support seniors in reducing fall risks, maintaining good nutrition, supporting oral health, and increasing social interaction. These initiatives promote physical and mental well-being, reduce isolation, and delay or prevent the need for more intensive care. Programs may include home safety assessments, group exercise classes, meal delivery with nutrition education, and community events designed to strengthen social bonds among older adults in rural and frontier Alaskan communities.
- **Expand skilled nursing facilities and enhance post-acute care transition programs:** Expand regional skilled nursing facility (SNF) capacity through funding for renovations, equipment, and telehealth upgrades; workforce training programs, and partnerships between regional health systems and local clinics. Fund programs that offer post-discharge home visits to improve recovery outcomes, reduce barriers to discharge, and reduce hospital readmissions. Home visits may include assisting patients with remote monitoring set-up and participation in

telehealth visits, medication reconciliation, and coordinating transportation to or in-home physical therapy, for example.

#3) Healthy Communities

Description:

Building healthier communities requires targeted solutions for the unique challenges faced by rural and frontier areas, including geographic isolation and workforce shortages that limit timely access to care and contribute to unmanaged chronic disease and poor health outcomes. The Healthy Communities initiative addresses these acute rural needs by investing in preventive care and tackling upstream health drivers.

This initiative advances these goals by: (a) supporting **culturally appropriate health promotion and disease prevention** through locally tailored, community-based education and awareness programs specifically designed to meet the unique needs of rural and frontier populations; (b) expanding the **use of consumer-facing digital tools**, population health management systems, and community-based workforce capacity to enhance outreach, preventive care, and coordination across rural and frontier communities; (c) promoting healthy lifestyles by increasing **access to nutrition, physical activity, and stable housing**; and (d) **fostering social connections** and improved health through investment in local social services programming and transportation solutions that specifically aim to reduce geographic and logistical barriers commonly experienced in rural and frontier settings.

Potential Use of Funds:

- **Deploy consumer-facing digital tools for chronic disease self-management:** Support use of mobile apps, wearable devices, and patient portals that empower individuals with chronic conditions to track symptoms, access educational resources, and communicate directly with care teams for timely support and medication adjustments. *(Key Intersection with Initiative #6: Spark Technology & Infrastructure)*
- **Build data infrastructure to support population health management:** Invest in interoperable data systems and analytics platforms that aggregate clinical, behavioral, and health-related needs information. Enable care teams and health systems to identify high-risk patients, monitor outcomes in real-time, and tailor interventions for more effective, proactive chronic disease management at the community level. *(Key Intersection with Initiative #6: Spark Technology & Infrastructure)*
- **Launch mobile primary and preventive care units:** Deploy mobile clinics and community paramedicine programs to deliver routine health screenings, immunizations, and chronic disease monitoring directly in innovative sites, including schools and other community locations, or home-based visits. Include deployment of unmanned kiosks providing wellness and preventive health products.
- **Fund evidence-based community programs that deliver health education, increase health literacy, encourage adoption of healthy behaviors, and support effective management chronic disease:** Implement nutrition education, diabetes management education, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Healthy Foods Waiver; National Diabetes Prevention Program to reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes; Alaska's [Fresh Start](#) campaign to support individual weight loss, blood pressure control, and tobacco cessation; and digitally-enabled, coach-supported behavior change interventions.

- **Establish wellness centers within existing sites to promote and enable healthy lifestyles:** Invest in infrastructure modifications and equipment in existing workplace facilities or community centers to offer dedicated space and resources to facilitate physical activity, support local food production and healthy eating initiatives, provide nutrition education and cooking classes focused on nutritious diets, and host other wellness programming.
- **Expand transportation access to improve well-being:** Establish a community mobility support program that helps individuals and families overcome transportation barriers to essential services such as health care, employment, and housing support. Collaborate with local transit agencies, community groups, and Tribal partners to offer flexible solutions tailored to the needs of rural and remote areas.
- **Provide technical assistance to assess localized community health needs and strategic planning:** Fund data collection, stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning activities to develop population health improvement plans focused on long-term system sustainability. This effort will also increase collaboration across rural and frontier providers and facilitate regional planning to right-size services, optimize resource sharing, and enhance coordinated care delivery across communities.

#4) Pay for Value: Fiscal Sustainability

Description:

Traditional volume-based reimbursement models are financially unsustainable for rural providers, whose smaller patient volumes and geographic isolation limit their ability to generate sufficient revenue under fee-for-service systems. Building long-term fiscal sustainability requires a transition to payment models that allow providers to invest in preventive, primary, and behavioral health care, strengthen chronic disease management, and maintain access to essential acute care services.

The Pay for Value initiative supports this transition by: (a) **developing and piloting alternative payment models** that reduce costs, improve efficiency, and incentivize providers to achieve better health outcomes; (b) enhancing providers' financial resilience by **building the capacity needed to succeed in value-based arrangements** and strengthen operational performance; and (c) **investing in the resources**, included but not limited to data systems, care coordination tools, and workforce supports, which are **necessary to sustain value-based care and deliver high-quality services** across Alaska.

