



SOUTH DAKOTA
RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION



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Rural Health Transformation

Communications Activity Report



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WEBSITE OVERVIEW

The Rural Health Transformation Project website serves as a central communication platform for sharing updates, resources, and guidance with healthcare providers and community partners across South Dakota. The site helps keep stakeholders informed and engaged throughout the initiative.

Information available on the website includes:

- Project's goals
- Focus areas
- Available support
- Funding announcements
- Application materials
- FAQs
- Recorded webinars
- Opportunities to submit questions or sign up for email updates.

PRESS RELEASES/MEDIA

Press Releases:

- May 21, 2026: [South Dakota Announces First Awards for Rural Health Transformation Grant Program Management](#)
- Mar. 3, 2026: [State of South Dakota Announces Second Round of Rural Health Transformation Requests for Proposals](#)
- Feb. 25, 2026: [State of South Dakota Announces First Round of Rural Health Transformation Requests for Proposals](#)
- Dec. 29, 2025: [Gov. Rhoden and DOH Secure \\$189.4 million for Rural Health](#)

Media:

- June 2026: Grace Magstadt, North Dakota Today | RHT in South Dakota
- May 2026: Grant Green, Dakota News Now | RFP awards for RHT projects
- Apr. 2026: Arielle Zions, KFF | RHT documentation – project narrative, budget, initiative updates, etc.
- Jan. 2026: Arielle Zions, KFF | RHT documentation – project narrative, budget, initiative updates, etc.
- Jan. 2026: Molly Wetsch, SD News Watch | RHT funding and planned initiatives
- Dec. 2025: Jackson Dircks, SDPB | RHT Notice of Award
- Nov. 2025: Sarah Raza, AP | RHT Notice of Award

SOCIAL MEDIA

[View the social media content calendar](#)

Social Media post samples:

RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION | INITIATIVE 2

Building a Sustainable Rural Healthcare Workforce

Strengthening recruitment, training, and retention for rural healthcare professionals.

- ✓ Recruitment incentives
- ✓ Education + training support
- ✓ Long-term rural workforce stability



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HOW TO APPLY for RHT Funding

 Review Initiatives
  Check Eligibility

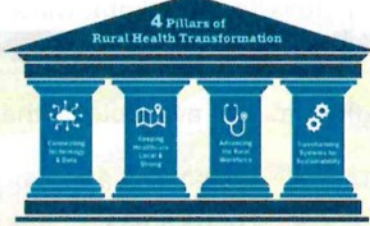
 Use Resources
  Submit Application

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Funding Forecast Rural Health Transformation

4 Pillars of Rural Health Transformation



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NOW OPEN | DIGITAL HEALTH MODERNIZATION & TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM

Funding to strengthen healthcare technology across South Dakota.

Applications Due
June 30, 2026 | 5:00 PM CT

Technical Assistance Calls
May 14 & June 11, 2026

Tentative Awards Announcements
August 13, 2026

- ✓ Upgrade Legacy Systems
- ✓ Improve Data Sharing
- ✓ Expand Telehealth
- ✓ Strengthen Cybersecurity

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Funding Opportunities are Available!

RFPs are posted on a rolling basis.

Plan Ahead for your Big Ideas!

Stay in the Know!
Sign up for our mailing list to get updates on new funding opportunities. Link is in bio!

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WHO THIS IS FOR SD Rural Health Transformation



Supporting Rural Healthcare in South Dakota

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LISTSERV EMAILS

Date	Subject	ListServ
July 2, 2026	Summer 2026 Healthcare Workforce Newsletter	SDRURALHEALTH
June 30, 2026	June 2026 SD Chronic Connections Newsletter	SDCHRONICDISEASE
June 3, 2026	May 2026 SD Chronic Connections Newsletter	SDCHRONICDISEASE
June 2, 2026	Now Open: EMS RFP #26-09RHT-023 – EMS Workforce, Infrastructure, and System Modernization Initiative	SDRURALHEALTH
May 29, 2026	Rural Health Transformation - RFP # 26-09RHT-022 - due by July 2, 2026, 5pm CT	SDRURALHEALTH
May 13, 2026	RFP Now Open: RHT Chronic Disease Remote Monitoring in Schools	SDRURALHEALTH and SDCHRONICDISEASE
May 12, 2026	Digital Health Grant Program Technical Assistance Calls	SDOLC, SDRURALHEALTH, SDCHRONICDISEASE and SD Health Link Email Distribution
May 12, 2026	BIG NEWS: The Future of South Dakota Healthcare is Here!	SDCHRONICDISEASE



