

Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project (RHPTP)

Application and Interview Process

2022 – 2023

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RHPTP Purpose and Goal

With the support of 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 rural health clinics (RCH) with technical assistance (TA) through The Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project (RHPTP). This project is designed to help strengthen value-based care (VBC) for health care organizations by building recipients' foundation for VBC in efficiency, quality, patient experience, safety of care and assuming financial risk.

RHPTP's goal is to guide SRH and RHCs not currently participating in VBC to prepare for and position their organizations for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models (APM). Five applicants will be chosen each year to receive focused TA.

Application

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; however, a deadline is assigned for each upcoming project year. Once the deadline for an upcoming project year has passed, generally in September, organizations may begin applying for the next project year at any time.

Interview and Scoring

Each submitted application is followed by a 60-minute phone interview with the program manager and program specialist from the RHPTP team. Based on this conversation, an overall recommendation will be made concerning the organization's likelihood of benefiting from RHPTP focused TA (*Strongly Recommend, Recommend, Recommend with Barriers, or Do Not Recommend*). See [Appendix A](#) for interview questions, and [Appendix B](#) for scoring guidance.

Selection Process

Upon completion of interviews, scores and overall rankings are shared for discussion within the larger RHPTP Team. From those discussions, five organizations are selected to participate in the upcoming project year and are then recommended to the FORHP for final approval.

Selection Notification and Announcement

Upon FORHP approval, selected organizations will be notified via phone call and a follow-up email within 30 days of the application closing date. A project kick-off

webinar will be scheduled to provide more information about RHPTP purpose and goals, TA provided, project timelines, post-project follow-up, and next steps. Each organization will also receive a customized press release to share with local media announcing their selection for the Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project.

Interview Questions

RHPTP interview questions ([Appendix A](#)) focus on exploring organizational leadership, organizational strengths to support RHPTP participation, past and current efforts towards population health, current quality improvement structure, and infrastructure such as telehealth focused on value-based care.

Appendix A

Interview Questions

1. What variables (measurable and unmeasurable) did you consider in determining your organization's financial stability to participate in this project?
Please include variable, source for benchmarking, rationale, and measures.
 - a. Also, please specify your organization's most (these will be compared to state median):
 - Operating Margin (%)
 - Days Cash on Hand
2. Tell us about your organization's strategic planning process? Describe your planning process and how often it's updated, the dashboard you use (for example, Balanced Scorecard or other model) to monitor progress on your organization's strategic goals and objectives, and how this information is shared within your organization.
3. 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.
4. 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, Addressing social determinants of health, Collaboration with Primary Care physicians)
5. 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.
6. Describe the ways you currently utilize telehealth services. Include any information about future plans, disease specific areas, and extent to which you utilize telehealth.
7. Describe your organizational and leadership strengths that will assist you in participating in this project and implementing consultant recommendations to move towards future payment and delivery models.

Appendix B:

Interview Scoring

Question	Scoring
<p>Q1: 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 most recent (these will be compared to state median):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating Margin (%) • Days Cash on Hand 	<p>4= Strongly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>3= Moderately Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models</p> <p>2= Slightly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>1= Not at all Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p>
<p>Q2: Tell us about your organization’s strategic planning process?</p> <p>Describe your planning process and how often it’s updated, the dashboard you use (for example, Balanced Scorecard or other model) to monitor progress on your organization’s strategic goals and objectives, and how this information is shared within your organization.</p>	<p>4= Strongly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>3= Moderately Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models</p> <p>2= Slightly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>1= Not at all Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p>

Question	Scoring
<p>Q3: Describe in detail your quality improvement program. 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>	<p>4= Strongly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>3= Moderately Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models</p> <p>2= Slightly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>1= Not at all Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p>
<p>Q4: Describe current activities to address population health and chronic disease management. Include any initiatives within your organization that address the health of your employees.</p> <p>(I.e., Wellness and Prevention, Community Collaboration, Care management, Education, Information management/disease registry, Addressing social determinants of health, Collaboration with Primary Care physicians)</p>	<p>4= Strongly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>3= Moderately Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models</p> <p>2= Slightly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>1= Not at all Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p>
<p>Q5: 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</p>	<p>4= Strongly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>3= Moderately Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models</p>

Question	Scoring
<p>provider engagement, and improving clinical quality data.</p>	<p>2= Slightly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>1= Not at all Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p>
<p>Q6: Describe the ways you currently utilize telehealth services to prepare for VBC, as well as future plans. Include disease specific areas and extent to which you utilize telehealth.</p>	<p>4= Strongly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>3= Moderately Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models</p> <p>2= Slightly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>1= Not at all Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p>
<p>Q7: Describe your leadership’s and organization’s 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 alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>3= Moderately Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models</p> <p>2= Slightly Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p> <p>1= Not at all Positioned for future participation in alternative payment and care delivery models.</p>