

Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project (RHPTP)

Application and Interview Process for 2025-2026

September 2025



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RHPTP Purpose and Goal

With the support of the Health Resources Services Administration's [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy \(FORHP\)](#), the [National Rural Health Resource Center](#) provides selected small rural hospitals (SRH) and certified rural health clinics (RHCs) with technical assistance (TA) through the [Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project \(RHPTP\)](#). This project is designed to strengthen recipients' foundation in the key elements of value-based care (VBC), including, but not limited to quality, efficiency, patient experience, and safety. RHPTP's goal is to guide SRH and RHCs not currently participating in VBC, in preparing for and positioning their organizations for future participation in value-based care. Five applicants will be chosen each year to receive virtual and onsite TA.

Ideal Applicants

All ideal SRH and RHCs are encouraged to apply. Ideal SRH or RHC applicants are those that demonstrate need and readiness for comprehensive TA, a level of financial stability, and a strong, stable leadership committed to active engagement in all phases of the project. While all eligible SRH and RHCs are encouraged to apply, this project will best support candidates that do not have readily available support and access to VBC transition tools and resources.

Project Timeline

- Informational Webinar: September 22, 2025
- Application Deadline: October 10, 2025
- Interviews Completed: October 29, 2025
- Selected Applicants Announced: Early November 2025
- Project Kick-Off Webinar: November 18, 2025
- Technical Assistance Begins: Late November/Early December 2025
- Technical Assistance Ends: August 31, 2026

Application

Applications are accepted electronically on a rolling basis; however, a deadline is assigned for each upcoming project year. Once the deadline for an upcoming project year has passed, typically in August, organizations may begin applying for the next project year. Upon submission of the application, you will be contacted to schedule an interview with the RHPTP team.

Interview and Scoring

Each application is followed by a 60-minute virtual interview to inform the selection process. Applicants can earn a possible 28 points for the interview. Scoring is completed for two focus areas: TA Readiness, weighted at 40% of the overall interview score, assesses leadership stability and commitment, and financial stability; and Demonstrated Need,

weighted at 60% of the overall interview score, assesses strategic planning process, quality improvement process, population health activities, chronic disease management, and telehealth utilization. See [Appendix A](#) for interview questions, and [Appendix B](#) for scoring guidance.

Selection Notification and Announcement

Selected organizations will be notified via phone call and a follow-up email, typically in September of each year. Technical assistance typically begins in October and runs through August.

Contact Information

For questions regarding eligibility, application, or scoring process, please contact Angie LaFlamme at alaflamme@ruralcenter.org, 218-216-7022, or email rhptp@ruralcenter.org.

Appendix A

RHPTP Interview Questions

To determine **READINESS** for focused technical assistance in building a foundation for VBC:

- Describe your organizational and leadership strengths that will assist you in participating in this project and implementing consultant recommendations to move your organization towards alternative payment and delivery models.
- What variables (quantitative and qualitative) did you consider in determining your organization's financial stability to participate in this project? Include source(s) for benchmarking, rationale, and measures (i.e., if you considered "Days Cash on Hand" as indicative of your financial stability, what source did you use as a benchmark?).

Please specify your organization's most recent operating margin and days cash on hand. These will be compared to state and national medians when available.

Operating Margin (%):

Days Cash on Hand:

To determine **NEED** for focused technical assistance in building a foundation for VBC:

- Describe your organization's strategic planning process, how often it's updated, dashboard used (i.e., Balanced Scorecard or other model) to monitor progress of your strategic goals and objectives, and how this information is shared within your organization.
- Describe your quality improvement process. Include information about who is involved; how data is collected, tracked, and used to make changes; and examples of quality improvement issues that have been addressed.
- Describe current activities to address population health, chronic disease management, and any initiatives within your organization that address the health of your employees. Some examples may include wellness and prevention, community collaboration, care management, education, information management/disease registry, addressing social drivers of health, collaboration with primary care physicians).
- Describe your past and current financial and operational activities to prepare your organization for the transition to a value-based payment system. (Include activities such as improvement in revenue capture, expansion of services or service area, improving provider engagement, improving clinical quality data, etc..
- Describe the ways you currently utilize telehealth services. Include any information about disease specific areas, use of remote patient monitoring systems, extent in which you utilize telehealth, and any future telehealth plans.

