

Rural Health Transformation Program

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DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES

Montana's Rural Health Transformation Plan (RHTP) Includes Five Integrated Initiatives

Montana's approved RHTP application includes five integrated initiatives that align with the State's priorities

- Develop **workforce** through recruitment, training, and retention
- Ensure **rural facility sustainability** and access through partnerships and restructuring
- Launch **innovative care** delivery and payment models
- Invest in **community health and preventive** infrastructure
- Deploy modern health care **technologies** to guide rural health interventions



Montana Received The Fourth-Highest RHTP Funding Award Among All 50 States

- On December 29th, CMS announced that **Montana received ~\$233M** for the first year of the five-year Rural Health Transformation Program
 - **Montana ranked fourth nationally**, behind Texas, Alaska, and California
 - Montana's neighboring states – Wyoming (~\$205M), North Dakota (~\$199M), South Dakota (~\$189M), and Idaho (~\$185M) – all received less funding
- CMS has requested that **states submit revised budgets that align with the announced awards by January 30th**. DPHHS is in the process of adjusting its budget, prioritizing programs with additional absorptive capacity and ability to create high-impact.

Source: Montana CMS RHTP Notice of Award, Montana Governor's press release



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Required Annual and Quarterly Reporting to CMS

Annual and Quarterly Report Timeline, project year 1 and 2

Report	Report Period Start Date	Reporting Period End Date	Due Date
Annual Report #1	December 29, 2025	July 31, 2026	August 30, 2026
Quarterly Report #1	August 1, 2026	October 30, 2026	November 29, 2026
Quarterly Report #2	October 31, 2026	January 30, 2027	March 1, 2027
Quarterly Report #3	January 31, 2027	April 30, 2027	May 30, 2027
Annual Report #2	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2027	August 30, 2027

- At the end of five years, CMS expects a cumulative final report for the entire program
- CMS may adjust future-year funding based on information provided in quarterly and annual reports

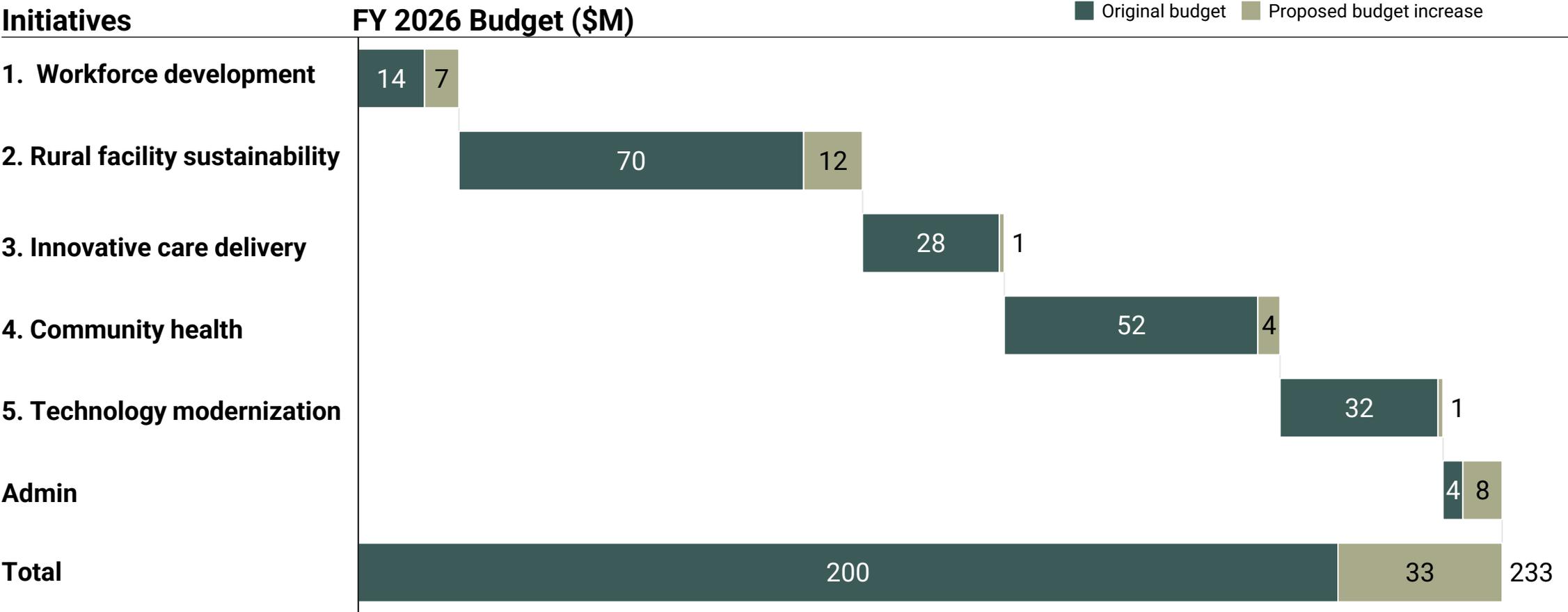
Source: Montana CMS RHTP Notice of Award

CMS Award and Budget Adjustment Plan

- The State is **currently submitting** a **revised budget** matching the awarded amount of \$233M
- The State has identified the following principles to guide budget adjustment:
 - Prioritize **Initiative 1, Workforce**, for the largest proportional budget increase according to capacity to absorb and generate incremental impact
 - Allocate **remaining funding to initiatives** with potential to scale effectively in year 1 (e.g., EMS, incentive payments for rural providers, school-based care)