May 7, 2026	BIG NEWS: The Future of South Dakota Healthcare is Here!	SDOLC and SD Health Link Email Distribution
May 1, 2026	Rural Health Transformation - RFP # 26-09RHT-019 - due by June 5, 2026, 5pm CT	SDRURALHEALTH
Apr. 30, 2026	April 2026 SD Chronic Connections Newsletter	SDCHRONICDISEASE
Apr. 21, 2026	Rural Health Transformation Funding Forecast	SDRURALHEALTH
Apr. 17, 2026	Announcement: Rural Strong Grants, updated Q&A and call-in form info	Provider and Tribal Listservs
Apr. 10, 2026	Attn: LTC Providers Upcoming Rural Health Transformation Funding Opportunities	SDOLC
Apr. 10, 2026	Rural Health Transformation - Rural Strong Grants	SDRURALHEALTH
Apr. 8, 2026	Healthcare Workforce Update Newsletter	Outlook distribution list (400 recipients)
Apr. 8, 2026	Rural Health Transformation update	SDRURALHEALTH
Apr. 7, 2026	RFP Release: Chronic Disease Management Programming	SDIMMUNIZE & SDCHRONICDISEASE
Apr. 2, 2026	Rural Strong Grant Opportunities	Provider and Tribal Listservs
Apr. 2, 2026	Rural Strong Grants RFP Released	Medicaid Advisory Committee
Apr. 1, 2026	March 2026 SD Chronic Connections Newsletter	SDCHRONICDISEASE
Mar. 3, 2026	Press Release: State of South Dakota Announces Second Round of Rural Health Transformation Requests for Proposals	DOHMEDIALIST & SDRURALHEALTH
Feb. 2, 2026	February 2026 SD Chronic Connections Newsletter	SDCHRONICDISEASE
Feb. 25, 2026	Press Release: State of South Dakota Announces First Round of Rural Health Transformation Requests for Proposals	DOHMEDIALIST & SDRURALHEALTH
Feb. 17, 2026	SAVE THE DATE Feb. 19 at 11am CT - Rural Health Transformation Informational Webinar	SDOLC
Feb. 13, 2026	SAVE THE DATE Feb. 19 at 11am CT - Rural Health Transformation Informational Webinar	SDIMMUNIZE, SDCHRONICDISEASE, & SDINJURYPREVENTION
Feb. 12, 2026	SAVE THE DATE Feb. 19 at 11am CT - Rural Health Transformation Informational Webinar	SDRURALHEALTH
Feb. 6, 2026	South Dakota's Rural Health Transformation	SDRURALHEALTH
Aug. 28, 2025	South Dakota Rural Health Transformation Opportunity - Request for Public Comment	MATERNALCHILDHEALTH
Aug. 28, 2025	Share Your Input: South Dakota Rural Health Transformation Opportunity	SDRURALHEALTH
Aug. 27, 2025	Share Your Input: South Dakota Rural Health Transformation Opportunity	SDOLC



PRESENTATIONS/MEETINGS/WEBINARS/NEWSLETTERS

Presentations:

Date	Organization	Presenter(s)
June 18, 2026	Great Plains Tribal	Sec. Melissa Magstadt
May 29, 2026	2026 SDSMA Annual Leadership Conference: Advancing Patient Care Through Lifestyle Medicine in Sioux Falls RHT General Overview	Dr. Clarissa Barnes & Sec. Melissa Magstadt
May 21, 2026	Panel Discussion South Dakota Public Health Conference (This request was not specifically for RHT but will be mentioned.)	Katelyn Strasser
May 13, 2026	SD HIMSS Spring Conference RHT General Overview and Q&A	Heather Petermann & Kevin DeWald
Apr. 28, 2026	Great Plains Clinically Integrated Network Summit & Strategic Planning Conference in Rapid City	Heather Petermann & Dr. Clarissa Barnes
Apr. 23, 2026	CDC MMRIA User Conference Panel	Shelby Kommes
Apr. 21, 2026	SD Community Foundation Panel	Emily Kiel & Darcy McGuigan
Apr. 13, 2026	SD Association of Healthcare Organizations Marketing Quarterly Communication Meeting	Tia Kafka
Apr. 2, 2026	DOH Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) (RHT was mentioned just as an update on what DOH is doing in the maternal health space)	Shelby Kommes
Mar. 24, 2026	MARCH Summit hosted by Avera Research Institute (RHT was mentioned just as an update on what DOH is doing in the maternal health space)	Shelby Kommes

