

# Rural Health Transformation in Virginia

## Updates, Opportunities, and Next Steps

June 3, 2026

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# Agenda

Meet the Team

**01**

Program Background

**02**

Virginia's Journey to Rural Health Transformation

**03**

What's Next

**04**

Q&A

**05**

# Meet the Team

The RHTP Team is continuing to expand to support evolving priorities.



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# Program Background



# RHTP Background

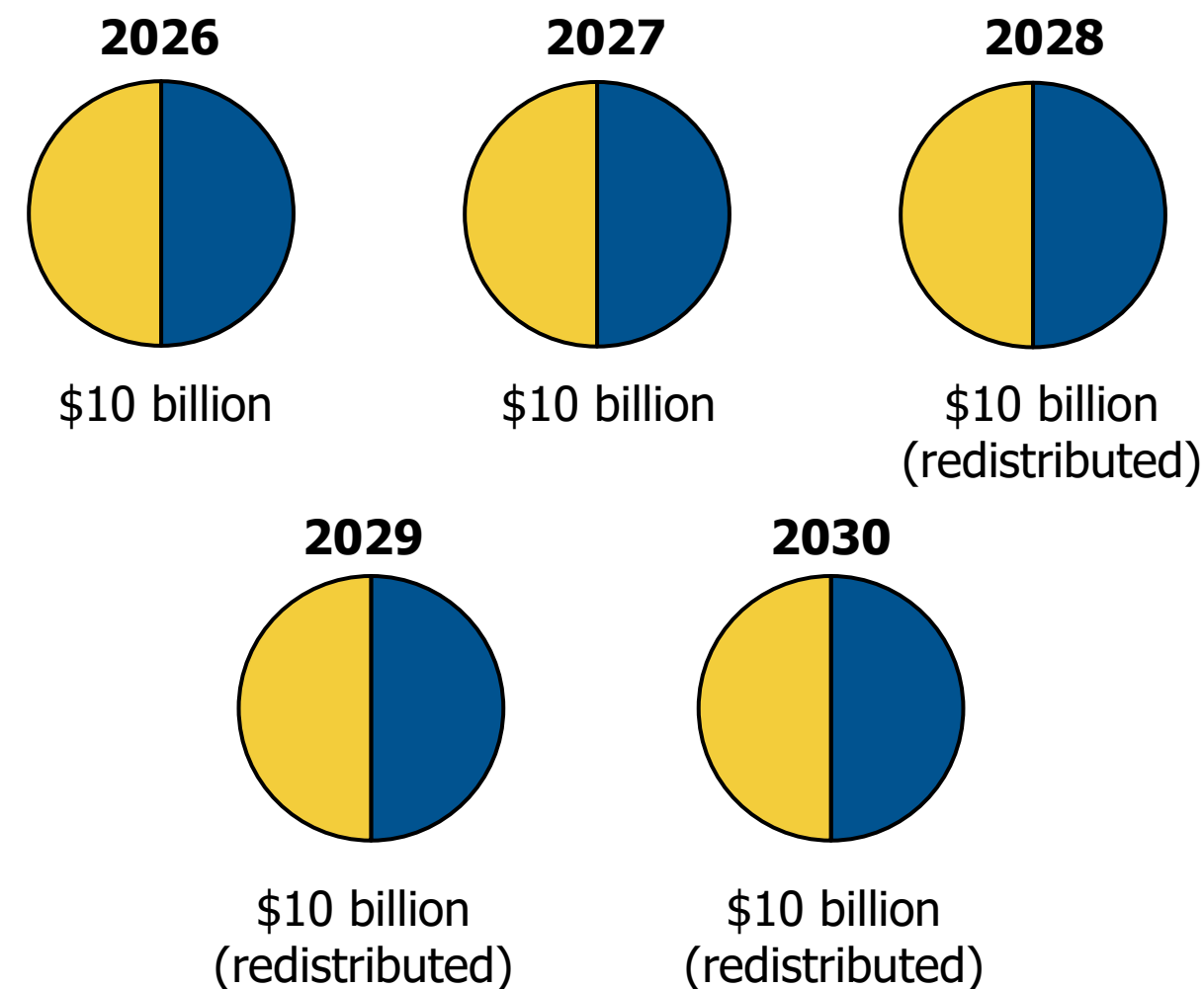
## Overview

1. The Rural Health Transformation Program was established through **federal legislation** (H.R. 1).
2. The program is backed by **\$50 billion in total federal funding over a five-year period**, making it one of the largest federal investments ever dedicated specifically to rural health systems.
3. **All 50 states** are participating in the Rural Health Transformation Program.
4. Virginia was awarded **\$189.5 million for Year 1**. These funds are administered by the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS).

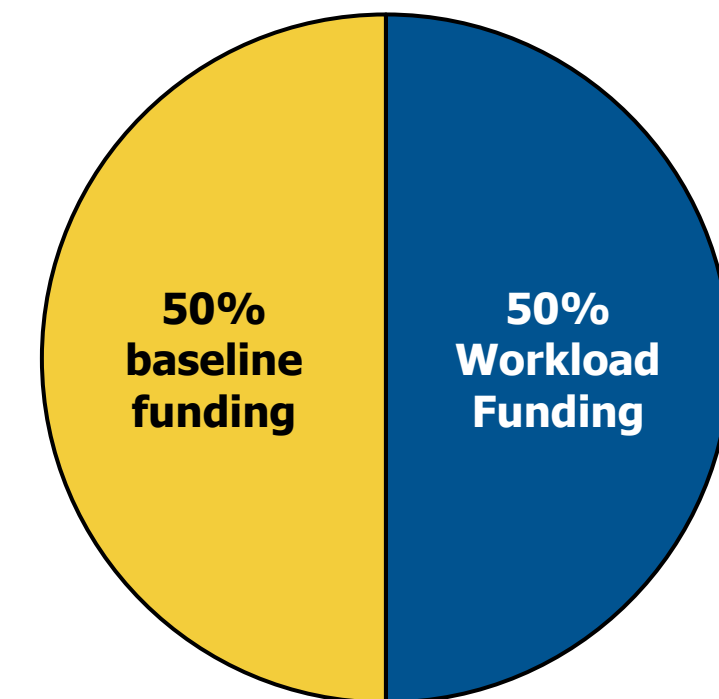
## National Distribution of Baseline Funding and Workload Funding

**\$50 billion awarded from FY 2026 to FY 2030, with \$10 billion awarded each budget period (plus any redistributed funds)**

**For each budget period, available funding is split equally between baseline and workload funding**



## Funding per budget period



Baseline funding distributed equally among all approved States.

# RHTP Application Process



Following the CMS Notice of Funding Opportunity for the RHTP, Virginia developed and submitted a comprehensive plan that included a description of the state's rural health needs and target populations; goals, proposed initiatives, and sustainability plans; an implementation plan, timeline, and budget narrative; a metrics and evaluation plan; and evidence of stakeholder engagement.

**September 15, 2025**



CMS released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and application instructions via Grants.gov. Only the 50 state governments were eligible to apply.

**September – October 2025**



Virginia informed its application development through twelve stakeholder listening sessions and a publicly advertised inbox.

**November 5, 2025**



Deadline for all 50 states to submit their applications to CMS.

**December 29, 2025**



CMS issued determinations, officially approving all state applications.

Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas and proposals in Fall 2025! Your contributions were critical to the development of Virginia's RHT application.



