

# State of Alaska Department of Health

Department Updates  
Alaska Municipal League

Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner



Tuesday, February 17, 2026

# 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

# Cooperation between CMS and DOH



***“The Recipient must use funds for the purposes stated in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity] and the purposes approved by CMS in the approved application.” – RHTP Notice of Award***

All RHTP funding must be reviewed and approved by CMS.

This is a cooperative agreement; CMS and DOH work together throughout the grant.

CMS involvement includes:

- Regular communication and planning input
- Review and approval of key activities, budget, performance measures, and personnel
- Technical assistance and evaluation support
- Collaboration on adjustments to workplans if needed

# 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

*RHTP will fund projects with clear sustainability plans that will look different for each project and community.*

# Alaska RHTP Participants



Potential funding recipients include, but are not limited to:

Health care providers

Hospitals and clinics

Tribal Health Organizations

EMS

Local governments

Community centers

Schools

Non-profit organizations

State agencies



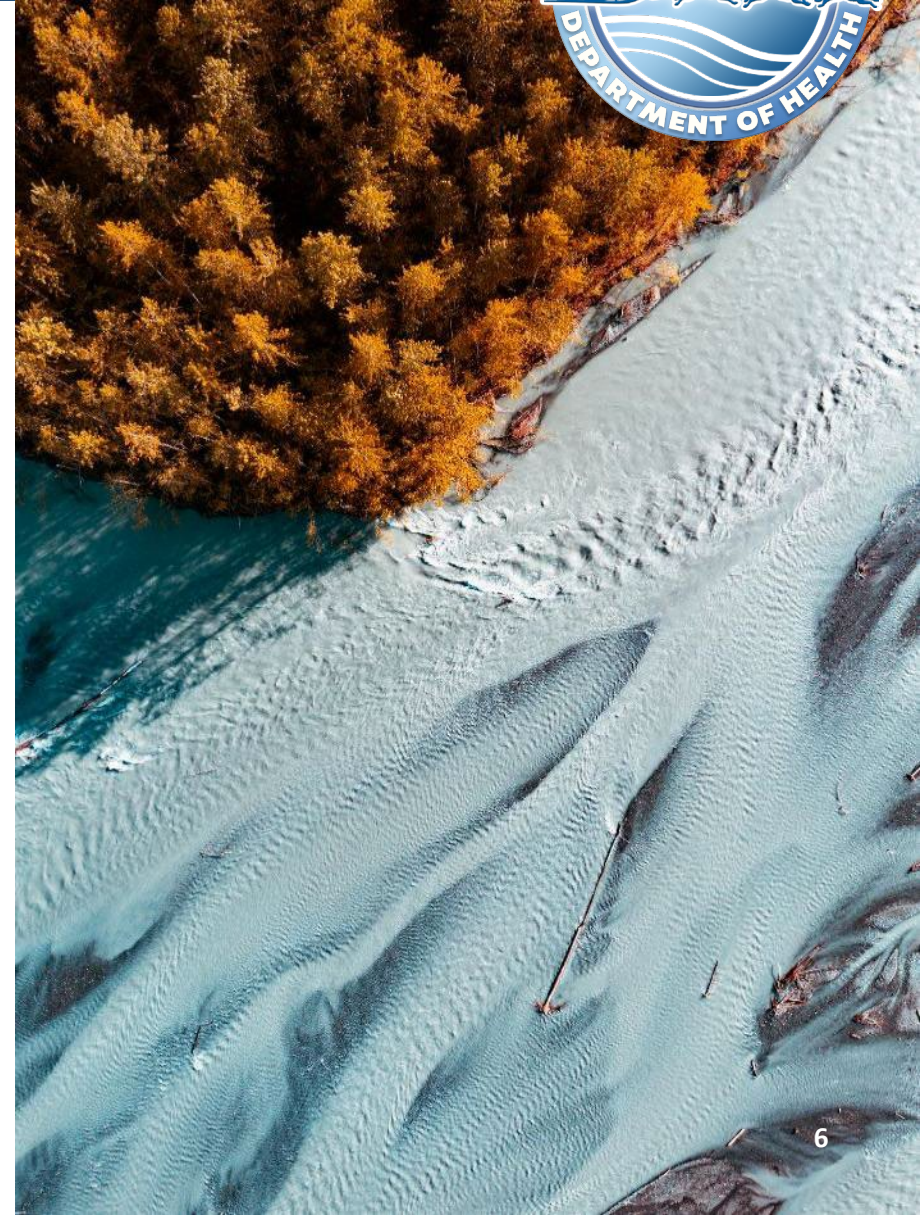
**Entities across Alaska can apply for RHTP funds**

