

Technology-Enabled Rural Health Transformation

Recommendations for states to leverage digital innovation for sustainable community care

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Executive summary

The new Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program is poised to significantly impact America's rural healthcare system, allocating \$50 billion over five years to address critical healthcare access and technology gaps experienced by these areas. Swift and strategic action is essential as states prepare to apply for RHT Program funding from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) by November 2025. This document outlines Oracle Health and Life Sciences' perspective on how states can effectively leverage RHT Program funding to not only help meet federal criteria but also aid rural providers in building a sustainable, technologically advanced healthcare infrastructure that supports enhanced patient access and outcomes.

Oracle Health has made rural health a priority for nearly 20 years, currently serving hundreds of rural critical access and community hospitals nationwide with our health centric EHR, which supports the clinical, financial, and operational needs of smaller hospital operations in both acute and ambulatory settings. Oracle's rural providers are having great success with new AI capabilities to help automate and streamline provider and patient experiences. Rural providers were part of the validation process for Oracle Health Clinical AI Agent two years ago. Now, we have more than 150 rural providers using the solution. Oracle is also planning to bring our new AI-enabled EHR to this market (currently available for ambulatory, primary care providers, with other provider specialties and venues planned), which will provide a variety of AI capabilities that are targeted to be particularly useful to rural providers. Our new EHR provides tools to support enhanced quality of care and access and optimal financial outcomes. We continue to support rural providers with an array of innovative rural-focused technology solutions, and we stand ready to support states and rural health providers as they work together to implement RHT Program through our solutions for:

1. Foundational digital infrastructure
2. Virtual care and telemedicine
3. AI-powered clinical decision-making support
4. Remote patient observing
5. Predictive analytics and population health management
6. Connections to clinical trials

Oracle Health's rural provider solutions

Oracle Health has a long history of partnering with rural and frontier providers as well as states, and we stand ready to support states' RHT Programs to help create sustainable rural healthcare delivery improvements via technology modernization. Rather than extending traditional approaches, rural America's healthcare challenges require transformational technology-driven solutions that fundamentally re-envision care delivery. We understand conventional healthcare delivery models have proven economically unsustainable in low-density populations. However, emerging technologies—like AI, remote observing, telemedicine, mobile health units, and predictive analytics—offer unprecedented opportunities for states and rural providers to leverage RHT Program funds to deliver lasting changes in how high-quality, cost-effective care is delivered to communities.

Technology as the path to sustainable rural healthcare: Oracle Health is uniquely positioned to advance technology-enabled rural health care delivery models. We currently support a wide range of innovative rural health strategies, including:

- Upgrading EHR systems to enable agentic AI that automates routine administrative workflows and provides clinicians with near real-time clinical decision-making tools
- Modernizing patient portals to support bidirectional messaging between patients and providers, telehealth visits, and patient intake capabilities
- Implementing rural-optimized telecommunication platforms, including access to Starlink or another Low Earth Orbit Satellite-based broadband network
- Enabling rural health providers to transition to cloud-based platforms
- Supporting innovative care models, such as hospital-at-home programs and remote patient observing systems
- Providing care coordination and referral management solutions to help address the complexity of the healthcare delivery system in rural areas, where specialist visits may require extensive travel
- Deploying AI-enabled systems to deliver tailored health education and prevention programs—such as, vaccination, dental, mental health campaigns, or screenings—leveraging local healthcare needs and incorporating rural-area environmental and social determinants of health data
- Expanding telemedicine support systems, including virtual primary care physician (PCP) and specialist visits, remote observing for hospital-at-home care, electronic tracking of health metrics, and provider/patient portal setup to enable statewide telehealth capabilities, such as:
 - Using Oracle Clinical AI Agent for AI-driven decision support and enhanced documentation accuracy
 - Supporting use cases including virtual primary care, access to specialist networks, mental health services, substance use, and urgent/emergency care
- Enabling seamless interoperability between EHRs to facilitate patient information being accessible across providers
- Adopting AI-powered revenue cycle management tools to help augment limited staff capacity, limit manual workload, minimize claim denials, and accelerate reimbursement
- Implementing unified quality and contract optimization tools that leverage AI to help assess risk, suggest actions, and monitor key trends in patient populations to help maximize quality and cost-effectiveness of care
- Deploying enterprise resource planning solutions, designed specifically for rural healthcare, featuring rapid implementation and healthcare-specific templates to help minimize custom development costs

- Deploying clinical trial opportunity dashboards to help providers identify which trials best match their patient populations, as well as integrating patient portal features that inform patients about their best-matched clinical trials

Oracle leans into our collaborations with rural providers, and many across the country have already implemented portions of our innovative, AI-driven rural-centric technology. As we develop new rural-centric upgrades and AI-driven solutions to help transform rural care into the future, we actively engage with local rural providers to help meet their specific needs and promote rapid adoption given the unique challenges rural and frontier healthcare providers face.