Through these efforts, the initiative advances long-term stability for health care organizations, safeguards public resources, and improves outcomes for patients and communities statewide. Recognizing that providers are at various stages of readiness and face unique challenges, participation in this initiative is voluntary and supported through flexible approaches.

Potential Use of Funds:

- **Deliver technical assistance for successful value-based care participation:** Provide targeted support for rural and frontier facilities and practices to build core competencies required for participation in value-based care arrangements, including support for contract evaluation and negotiation, implementation planning, change management, performance benchmarking, patient attribution, and financial modeling.
- **Support value-based care infrastructure:** Invest funding in rural providers' IT infrastructure, staffing and equipment to build their capacity to participate and succeed in value-based payment arrangements, including implementation of modern, interoperable data infrastructure, training to utilize population health analytics platforms, design of team-based care workflows, and integration of physical, behavioral, and social care services.
- **Establish value-based payment methodologies:** Design, pilot, and scale new payment models for high-value services such as primary care, maternal health, behavioral health, oral health, and chronic disease management, offering payment incentives to providers for collaboration, actionable quality metric submission and measurable improvements in patient outcomes.
- **Promote participation in CMS Innovation Center models:** Incent and support providers' participation in innovative care models led by the CMS Innovation Center that require up-front costs for planning and financial modeling, risk assessments, new partnerships and measurement and reporting requirements.
- **Establish rural health provider efficiency and sustainability accelerator program:** Deliver a customized accelerator program for rural health providers to address key topics that support providers' sustainability and transformation efforts, including for example strategic goal setting, service line analysis, financial modeling, and improvements in operational efficiencies.
- **Build high-value provider networks, support and integration hubs:** Stand up voluntary, member-led "backbone" organizations that provide shared analytics and population health tools, care-model coaching and coordination, interoperable IT/telehealth, and admin/compliance supports. Enhance and integrate already established systems.
- **Invest in state systems to promote provider financial sustainability:** Transform state eligibility, enrollment, and care assessment systems and resources to ensure Alaskans are accurately connected to the right payer and appropriate services. Investments in eligibility and enrollment systems reduce the burden of uncompensated care by accurately determining eligibility for public coverage, helping providers verify coverage in real time, streamlining care authorizations, and improving billing efficiency. Taken together, these investments optimize the allocation and braiding of public resources and minimize administrative burden on rural providers, resulting in more predictable revenue streams and stronger financial stability for health care organizations across Alaska.
- **Launch a transitional risk corridor program:** Establish a time-limited mechanism to reduce unanticipated financial losses for providers participating in new or alternative payment models. This program will enable critical community providers to adopt innovative approaches to care delivery while maintaining financial stability during the transition period.

#5) Strengthen Workforce

Description:

This initiative is designed to build a robust and resilient health care workforce focused on three important areas: (a) **creating robust pipeline and recruitment strategies**, which requires investment to grow and attract providers through “grow our own” high school to certification programs, improvements to rural internships, rotations and residencies with five-year commitments, as well as signing bonuses and loan repayment initiatives with five-year commitments for certain high need provider types; (b) **retaining rural providers** through mentoring programs, Continuing Medical Education opportunities, retention bonuses tied to five-year commitments and provider supports inclusive of housing placement coordination with local partners, housing supports and child care; and (c) **implementing provider training and certification programs** that involve virtual and in-person training to address health care gaps in rural Alaska with emphasis on clinical and non-clinical health and community professionals, including but not limited to community health workers, Community Health Aides/Practitioners, Behavioral Health Aides/Practitioners, and Dental Health Aide Therapists, peer supports specialists, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, community paramedicine providers, midwives, doulas, and long-term care providers.

Potential Use of Funds:

- **Create “grow our own” high school to certification programs:** Fund the development of online and in-person local training programs for rural high school students or recent graduates pursuing health care careers such as certification as paramedics, nursing assistants, behavioral health technicians, community health workers, Community Health Aides, Behavioral Health Aides, and Dental Health Aide Therapists, among others. Training opportunities would include stipends, distance learning options so students can stay in their communities, and career coaching.
- **Offer structured incentives to certain providers who commit to serving five years or longer in a rural community:** Fund structured incentives for high-need providers (such as nurses, dentists, midwives, behavioral health professionals and other clinical and non-clinical community and health professionals) through upfront bonuses tied to five-year service commitments, with repayment required if the obligation is not fulfilled. To further support provider stability in rural communities, provide housing placement coordination with local partners, housing stipends, and child care stipends.
- **Implement strategies to actively recruit and retain providers across the state and especially in rural and frontier communities:** Provide funding for active recruitment, technical assistance, and grants to rural regions to implement recruiting and retention strategies.
- **Expand the health workforce:** Fund training academies and integration programs to increase the number of community health workers, Community Health Aides/Practitioners, Behavioral Health Aides/Practitioners, and Dental Health Aide Therapists, peer behavioral health specialists, care coordinators, care navigators, doulas, mobile integrated health teams and community paramedicine within rural care teams to provide outreach, education, and navigation supports. (*Key Intersection with Initiative #5: Strengthen Workforce*)