# Virginia's Rural Regions

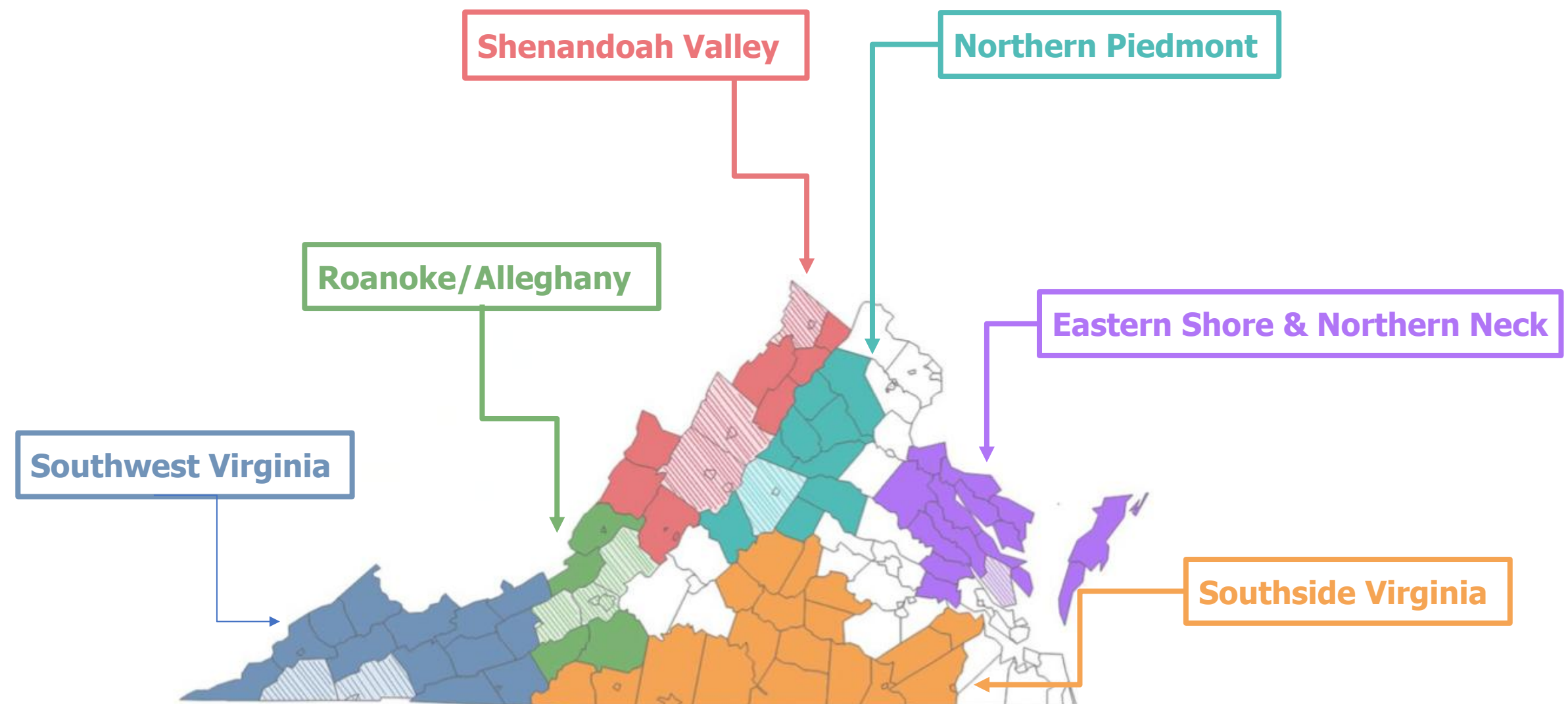
The Commonwealth uses the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy's (FORHP) definition of rural regions. Eligible subrecipients are those that are in rural regions as defined by FORHP or those that can demonstrate that their project will target residents of rural counties.

## FORHP's Definition of Rural Regions

- All non-metro counties,
- All outlying metro counties without an Urbanized Area,
- All metro census tracts with Rural Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes 4-10, **and**
- Metro census tracts of at least 400 square miles in area with population density of 35 or less per square mile with RUCA codes 2-3.

