

Tennessee's Rural Health Transformation Program Brings New Opportunities to Rural Counties

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Tennessee's Rural Health Transformation Program is bringing new funding and resources to rural counties — including a new ambulance for every eligible county.

One Ambulance for Every Rural County

Through the RHTP, every eligible rural Tennessee county can now receive funding for a new ambulance. The program allows counties to purchase an ambulance directly, with the state providing reimbursement while the county retains full ownership at all times. Counties also receive support for planning, procurement, and deployment through a streamlined funding process.

Counties have flexibility in how the ambulance is operated — either through County EMS or by placing it with a private EMS provider. If a private provider is used, a fair and documented selection process is required along with a Use Agreement.

Eligible counties should expect to receive an informational packet and are encouraged to assign a program point of contact, begin procurement planning, and determine their preferred ambulance operations model.

Broader RHTP Funding and Partnership Opportunities

Beyond the ambulance initiative, the RHTP represents a significant investment in rural Tennessee's healthcare future. The state has been awarded over \$200 million in the first funding period, with approximately \$1 billion projected over five years. Funding priorities include sustainable access to care, innovative care models, telehealth and technology expansion, chronic disease and behavioral health initiatives, and rural healthcare workforce development.

Application processes will be competitive, with an emphasis on community need, project quality, and long-term sustainability.

The RHTP team is actively seeking to meet with county commissions, community partners, and MTAS and CTAS groups to discuss funding structure, upcoming application timelines, and how counties can best prepare.

To schedule a presentation or learn more, contact RuralHealth@tn.gov or visit tn.gov/health/rural