- **Support development and expansion of residency programs:** Provide funding to develop and expand residency programs in Alaska including high demand rural specialties. Support the development of residency and internship programs in community out-patient settings in rural communities.
- **Expand Scope of Practice:** Invest in systems, resources, and collaborative models that support providers in practicing at the top of their licensure.
- **Launch housing resources for health care providers:** Fund an integrated housing program that promotes strategies to increase housing placement and support for health care providers in rural and frontier communities and provides technical assistance and oversight to rural communities with housing shortages.
- **Provide child care supports to enhance rural provider retention:** Rural health care providers often lack the capital and expertise to make investments in child care supports for their workforce on their own. To address these challenges, fund free or subsidized child care for rural health care providers and their families, including onsite child care centers or partnership agreements with local providers. These child care supports are designed to address a primary barrier to recruitment and long-term retention in remote communities, and can be paired with retention bonuses, housing placement assistance, and provider support programs to make rural and frontier practice more feasible and appealing. *(Key Intersection with Initiative #1: Healthy Beginnings)*

#6) Spark Technology & Infrastructure

Description:

This initiative modernizes technology and drives innovation to ensure rural health care providers can deliver secure, efficient, and high-quality care. By developing reliable, interoperable, and data-driven tools, it establishes a foundation for robust, community-based, patient-centered care, reaching even the state's most remote communities. The initiative will focus on the following areas: (a) improving access to and use of **consumer-facing wearables and digital health devices** paired with comprehensive provider training and ongoing technical assistance; (b) expanding **telehealth** by improving providers' **internet connectivity and** information technology systems; and (c) facilitating **provider data sharing and systems interoperability** by upgrading electronic health records, supporting participation in statewide and national health information exchanges, and supporting clinical workforce training and workflow redesign to leverage these capabilities. These coordinated investments will empower Alaska's rural providers with innovative tools that will facilitate coordinated care delivery and improved population health management.

Potential Use of Funds:

- **Deploy consumer-facing digital tools for chronic disease self-management, behavioral health, maternal and child health, and patient safety:** Invest in the development of mobile apps, remote monitoring devices, and patient portals that empower individuals with chronic

conditions, individuals with behavioral health and substance use disorder, pregnant women, and patients at risk of falls or other harms to track symptoms, access educational resources, and communicate directly with care teams for timely support, medication adjustments, and symptom management. Provide technical assistance to train and support providers in their use of digital solutions. Provide training to clinical and non-clinical health and community workers to help patients learn to use the technology. (*Key Intersection with Initiative #2: Health Care Access*)

- **Empower providers' use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools for care delivery:** Provide start-up funding as well as training and technical assistance to a wide range of clinical providers and support staff to leverage AI-powered documentation and workflow tools.
- **Develop community-based system navigation applications:** Invest in community-based applications that connect rural and frontier community members with nearby clinical and social services, provide scheduling assistance, care navigation, and care coordination with member's care team, and offer in-person and digital support.
- **Invest in standards-based platforms that integrate and store patient health data in the statewide health information exchange:** Invest in a common platform that stores and integrates patient health data from remote monitoring devices and other clinical data systems, enabling real-time monitoring, provider/patient alerts, and seamless exchange to inform care delivery and improve health outcomes.
- **Create telehealth-enabled specialty care access programs:** Invest in telehealth infrastructure supported by reliable internet access and hospital and clinic IT upgrades. Develop protocols that connect rural and frontier primary care sites with remote specialty providers in cardiology, endocrinology, oncology, and maternal-fetal medicine. Fund the infrastructure and training for mobile specialist teams that provide in-person consultations on a rotating schedule. Provide training and technical assistance to educate and support rural providers and specialist teams to maintain best practices, create common workflows and build collaboration. (*Key Intersection with Initiative #2: Health Care Access*)
- **Launch rural and frontier health infrastructure catalyst fund:** Leverage public-private partnerships to braid resources and address the acute need for rural and frontier health facility capital projects. RHTP funds will be leveraged for pre-development costs, renovations within existing spaces, and one-time start-up costs for new facilities, while private partner organization funds will be braided in for new construction needs, major expansion capital projects, and long-term financing sustainability.
- **Integrate analytics into state health and Medicaid systems:** Apply smart technology tools within Alaska's Medicaid and public health data systems to strengthen analytics, improve program integrity, improve care coordination, and enhance decision-making. Uses may include modeling to detect fraud, waste, and abuse; critical incidents; advanced claims analytics to identify emerging cost and utilization trends; and population-level risk stratification to guide care management and resource allocation. These efforts align with Alaska's health data modernization strategy to enable secure, transparent, and ethical AI deployment.
- **Build population health IT infrastructure to support data-driven chronic disease management:** Invest in interoperable electronic health record systems, data systems, and analytics platforms that aggregate clinical, behavioral, and social determinants of health information. Provide training to care teams to identify high-risk patients, monitor outcomes in real-time, and tailor interventions for more effective,

proactive chronic disease management at the community level. Provide technical assistance to support data analytics. (*Key Intersection with Initiative #3: Healthy Communities*)

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