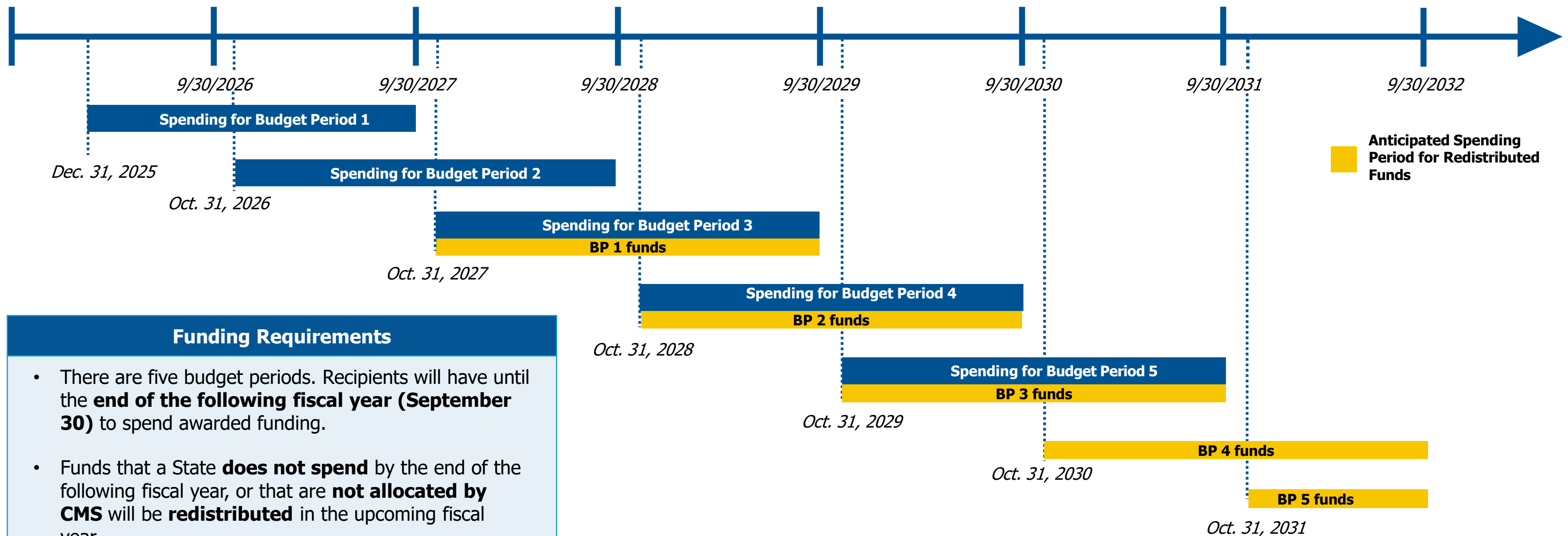
## Map of Virginia's Rural Regions

*Striped colors denote non-rural counties of rural regions.*



# Virginia's RHTP Funding

Virginia applied for \$989.5M of RHTP funding. Virginia was awarded \$189.5M for Budget Period 1. Funding for budget periods 2 through 5 will be awarded annually, subject to annual review.



### Funding Requirements

- There are five budget periods. Recipients will have until the **end of the following fiscal year (September 30)** to spend awarded funding.
- Funds that a State **does not spend** by the end of the following fiscal year, or that are **not allocated by CMS** will be **redistributed** in the upcoming fiscal year.

# Virginia's Journey to Rural Health Transformation

# Virginia RHTP Overview



The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) aims to improve access to care and reduce health care disparities in rural Virginia through the program's four initiatives.

## Virginia RHTP's Four Initiatives



### CareIQ

Modernizes healthcare via **technology and data-driven** healthcare.



### Connected to Care, Closer to Home

Brings healthcare options, including specialists, **closer to Virginians' homes.**



### Homegrown Health Heroes

Expands the **rural healthcare workforce** and creates pathways for rural residents into healthcare careers.



### Live Well, Together

Ensures **prevention and chronic disease management** stay at the forefront of Virginians' care plans.

# Virginia's Four Initiatives

Virginia's RHTP includes four core initiatives, with stakeholder input playing a key role in shaping their design and focus.

