



Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program

Funding Opportunity

May 4, 2026

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) is pleased to announce the release of a [Request for Applications](#) (RFA) for a funding opportunity to support the development and expansion of advanced primary care practices within designated rural areas of Maryland. Approximately \$6.3 million is available as part of [Maryland's Rural Health Transformation Program \(RHTP\) award](#). The RHTP, authorized under H.R. 1 and established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, is part of a five-year federal initiative to strengthen access to primary care in rural communities. Under this RFA, eligible organizations are invited to apply for funding intended to help shape the future of rural health in Maryland. This initiative reflects MHCC's commitment to high-quality, whole person care and supports innovative models of care that strengthen the health and well-being of rural communities. The MHCC is accepting applications for Year 1 funding. Applications are due by **June 1, 2026** and must be emailed to mhcc.grants@maryland.gov.

The MHCC will competitively award up to 15 grants, with a maximum award of \$1.6 million. Funding is intended to strengthen infrastructure, expand services, and advance primary care delivery in rural areas to enhance chronic disease management, reduce avoidable hospitalization, and increase access to comprehensive primary care. Eligible applicants include existing or newly established primary care practices, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and organizations such as employers or local governments that are prepared to sponsor an advanced primary care practice. Applicants are encouraged to propose innovative approaches that demonstrate measurable impact and efficient use of resources. Applications will be evaluated based on six criteria outlined in the RFA that center on organizational experience and capacity, understanding of population needs in the geographic focus area(s), care delivery strategy to improve access, and financial costs and sustainability.

Applicants must demonstrate a clear understanding of community needs, readiness to establish or expand primary care services, and the capacity to build sustainable operations beyond the one-year grant period. Additional grant opportunities may be available contingent on program performance and available funding. The scope and goals of future grants may vary, and practices may need to reapply. Proposals must describe how planned activities align with the goals of the Maryland RHTP to expand access to primary care and demonstrate how additional advanced primary care billing codes or value-based care models could support long-term financial stability.

The MHCC will host a [webinar](#) on Monday, May 11, 2026 from 3:00-4:00pm ET to answer questions about the RFA. An Evaluation Committee will review and score all applications. The MHCC may consult external subject matter experts for technical input. The MHCC appreciates stakeholders' interest in the RFA. Grants awarded aim to provide a pathway to strengthen access to essential services, promote healthier populations, and help build a more resilient and vibrant primary care system in rural Maryland. Questions about the RFA may be directed to mhcc.grants@maryland.gov.

