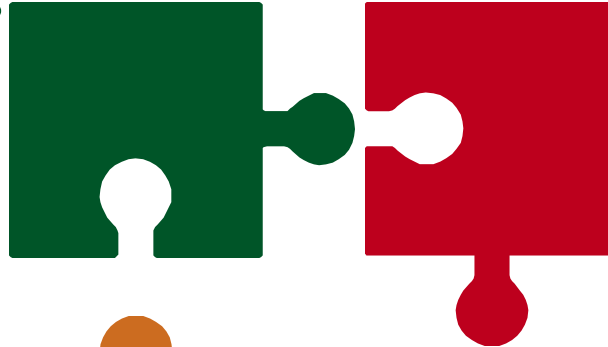


Arizona's RHTP Initiatives

Below are the **4 initiatives** that Arizona is focusing on to address the key challenges related to access to healthcare in rural communities:

Rural Health Workforce Development and Training Program

- **Recruit, train, and retain skilled health professionals** serving Arizona's **rural and Tribal communities** by creating new and expanding existing workforce initiatives
- Create **financial incentives to encourage recruitment and retention** of healthcare professionals, collaborating with universities colleges, and AHECs, with an emphasis on allied health disciplines

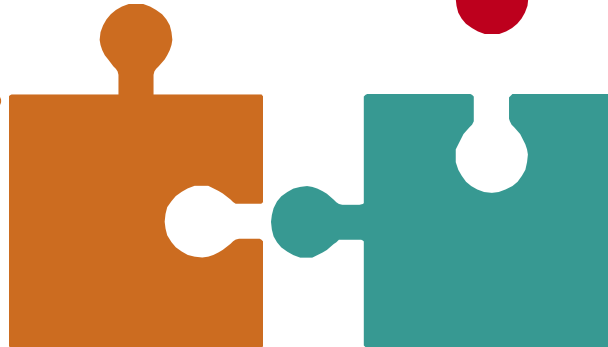


Making Rural Healthcare Accessible

- Expand access to care in rural communities by deploying mobile units and satellite sites, and expanding telehealth services for **specialty, primary, and preventive care in remote areas**
- Integrate **regional coordination** for referrals, scheduling, and continuity of care, and telehealth-enabled access to improve rural health outcomes

Priority Health Initiatives Grants Portfolio

- Focused on **Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder (SUD), Maternal-Fetal Health, and Chronic Disease Prevention & Management**
- **Expand prevention and treatment access** via grant opportunities, including for mobile/digital units, enhancing training, and increasing screening



Making Rural Healthcare Resilient

- Implement shared services models to reduce administrative and financial burdens by **leveraging EMRs, HIE, and scaling back-office support**
- Provide **technical assistance** to strengthen rural network **performance and coordination** for better care delivery

RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Rural Health Workforce Development and Training Program

Purpose: To recruit, train, and retain skilled health professionals serving Arizona's rural and tribal communities

Lead Agency: Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

Activities:

- **Rural Health Education and Training Expansion:** Expands rural clinical rotations, residency slots, and accelerated education programs across universities and community colleges, prioritizing rural students and hard-to-fill specialties.
- **Financial Incentives for Rural Practice:** Provides sign-on bonuses, relocation support, commuting subsidies, childcare assistance, and preceptor stipends tied to a five-year rural service commitment to strengthen recruitment and retention.
- **Purchase orders for Provider Upskilling and Residency Support:** Funds specialized training and wellbeing programs for rural health professionals and offers micro-grants to clinics and hospitals to expand clinical training capacity and retention.
- **Arizona Healthcare Workforce Project:** Establishes a coordinated office at OEO to oversee long-term strategic planning and accelerate enrollment in rural workforce training programs through cross-sector partnerships.

Expected Outcomes: Increased rural health workforce pipeline, Increased rural clinician retention, Increased training rates, Expanded access to care

Funding Framework: AHCCCS will sub-award funds to OEO, which will administer cooperative agreements, contracts and competitive awards to support initiative execution.

PRIORITY HEALTH INITIATIVES GRANTS PORTFOLIO (GRANT 1/3)

Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Expansion Grant

Purpose: To **expand clinical capacity and access points** to behavioral health and substance use disorder treatments in rural and tribal areas, **prioritizing integrated, evidence-based service models.**

Lead Agency: AHCCCS

Activities:

- **Opioid overdose prevention** through expanded opioid antagonists (e.g., naloxone distribution, etc.) and community-based access in rural areas
- **Mobile and digital service expansion and rural crisis services**, including clinics, detox centers, and crisis stabilization units—especially in northern Arizona where adults and pediatric crisis care gaps persist.
- **Training and recruitment** of behavioral health professionals in shortage areas.

Expected Outcomes: Improved geographic access to behavioral health and crisis services, Increased treatment engagement via digital therapeutics, Increased individuals engaged in prevention activities, Increased naloxone distribution events and kits provided

Funding Framework: AHCCCS will administer cooperative agreements, contracts and competitive awards to support initiative execution.

PRIORITY HEALTH INITIATIVES GRANTS PORTFOLIO (GRANT 2/3)

Improving Rural Maternal-Fetal Health Grant

Purpose: To improve the health and well-being of mothers and babies before, during, and after pregnancy through coordinated prevention and early intervention.

Lead Agency: ADHS

Activities:

- **Expanding maternal health programs**, including statewide adoption of evidence-based maternal health bundles to standardize obstetric care
- **Enhancing OB and maternal mental health training**, including supporting OB simulation training for rural hospitals to improve emergency response and obstetric care and Perinatal Mental Health Certification (PMH-C) training to build a skilled and sustainable workforce.
- **Ensuring access to critical help lines**, including perinatal psychiatric help for patients, and perinatal help for rural clinicians for real-time provider and patient navigation.

Expected Outcomes: Increased implementation of the AIM Maternal Health Safety Bundles, Enhanced readiness for rural hospitals to respond to obstetric emergencies, