



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

November 3, 2025

Dr. Mehmet Oz, Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

RE: Notice of Funding Opportunity CMS-RHT-26-001

Dear Administrator Oz:

I am writing to express my full support for Oregon's proposed Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Plan.

I have designated the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) as the lead agency responsible for overseeing the implementation and administration of this program. OHA will coordinate all aspects of the RHT Plan, including program development, stakeholder engagement, program development, and ongoing evaluation.

I certify that the development of this application was conducted in close collaboration with the following entities:

- The Oregon Public Health and Medicaid agencies, which are Divisions of the Oregon Health Authority, participated directly in developing the RHT Plan.
- The Oregon Office of Rural Health, which is operated by the Oregon Health and Sciences University, was consulted throughout the development of the RHT Plan and will be a key partner throughout implementation.
- The Oregon Tribal Affairs Office facilitated a government-to-government collective Tribal Consultation/Urban Indian Health Program Confer meeting with OHA and the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon on October 10, 2025, to discuss the RHT Plan. The OHA tribal liaisons supported the Nine Tribes in developing their Tribal Initiative, which is included in this proposal. All Nine Tribes operate health centers within their service delivery areas.

My Office and the OHA have engaged key stakeholders throughout the development of the RHT Plan, initiated before CMS released this Notice of Funding Opportunity and throughout the planning process. This took the form of structured consultations, public comment

254 STATE CAPITOL, SALEM OR 97301-4047 (503) 378-4582 FAX (503) 378-8970

WWW.GOVERNOR.OREGON.GOV

Dr. Mehmet Oz
November 3, 2025
Page 2

opportunities, public forums, and active participation in the annual Oregon Rural Health Conference which included engagement with rural hospital executives. Public and structured input has been instrumental in shaping the priority initiatives and strategies outlined in our application. OHA will continue this engagement through regular public communications and transparent decision-making processes, and through the Rural Health Coordinating Council, which will serve as the formal RHT Plan advisory group for the state.

To ensure the success of this initiative, Oregon commits to taking all necessary state-level actions, including cross-agency collaboration and, where appropriate, pursuing legislative or regulatory changes to support the goals of the RHT Plan as described in this application. I also certify that Oregon will not spend any award funds on activities prohibited under 42 U.S.C. 1397ee(h)(2)(A)(ii) to be enforced by program design and recipient terms and conditions.

Oregon is resolved to steward this funding effectively, ensuring it benefits rural residents across the entire state. We will target investments toward rural and frontier hospitals, health clinics, community health centers, and community-based organizations providing health care services in rural and remote areas. Any funds expended in metropolitan areas (e.g., for clinician training) will be used solely and explicitly to benefit rural residents and communities. For the purposes of this program, Oregon defines rural as any geographic area ten or more miles from the centroid of a population center of 40,000 or more, and frontier (or “remote”) as any county with six or fewer people per square mile. Currently, 10 of Oregon’s 36 counties meet this definition of frontier.

Thank you for your consideration of Oregon’s application. We look forward to working in partnership with CMS to advance rural health transformation and improve the lives of our rural and frontier residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Kotek".

Governor Tina Kotek

TK: kn