Meetings:

Date	Organization	Presenter(s)
Apr. 23, 2026	Medicaid Advisory Committee (Update on DSS RFPs completed and pending to date)	DSS Medical Services
Apr. 21, 2026	Quarterly Tribal Consultation Meeting (Update on DSS RFPs completed and pending to date)	DSS Medical Services
Jan. 20, 2026	Quarterly Tribal Consultation Meeting (RHT presentation and update)	DSS Medical Services
Jan. 22, 2026	Quarterly Medicaid Advisor Committee Meeting and Beneficiary Advisory Council (RHT presentation and update)	DSS Medical Services
Oct. 23, 2025	Quarterly Medicaid Advisory Committee Meeting and Beneficiary Advisory Council Rural Health Transformation Program presentation and update	DSS Medical Services
Oct. 21, 2025	Quarterly Tribal Consultation Meeting	DSS Medical Services



	Rural Health Transformation Program presentation and update	
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Webinars:

Date	Webinar
July 13, 2026	SD Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar – Secretary Magstadt and EMS RFPs
June 12, 2026	SD Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar - EMS Workforce, Infrastructure, and System Modernization RFP
June 11, 2026	Digital Health Modernization and Technology Grant Program RFA Technical Assistance
June 5, 2026	SD Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar - EMS Workforce, Infrastructure, and System Modernization RFP
June 1, 2026	SD Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar
May 7, 2026	Digital Health Modernization and Technology Grant Program RFA Technical Assistance
May 4, 2026	SD Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar
Apr. 24, 2026	Public Call-in Meeting, RHT Rural Strong Grants Webinar
Apr. 13, 2026	SD Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar
Apr. 2, 2026	SD PPS Hospital Payment Methodology Update
Mar. 25, 2026	SD Medicaid Critical Access Hospital Payment Methodology Update
Mar. 2, 2026	SD Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar
Feb. 19, 2026	Rural Health Transformation Stakeholder Informational Webinar • Slide Deck
Feb. 9, 2026	SD Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar
Jan. 12, 2026	SD Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar
Dec. 8, 2025	SD Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar
Nov. 3, 2025	SD Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar

Newsletters:

- [Summer 2026 Healthcare Workforce Newsletter](#) – “South Dakota Rural Health Transformation Project: Quarterly Update”
- [June 2026 SD Chronic Connections Newsletter](#) – “Rural Health Transformation”
- [May 2026 SD Chronic Connections Newsletter](#) – “Chronic Disease Remote Monitoring in Schools” and How to Access Rural Health Transformation RFPs”
- [Spring 2026 Healthcare Workforce Newsletter](#) – “South Dakota Advances Rural Healthcare with \$189.4 Million Investment”
- [April 2026 SD Chronic Connections Newsletter](#) – “Rural Health Transformation Funding Forecast”
- [Winter 2026 Article](#) - “Rural Health Transformation Update”
- [March 2026 SD Chronic Connections Newsletter](#) – “Rural Health Transformation”
- [February 2026 SD Chronic Connections Newsletter](#) – “SD Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Initiative”
- [Fall 2025 Article](#) - “Rural Health Transformation Application Submitted to CMS”



INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION/PARTNERSHIPS

- Apr. 16, 2026 - DHS – email requesting information be linked on their website and information shared out on their listservs.
- Mar. 19, 2026 – Tribal Relations – email requesting information be shared on website, as well as sharing information in their newsletter and emails to Tribal partners. We also asked them to cross share our social media on their channels.

This document is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of the Rural Health Transformation Project, a financial assistance award totaling \$189,477,607.26, with 100% funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the SDDOH and SD DSS and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.