



January 2026

# Rural Health Transformation Program Advisory Committee

## Committee Overview

As a part of the [Rural Health Transformation Program \(RHTP\)](#), HCPF will be building out a set of stakeholder engagement, community collaboration and statewide grant support processes. The RHTP Advisory Committee will be an essential part of the development, awards, and implementation of the RHTP. This document includes the initial scope of responsibilities, membership, and expected timeline.

Expectations and responsibilities of members of this committee for the duration of the program (2026 - 2031) include the following:

1. Provide strategic direction and advice for the entire RHTP
2. Ensure rural stakeholder community representation
3. Advise on funding distribution priorities and grant application development
4. Review and provide commentary on statewide program progress, data, and performance dashboards
5. Coordinate with technical workgroups
6. Serve as a key advisory body within RHTP governance

## Committee Appointment and Meeting Facilitation

The RHTP Advisory Committee will be appointed by HCPF's Executive Director, building on input from stakeholders, the Governor's Office, recommendations by the Committee Chair and submitted Advisory Committee applications.

Initially, HCPF will coordinate with a third-party facilitator to schedule meetings, prepare agendas and meeting materials, and facilitate the Committee's discussion. Throughout the



grant, HCPF along with the facilitator, will help guide meetings to ensure inclusive, structured discussions on funding distribution, program design, and time for questions and validation of next steps.

Meetings will be open to the public, subject to open meeting requirements, with opportunity for public comment. All individuals not on the Advisory Committee can attend the public meetings to be kept abreast and to provide input throughout the process through public comments.

## RHTP Advisory Committee Responsibilities

The RHTP Advisory Committee will provide input on the application process including the funding eligibility and priorities, Request for Application, and application scoring criteria. In addition, the Committee will have the ability to review all public-facing RHTP materials (guidance, FAQs, etc.) and the opportunity to provide meaningful input on any materials before they are published by the Department. The Committee will be kept apprised of major developments in negotiations with CMS and have the opportunity to weigh in when appropriate. HCPF, in collaboration with a third-party facilitator, will coordinate and facilitate meetings, prepare agendas and meeting materials, and facilitate the committee's discussion, in collaboration with the Committee Chair.

The Committee will also provide recommendations for the types of projects to fund within permissible activities and program goals, subject to CMS requirements and approval. The committee will not score applications; that activity will be completed by an external vendor in collaboration with HCPF staff. The committee will be key in providing ongoing input and support to HCPF in the effective and strategic administration of RHTP. Once the Advisory Committee is created, the scope will be refined through the development of a Committee Charter.

With the above input from the RHTP Advisory Committee, a vendor overseen and administered by HCPF's Procurement Division, and following proposal review procedures, will prepare the request for application, create the evaluation scoring rubric, and work with HCPF to evaluate applications for funding using the scoring criteria.



## RHTP Advisory Committee Members

The Advisory Committee will have 15 voting members. The Committee will sunset when the funding and closeout period does, in approximately five years. As a standard, the members will serve two year terms, and can be reappointed. The exception is for 5 of the initial members to be appointed to an initial three year term to ensure that all members are not turning over concurrently. The Committee Membership will include:

- 1 representative from the Colorado Rural Health Clinic (Michelle Mills, Committee Chair)
- 1 Independent Rural Health Clinic provider (not affiliated with hospital)
- 1 Comprehensive Behavioral Health Safety Net Provider located in a rural area
- 1 Community Health Clinic located in a rural area
- 1 rural physician or registered nurse with experience in rural health improvement initiatives
- 4 rural hospitals representing various expertise in: operations/sustainability, clinical/quality, affordability, workforce (i.e., CEO, CFO, CMO, CNO)
- 1 emergency medical services provider serving a rural area
- 1 behavioral health payer representing rural areas, such as a Regional Accountable Entity (RAE) or a Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization (BHASO)
- 2 rural consumers
- 1 state or local education institution with expertise in rural healthcare workforce
- 1 Local Public Health Agency
- 4 state agencies (HCPF, CDPHE, BHA OeHI), all ex-officio non-voting members

## Accountability to CMS

The Department holds the final accountability to the federal grant agency, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and therefore authority on grant awards to ensure all decisions and administration of the RHTP grant meet all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, meet the RHTP CMS grant guidelines, and meet CMS negotiated allocations, initiatives and requirements. Any adjustments to the Advisory Committee recommendations necessary to meet such federal or state requirements will be brought to the Advisory Committee before finalization.



## Committee Estimated Timeline & Application Process

HCPF has received an award letter from CMS and is working on completing the formalities necessary to access the funding. HCPF will prepare the RHTP Advisory Committee application for the first Cohort of committee members to be due in mid-February, and the first meeting to be held in March 2026. CMS negotiations are assumed to start in January.

The Department intends to share the application no later than February 1, 2026. If you are interested in applying to be a member of the RHTP Advisory Committee, please [Sign up for our newsletter](#) and check the [RHTP website](#) for updates.