Planning for Budget Adjustment

FY 2026 Preliminary Updated Budget



Source: Montana RHTP Budget Narrative

Emerging Priorities for the First Half of 2026

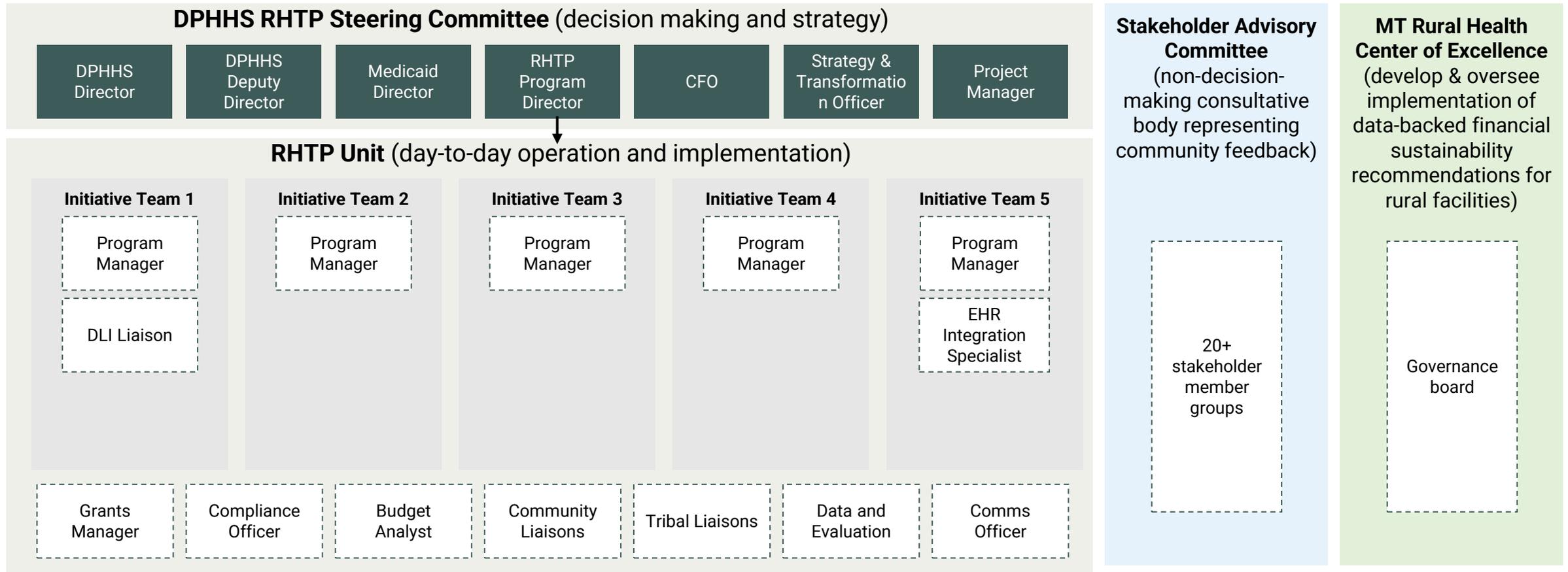
Category	FFY Q2 (Jan – March)	FFY Q3 (April – June)
Stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operationalize RHTP governance Host first Stakeholder Advisory Council Finalize and launch stakeholder groups across every initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold first quarterly performance review Continue steering committee cadence and initiative stakeholder input
Outputs / deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish rural workforce financial assistance programs (rural health scholarship program, relocation assistance funds, etc.) Finalize contract amendment to expand rural intellectual & developmental disability services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin data analysis for rural health profile Evaluate potential policy and payment model (e.g., rural VBC) implications based on public health analytics
Enabling activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize budget with CMS and receive initial funding no later than March 1 Advertise and hire RHTP modified positions Draft & post procurements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stand up measurement dashboards/platforms Onboard RHTP modified positions Draft additional procurements Begin awarding contracts

Source: Montana RHTP Implementation Plan



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DPHHS RHTP Governance Overview



Source: Montana RHTP project narrative

Montana's RHTP Stakeholder Advisory Committee Membership

State government organization

- DPHHS (Medicaid, Human Services, PHSD)
- Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
- Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
- Montana Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
- Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)
- MSU Extension
- EMS Advisory Committee¹
- Montana Trauma Advisory Committee¹

Tribal groups

- Montana Tribal Nations
- Urban Indian Consortium
- Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

Healthcare associations and NGOs

- Montana Hospital Association
- Montana Primary Care Association
- Montana Medical Association
- Montana Academy of Family Physicians
- Montana Academy of Pediatrics
- Montana Dental Association
- Montana Pharmacy Association
- School Administrators of Montana

- Montana EMS Association
- Confluence Public Health
- Public Health Institute
- Montana Healthcare Foundation
- Montana Health Network
- Montana Health Care Association
- Big Sky Care Connect
- Mountain Pacific Quality Health
- BHAM

Health systems and payors

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana
- PacificSource
- Mountain Health Co-op

1. DPHHS sponsored advisory committee. Representative may not necessarily be a State employee.

Source: Montana DPHHS RHTP Unit discussions