RHT Program design considerations for states

Understanding the complexities rural providers encounter as they seek to advance their technology solutions, we urge states to consider RHT Program flexibilities that will ease these providers' ability to adopt newer technologies. An important consideration is to consider the need for implementation assistance related to systems. Due to annual budget limitations, rural providers may have pursued a piecemeal approach to technology enablement and simply need to take the next step to achieve full or modern functionality. Accordingly, states may wish to allow rural providers to use RHT Program dollars for an array of technology-related uses, such as:

- Enhancements and add-ons to existing technology systems
- Consulting services for implementing new or upgraded technologies
- Connectivity solutions, such as satellite internet services

Another option states may consider is whether rural providers might prefer to work together to find technology solutions. A reality of the constraints under which rural providers operate, is that they typically have limited resources and may lack the bandwidth and expertise to effectively seek new technology. Permitting rural providers to participate in collective efforts, led by the state, could help ease the effort needed to support the selection process. This approach could also enable rural providers (and supporting agencies or professional associations) to collaborate on the expertise needed to verify that they include the full range of needed capabilities. Likewise, purchasing power is also something with which rural providers may struggle, given their size. For these reasons, some rural providers may find value in solutions such as:

- State-established (or recommended) minimum or preferred vendor qualifications tailored to essential rural provider needs
- State-level infrastructure support (for example, state-operated systems into which rural providers could tap), rather than undertaking separate procurement efforts on their own
- State-led group purchasing arrangements, with a selection of pre-vetted vendors (who have competed for inclusion on the list) and/or state-established pricing that eligible rural providers can access (Note: Oracle Health is also experienced in arranging cooperative purchasing agreements within the private sector, such as through a statewide provider association or among a group of rural providers.)

Any state-established options should always include the opportunity for meaningful choice to suit varying rural community priorities. Rural providers **value independence** and **have the best**

understanding of their local needs. Giving rural providers the ability to select which technology choices best meet those needs and **requiring technology vendors to compete for their business** helps promote competition and enable access to the best range of options to solve each community's unique healthcare challenges.

Finally, in many rural communities, government healthcare providers like public health departments, schools, and clinics offer critical services to fill gaps in rural healthcare access. For instance, public clinics may offer prenatal care or behavioral health services where an access gap would otherwise exist for a rural community. States may wish to consider whether these state/local government providers could also be eligible for RHT Program funds, particularly for much-needed technology support that helps alleviate administrative costs and manual tasks as well as enhance access to care.

Oracle Health's state oversight and reporting tools

Oracle Health recognizes states must perform comprehensive data analytics as part of their RHT Program oversight requirements. RHT Program challenges states to make data-driven decisions for how to help rural providers deliver high-quality services and support innovative models of care. States must also use data to identify the rural areas of greatest need, monitor how funding is impacting healthcare outcomes for rural residents, and prepare reporting for the public as well as federal authorities.

We stand ready to support states' RHT Program design considerations with analytics and monitoring tools designed specifically for states as they support their rural communities with this important new funding opportunity. Oracle Health offers robust population health management solutions and AI-driven insights to help states target resources to areas with the most need. Our state program oversight capabilities include:

- Predictive analytics and resource optimization to help identify areas of greatest need as well as monitor outcomes from program initiatives
- Reporting tools for state and federal compliance
- Incubation of statewide EHR data and AI-driven population health initiative design, monitoring, and measurement tools (including integration of social determinants)
- Value-based payment program design tools
- Technology-enabled clinical research participation for rural areas (AI-powered patient identification for trials and remote observing capabilities)

Conclusion

The RHT Program offers states a pivotal opportunity to address long-standing challenges in rural healthcare, and Oracle Health is ready to be a key partner in this effort. By strategically designing a plan to mobilize RHT Program funds to suit rural providers' unique technology needs, states have a lasting five-year opportunity to drive significant improvements in technology, access, and patient outcomes for rural citizens. With our established presence supporting rural geographies and our suite of innovative, rural-centric solutions—including foundational digital infrastructure, virtual care, and AI-powered analytics—Oracle Health is uniquely positioned to help both states and providers.

We encourage states to adopt flexible program designs that account for the limited resources of rural providers, such as group purchasing agreements and enabling RHT Program funds to cover upgrades and implementation costs. At the same time, Oracle Health's state-level analytics and reporting solutions are well suited to help states make data-driven decisions to modernize their healthcare infrastructure and foster a sustainable, technology-driven model that can transform health outcomes for rural Americans.

With nearly two decades of experience collaborating with hundreds of rural healthcare organizations, Oracle brings deep understanding of the challenges and transformative opportunities in rural geographies and stands ready to help support these discussions with both states and the rural providers who serve their communities.

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