## Phase 1: Implementers Selected



	CareIQ 	Homegrown Health Heroes 
<b>Purpose</b>	Will deploy cutting edge technology and increase provider efficiency, reduce hospital admissions and readmissions, and improve chronic disease prevention and management.	Will increase the workforce in rural Virginia for both clinicians and Allied Health Professionals, with a focus on developing local talent.
<b>Sub-Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tech Innovation Fund</li> <li>Provider Productivity</li> <li>Provider Interoperability</li> <li>Remote Patient Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attract and Retain Physicians</li> <li>Allied Health Degrees</li> <li>Earn to Learn Programs</li> <li>Build Career Pipelines</li> </ul>
<b>Implementers</b>	  	   

# Virginia's Four Initiatives

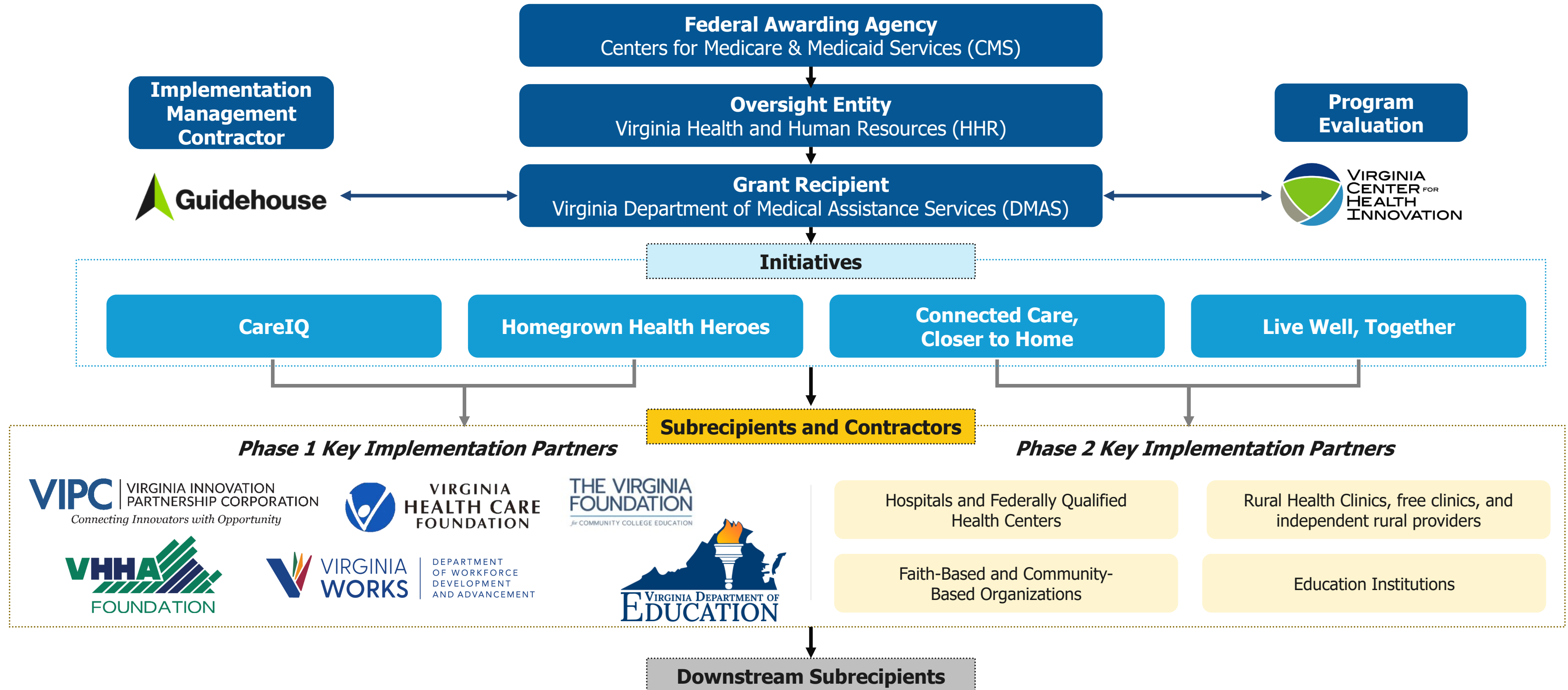


Virginia's RHTP includes four core initiatives, with stakeholder input playing a key role in shaping their design and focus.