Appendix B:

Interview Scoring

Question	Scoring	Notes
<p>What variables (measurable and unmeasurable) did you consider in determining your organization's financial stability to participate in this project? Include variable, source for benchmarking, rationale, and measures.</p> <p>Also, please specify your organization's pre-pandemic and most recent measures (these will be compared to state and national medians if available):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating Margin (%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Standard: .72% • Days Cash on Hand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hosp Median: 71 days 	<p>4= At or above median</p> <p>3= Within 20% of median</p> <p>2= 21%-50% below median</p> <p>1= More than 50% below median</p>	
<p>Describe your leadership and organizational strengths that will assist you in participating in this project and implementing recommendations to move towards future payment and delivery models.</p>	<p>4= Strongly positioned for future participation in VBC</p> <p>3= Moderately positioned for future participation in VBC</p> <p>2= Slightly positioned for future participation in VBC</p> <p>1= Not at all positioned for future participation in VBC</p>	
<p>Describe your organization's strategic planning process, how often it's updated, dashboard used (i.e., Balanced Scorecard or other model) to monitor progress of your strategic goals and objectives, and how this information is shared within your organization.</p>	<p>4= Strategic planning process is minimal, and there is little to no access to resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>3= Strategic planning process is functional, and there are some</p>	

Question	Scoring	Notes
	<p>resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>2= Strategic planning process in place, and there is reasonable access to resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>1= Strategic Plan and dashboard in place, and there is ample access to resources to prepare for VBC</p>	
Describe your quality improvement process. Include information about who is involved; how data is collected, tracked, and used to make changes; and examples of quality improvement issues that have been addressed.	<p>4= QI program is minimal and there is little to no access to resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>3= QI program is functional and there are some resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>2= QI program is acceptable and there are reasonable resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>1= QI program is robust and there is ample access to resources to prepare for VBC</p>	
Describe current activities to address population health and chronic disease management. Include any initiatives within your organization that address the health of your employees. (i.e., wellness and prevention, community collaboration, care management, education, information management/disease registry,	<p>4= There are no population health activities, or they are just being planned for, and there is little to no access to resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>3= Population health activities are initiated but not fully in place, and there are some</p>	

Question	Scoring	Notes
addressing social drivers of health, collaboration with primary care physicians)	<p>resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>2= At least one population health activity is fully in place, and there are reasonable resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>1= Two or more population health activities are fully in place, and there is ample access to resources to prepare for VBC</p>	
Describe your past and current financial and operational activities to prepare for the transition to a value-based payment system. Include activities such improvement in revenue capture, expansion of services or service area, improving provider engagement, and improving clinical quality data.	<p>4= Past and current financial and operational activities are minimal and there is little to no access to resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>3= At least one past financial or operational activity has been successfully completed, and at least one more is being planned for, and there is some access to resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>2= At least one past financial and operational activity has been successfully completed and others are being planned for, and there are reasonable resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>1= Several past financial and operational activities have been successfully completed and others are being planned for, there is ample access to resources to prepare for VBC, and the organization currently has 50% of revenue in VBC.</p>	

Question	Scoring	Notes
Describe the ways you currently utilize telehealth services. Include any information about disease specific areas, use of remote patient monitoring systems, extent in which you utilize telehealth, and any future telehealth plans.	<p>4= Current utilization of telehealth is minimal and there is little to no access to resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>3= Telehealth provides regular access for up to two services such as primary care visits or behavioral health, and there are some resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>2= A robust telehealth program, which includes access to several specialists, is in place and there are reasonable resources to prepare for future participation in VBC</p> <p>1= A robust telehealth program, which includes access to several specialists, and includes home monitoring services; and there is ample access to resources to prepare for future participation VBC</p>	
Total Score: _____		
Additional Questions	Scoring	Notes
How does your organization operate with health systems? (i.e., fully independent in ownership, referrals for specialty care, telehealth, electronic health record affiliation, system managed or owned) Used only if they responded “yes” to affiliated with a health system in the application.	Question is not scored	

Question	Scoring	Notes
<p>Does applicant participate in Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP), The Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program, or other FORHP programs, discuss services received and verify not part of Delta Region Community Health Systems Development (DRCHSD) Program?</p> <p>Does applicant participate in any independent projects that may interfere/hinder full RHPTP project participation?</p> <p>What is the status of your organization's use of Microsoft Outlook (i.e., receiving and accepting calendar invitations), Zoom and ability to use a camera/mic for webinars and Learning collaboratives individually or in a conference room?</p>	<p>Question is not scored</p> <p>Question is not scored</p> <p>Question is not scored</p>	