

Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

School Kitchen Modernization Grants

Informational/Question and Answer Session Announcement

The purpose of this project through the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is to decrease the amount of ‘out of the box’ or ‘heat and serve’ items offered while increasing the amount of higher quality, more nutritious, less processed, and more scratch cooked food items offered in the school meals programs. A vast number of children in the United States do not consume adequate amounts of recommended nutrients from their diet. This grant aims to support inclusion of semi-scratch and scratch cooked and minimally processed protein foods in school breakfast and lunch meals. Grant recipients will reduce heat and serve menu items by 5% each month and will include locally produced protein in their breakfast and/or lunch menus 5% more times each month. Menu changes supported by this grant are intended to improve participation in the school meals programs by 10%. (RHTP Initiative # 1.1)

RFA #	TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE	RELEASE DATE
RHTP INITIATIVE 1.1	\$2.2 million	June 12, 2026
APPLICATION DUE DATE	PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE	APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND QUESTIONS
8/31/2026	6/12/2026 – 10/31/2027	Kayte.partch@nebraska.gov
INFORMATIONAL/QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS		
Date: July 13, 2026	Time: 9:30 a.m. CT	Meeting number: Meeting password:
Join by Link:	https://educationne.zoom.us/j/93571378217	
Join by Phone:	346-248-7799 93571378217#	
Date:		Meeting number: Meeting password:
Join by Link:		
Join by Phone:		

Questions regarding the program and applications should be sent to:

Kayte.Partch@nebraska.gov

Required Funding Statement:

The Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (US HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$218,529,075.01 with 100 percent funded by CMS/US HHS. The contents are those of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS/US HHS, or the U.S. Government.