## Phase 2: Implementer Selections Underway

	<b>Connected Care, Closer to Home</b> 	<b>Live Well, Together</b> 
<b>Purpose</b>	Will bring flexible and sustainable care to communities, driving care accessibility and reducing avoidable Emergency Department (ED) admissions.	Will expand prevention efforts, decrease rates of key chronic disease indicators, increase fresh food consumption and reduce avoidable hospitalizations by empowering Virginians to live healthier lifestyles.
<b>Sub-Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile and Hybrid Care</li> <li>• Community Paramedicine</li> <li>• Innovative Maternal Care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food is Medicine</li> <li>• Active Kids</li> <li>• Consumer Tech</li> <li>• Integrated Care for Duals</li> </ul>
<b>Implementers</b>	Rural Healthcare Providers	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers</p> <p>Faith-Based and Community-Based Organizations</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Rural Health Clinics, free clinics, and independent rural providers</p> <p>Education Institutions</p> </div> </div>

# Program Structure



# Recent Successes



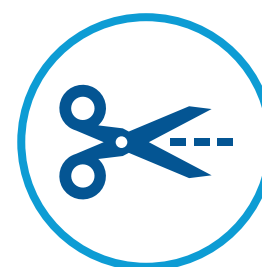
**Expanding the rural healthcare workforce:**

Virginia Highlands Community College will be awarded \$127,500 through the Rural Health Transformation grant to expand healthcare workforce training opportunities.



**Listening to local healthcare leaders:**

At Virginia Highlands Community College, Governor Spanberger convened a roundtable with regional healthcare providers to hear firsthand about challenges facing rural communities.



**Increasing access to care:**

The Governor also marked the opening of a new facility at the Appalachian Highlands Community Dental Center.

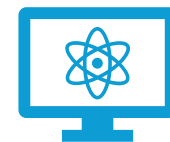
# Current Focus Areas

Currently, the RHTP is advancing with three core priorities: aligning with federal requirements, strengthening communication channels, and developing contractual agreements.



## Aligning with Federal Requirements

- Strengthening compliance with CMS funding, reporting, and performance requirements to position VA for future funding years.
- Standardizing guidance on metrics, reporting, and allowable use of funds to support effective implementation and efficiently distribute funds into rural communities.



## Building Communication Channels

- Expanding public access to program information through the RHTP website and newsletter to maintain transparency.
- Supporting ongoing engagement through webinars, regional listening sessions, and stakeholder forums to continue ongoing dialogue with implementers and the public.



## Developing Subrecipient Agreements

- Advancing agreements with implementation partners to support program launch and funding distribution.
- Equipping implementation partners with the tools to develop Requests for Applications (RFAs).

# What's Next



# Stay Engaged

To stay up-to-date on Virginia's Rural Health Transformation Program, visit the Program website and sign up for the RHTP Newsletter for updates and upcoming Request for Applications (RFA) information.

Scan to access  
**WEBSITE**



<https://dmas.virginia.gov/data-reporting/programs-services/rural-health-transformation/>

Scan to sign up for  
**NEWSLETTER**



<https://www.hhr.virginia.gov/contact-us/>

Scan to submit to  
**NEWSLETTER**



<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=qeUKYsFOoE-GQV2fOGxzCU182m-LuJOhDuQu9Twmo9UNjdIRExSOEVTRVVBVUcySUIEMIJWTVFJNyQIQCN0PWcu&route=shorturl>

**Questions?**



# Thank You!

## Contact

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