

Rural Health Transformation CMS Priorities



Make Rural America Healthy Again

Evidence-based prevention, chronic disease, behavioral health, and prenatal care.



Sustainable Access

Help rural providers become long-term access points by coordinating operations, tech, primary/specialty, and emergency services.



Workforce Development

Recruit and retain highly-skilled providers to rural areas.



Innovative Care

Grow new care models, improve coordination, and use mechanisms that reduce costs, improve quality, and shift care to lower-cost settings.



Tech Innovation

Adopt technologies for efficient care delivery, data security, and digital health tools that support remote care, data sharing, and emerging technologies.

Nebraska Initiatives

Make Rural Nebraska Healthy Again

Evidence-based prevention, chronic disease management, behavioral health, and prenatal care.



Improve rural health outcomes through a focus on "Food as Medicine".



Access to chronic disease services to include ancillary services and technology.



Sustainable Access and Navigation

Help rural providers become long-term access points by coordinating primary/specialty care, and emergency services.



Enable rural facilities to work together through regionalization of rural health infrastructure.



Provide support for communities to optimize health care delivery systems.

\$218M

Rural Workforce

Recruit and retain highly-skilled providers to rural areas.



"Grow Local" through awards in care deserts tied to 5-year commitment to work in the rural area.



Leverage AI and VR training to recruit and retain a skilled workforce.

Innovative Care and Tech Innovation

New care models and shift care to lower-cost settings.



Investment in clinics, EMS, and hospitals for remote monitoring and eHealth-at-Home.



Adopt technologies for efficient care delivery, data security, and data sharing.

Regionalized Rural Access and Health Care Navigation

Strengthen rural health through access to healthy foods, education, regional coordination, integrated emergency systems, and networks that connect people to the right level of care.

Nebraska Rural Health Transformation Initiatives

Initiative 1: Make Rural Nebraska Healthy Again Through Food as Medicine

1.1 School Kitchen Modernization Grant supplies equipment for schools to serve whole fresh food.

1.2 Regional Food Pantry Development to increase availability of whole fresh foods.

1.3 Farm-to-School Procurement & TA enhances kitchen-ready local supply chain for rural schools.

1.4 Healthy Menu Design training for rural schools, hospital cafeteria staff, and clinic dietitians.

1.5 Nebraska Kids Fitness & Nutrition Day focuses on health literacy and healthy behaviors.

Initiative 2: Regionalized Rural Access and Navigation

2.1 EMS & Perinatal Regionalization for referrals and provider-pairing program for high-risk cases.

2.2 Community Paramedicine program with billing support and workforce development.

2.3 Rural Health Hubs and Community Health Worker Networks across health care settings.

2.4 Veteran EHR Coordination to connect VA scheduling staff to local clinics and hospitals.

2.5 CAH to REH Conversion to ensure health care stays local.

Initiative 3: Rural Workforce Acceleration

3.1 Rural Provider Recruitment & Retention such as hiring incentives and apprenticeships.

3.2 Rural VR & Skills Acceleration Network to test competency during training.

3.3 Rural Health Care Workforce Incentive & Sustainability start up grants for new training sites.

3.4 School-Age Health Care Pipeline educating youth about jobs in health care.

3.5 Subsidized Short-Term Provider Housing to support employers in recruiting workforce.

Initiative 4: eHealth and Mobile Care

4.1 Mobile Maternal Care & Training in maternity deserts to decrease morbidity and mortality.

4.2 Oral Health programs including new student rotations and mobile services.

4.3 Technology-Enhanced Pharmacy Services for medication reviews and patient adherence data.

4.4 Chronic Disease Management & Remote Patient Monitoring in facilities and at home.

Initiative 5: Rural Emergency Behavioral Health

5.1 Integrated Primary Care providing behavioral health services in clinics.

5.2 Telehealth Crisis Responders for Law Enforcement is 24/7 access to counselors for triage.

5.3 Modification of Existing Clinical Facilities for Crisis Stabilization Centers.

5.4 Behavioral Health Nursing Homes Pilot provides enhanced payments for complex care needs.

Initiative 6: Assisted Living Facility (ALF) Special Needs Population Incentive Model

6.1 Incentive Payments for Memory Care and Complex Care including training and programing.

6.2 Facility Modernization Grant to support needs of staff and residents.

Initiative 7: Nebraska Rural Health Technology Catalyst Fund and Partnership Initiative