

Iowa's Rural Health Transformation Plan

Healthy Hometowns is the state's submission to the [Rural Health Transformation](#) Program, a federal funding initiative managed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The bold and comprehensive proposal is aimed at building a high-quality, sustainable system of care that improves the health, well-being, and quality of life in rural communities across the state. If fully awarded, Iowa could receive \$200 million per project year period (a total of \$1 billion over the 5-year grant).



Hometown Connections

- ▶ An initiative that builds formal partnerships to restructure healthcare delivery options for rural communities.
- ▶ This includes an expansion of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds's Centers of Excellence Program and a rare opportunity to develop enhanced Health Hubs, or hub-and-spoke networks of care, with investments in telehealth, specialized medical equipment, provider recruitment and retention, efficient space utilization, and limited funds to support care for uninsured Iowans.
- ▶ Health Hubs may include school-based service provision.
- ▶ This initiative also includes, **Best and Brightest**, a sub-initiative aimed to recruit and retain an excellent rural healthcare workforce.



Combat Cancer: Prevent & Treat

- ▶ An initiative to comprehensively tackle cancer throughout the state via increasing access to cancer screening, forming cancer-specific Health Hubs, upgrading equipment for cancer screening and treatment, delivering supportive care for families impacted by cancer, and supporting studies and analyses by academic partners.
- ▶ Iowa will address lung cancer prevention through radon testing and mitigation, breast cancer by paying for mammograms and follow-up breast MRIs, colorectal cancer through FIT tests and follow-up colonoscopies, skin cancer through telehealth and new equipment, and prostate cancer through routinescreening methods.



Communities of Care

- ▶ An initiative that supports co-location of different rural provider types for convenient patient access and improved coordination, hires community health workers as system navigators, and invests heavily in chronic disease prevention and management techniques.



Health Information Exchange

- ▶ An initiative that allows records to be accessible across the state as patients travel throughout new Health Hubs and seek care in new ways.



EMS Community Care Mobile

- ▶ An initiative that invests in new telehealth technology for high-risk transport of moms and their new babies to higher levels of care throughout the state and a mobile integrated healthcare program that brings prenatal, postpartum, post-surgery discharge, chronic disease management, and other types of care to rural residents in their homes or to easily accessible sites in their communities.

Results

By 2031, Healthy Hometowns aims to:

- ▶ Reduce unnecessary ED hospital visits in participating rural communities.
- ▶ Increase the number of rural residents receiving care locally through new or expanded service lines.
- ▶ Increase provider to population ratios in rural Iowa.
- ▶ Increase the number of telehealth consultations delivered to rural residents.
- ▶ Increase the number of rural providers and facilities participating in HIE with active data exchange.