# 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



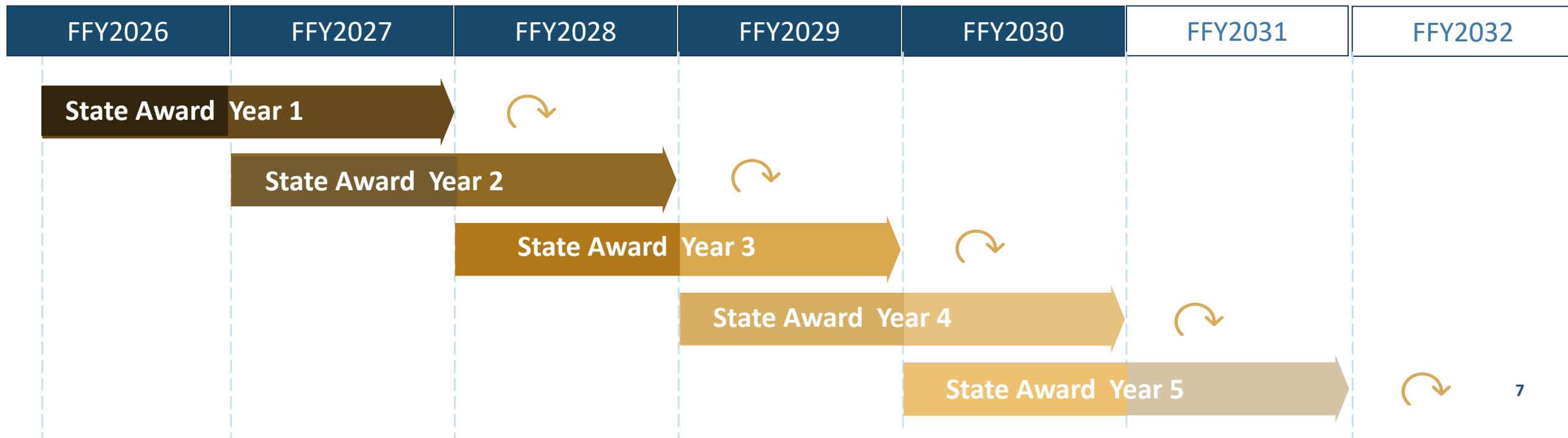
# RHTP Funding Timeline



CMS will make annual awards to states.

- States have one year to incur costs (obligate funds) and an additional year to finish spending them
- Beginning March 31, 2028, CMS will start annually redistributing unspent funds. Any final reallocated funds must be spent by the end of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2032

