

# Rural Health Transformation Program

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# Introductions

- Monique Martin, **Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium**
- Jared Kosin, **Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association**
- Nancy Merriman, **Alaska Primary Care Association**

The purpose of the **Advisory Council** is to provide informed, structured, and practical input so that rural health transformation efforts are implemented effectively and sustainably.

# Presentation Overview

- Program Context
- Evaluating the Opportunity
- Questions as We Move Ahead

# Program Context

# Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)



Authorized through the budget reconciliation process (H.R. 1)



\$50 Billion allocated over 5 years



Alaska awarded \$272 Million for year one

2<sup>nd</sup> highest allocation

Monies may be “clawed back” if states fail to meet deliverables

# RHTP Initiatives (State of Alaska)

**Healthy Beginnings:** Investing in maternal and child health to help Alaskan families start strong

**Health Care Access:** Expanding and maintaining access to essential health services in rural, remote, and frontier communities

**Healthy Communities:** Promoting healthy lifestyles and investing in preventive care

**Pay for Value:** Fiscal Sustainability: Pursuing innovative payment models to build a stronger, more sustainable health care system

**Strengthen Workforce:** Growing and supporting skilled, resilient health care teams across Alaska

**Spark Technology & Innovation:** Updating technology and infrastructure to improve care and drive innovation

# 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

*See appendix for more detail on Alaska's RHTP Initiatives*

# RHTP – Who can apply?

## Potential Funding Recipients



Potential funding recipients include, but are not limited to:

- Health care providers
- Hospitals and clinics
- Tribal Health Organizations
- EMS
- Local governments
- Community centers
- Schools
- Social service organizations
- State agencies



Entities across Alaska can apply for RHTP funds.

# **Evaluating the Opportunity**

# Breaking Down the Challenge

## **5 tranches of funding**

- 1 year to obligate funds (DOH)
- 2-year spend window (providers)

## **Typical tranche timeline and intersection**

- 10/1/2026 FFY 2027 begins
  - **Tranche 1** spending obligated (all awards issued)
  - **Tranche 1** recipients have one year left to spend
  - **Tranche 2** award announced for Alaska
  - **Tranche 2** DOH initiates award process

# Clock Has Been Ticking

- **Tranche 1 award announced December 31, 2025**
- **Clock started October 1, 2025**
  - Tranche 1 funds must be obligated within next 7.5 months
    - ✓ **Grant system** must be stood up
    - ✓ **Solicitation for proposals** must formally go out
    - ✓ **Applications** must be drafted and submitted
    - ✓ **Scoring, award decisions, funding distribution**
  - Tranche 1 spend window is already down to 19 months today
- **Doesn't mean rush, be very careful with delay**

# **Question as we Move Ahead**

# Federal Limitations on RHTP Funding

## **Construction of new facilities or building expansions**

- Who answers project specific questions about whether costs are eligible?

## **Supplanting existing funding**

- Do payment and care delivery models require waivers by CMS? How long will that take?

## **Broadband infrastructure, internet installation, certain telecom equipment**

- Reality check: can we achieve technological transformation without the basics?

## **Constraints on multiyear projects**

- With the 2-year spend windows, how are awards considered for 2+ year projects?

## **Indirect costs**

- Are the limitations on a per project basis or disallowed in totality?

## **Future Awards and Clawbacks**

- How will future tranches be calculated and will \$272 million hold into the future?
- How much will be clawed back if the policy initiatives are not achieved? Is it a per policy \$?

# Thank You

- Monique Martin, **Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium**
- Jared Kosin, **Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association**
- Nancy Merriman, **Alaska Primary Care Association**