



Funding Opportunity Announcement

The information provided below is intended to assist eligible applicants with developing and submitting applications within the GREAT Health Application Portal. This funding opportunity is for **Budget Period 1** of the federal Rural Health Transformation Program, which runs from the date of award through October 30, 2026. All funds awarded from this announcement must be spent by September 30, 2027.

For assistance with this application, please contact GREATgrant@rsmus.com with questions.

Funding Opportunity:	Initiative 3: Connecting to Care to Improve Healthcare Access Strategy: Telehealth Enhancements	
Application Portal Information	Round: 4 Opening: June 15, 2026 Closing: July 15, 2026	Tier: 2
Funding Amount and Number of Awards:	\$10,000,000 total across all awards	Number of awards dependent upon proposals submitted
Funding Eligibility:	This funding opportunity is available to rural hospitals, healthcare providers, and community organizations in Georgia serving the 126 rural/partial rural counties outlined in DCH's application to CMS as the eligible rural area under the GREAT Health Program. Hospitals previously submitting a signed Letter of Intent for Achieving Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design (AHEAD) model pre-implementation to the Georgia Department of Community Health will receive priority in the application process.	
Description and Purpose of Funding:	Initiative 3 is designed to address barriers that limit access to timely, high-quality healthcare in rural Georgia. Recognizing that many rural communities face provider shortages, long travel distances, and limited specialty care services, this initiative focuses on expanding healthcare access through	

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	innovative service delivery models, technology-enabled care, and targeted investments that strengthen healthcare infrastructure across the state. Successful grant awardees for Telehealth Enhancements will focus on improving health outcomes by: A. Creating new points of access for care in rural Georgia, including access to specialists, that allow patients to receive critical healthcare services without leaving their communities B. Enhancing healthcare capacity and coordination C. Increasing collaboration with healthcare providers, hospitals, public health agencies, and behavioral health partners D. Building a more connected, sustainable, and patient-centered healthcare system. Projects with innovative solutions to connect care systems are highly encouraged to apply. Applicants are expected to sustain the telehealth programs beyond the grant funding period. A detailed description of the sustainability plan is a required component of the application.
Additional Information and Guidance for Application Development:	Funding is approved for Year 1 GREAT Health funding. Applicants are required to follow application instructions within the application portal and address requirements listed within this funding opportunity. Per CMS guidelines, funding cannot be utilized on: a. New construction b. Clinical services that could be paid for by insurance c. Food/meals d. Pre-award costs e. Projects with current or planned fund sources

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	Notification of awards will be provided once applications have been reviewed, scored, and approved. Pre-award costs associated with applicant projects, including costs incurred to apply for grant funds, are not considered an allowable cost under the GREAT Health program. Pre-award costs are those incurred before the project start date or execution of grant agreement. All funds must be fully expended by September 30, 2027.
Evaluation Process	Applications will be evaluated based on eligibility and completeness. Applications that meet all minimum requirements will be assessed based on readiness, patient service population, and quality of application. Applications with a strong sustainability plan for continuation past grant award will be prioritized.

To preserve the integrity, fairness, and transparency of the competitive process, DCH will implement a quiet period for this funding opportunity beginning upon the official release of this funding opportunity and remaining in effect until the announcement of final award decisions, unless otherwise lifted. Please do not reach out to the Department with questions regarding this funding opportunity. All questions on the application process, requirements, and technical assistance should be directed to GREATgrant@rsmus.com.

The GREAT Health Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$218,862,169.63 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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