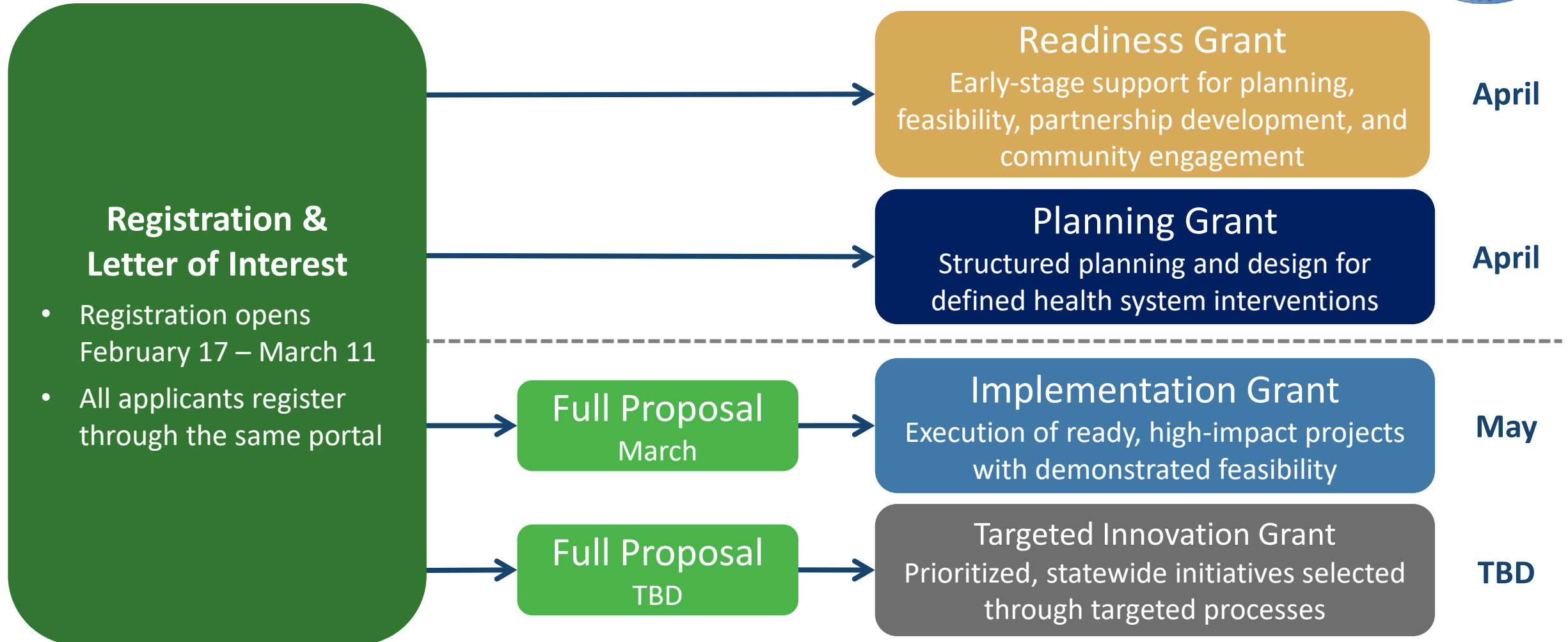
**REMINDER: This is one-time, five-year funding. Investments must be sustainable after RHTP funding concludes**



# Funding Pathways



# Anticipated Application Timeline



# Stay Informed



For more information, please visit:

[health.alaska.gov/RHTP](https://health.alaska.gov/RHTP)

Email:

[DOH.RHTP@alaska.gov](mailto:DOH.RHTP@alaska.gov)

Resources:

[Webinars](#)

[Initiatives](#)

[Convenings](#)

[FAQs](#)

## Rural Health Transformation Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)?

[View +](#)

What is the goal of RHTP?

[View +](#)

Can RHTP funds support projects anywhere in Alaska? Can organizations in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and other hub communities apply?

[View +](#)

Who can apply for RHTP funding?

[View +](#)

What can RHTP funds be used for?

[View +](#)

What can RHTP funds not be used for?

[View +](#)

Is Alaska's RHTP Project Narrative final?

[View +](#)

How will the program be administered?

[View +](#)

When can organizations apply?

[View +](#)

How will applications be reviewed? Will the criteria be public?

[View +](#)

# Governor's Task Force on Child Care



4 Studies | 2 Reports | 56 Recommendations

➔ Key Accomplishments

Child Care  
System  
Modernization

Child Care  
Grant  
Redesign

Increased  
Affordability  
for Families

Public Private  
Partnerships



Access  
to safe,  
affordable &  
high-quality  
child care  
for families



## Senate Bill 95 (\$6.1m)

- Increased eligibility for families to 105% SMI
- Family copay capped at 7% of family income
- Support businesses in developing on-site child care
- Authority to use alternative “Cost of Care” models

## Child Care Grant (\$5.9m)

- Increased base grant
- Pilot supplemental grants for caring for infants and toddlers
- Start-up support for new child care businesses
- Subsidies for children of child care workers



# Thank you!

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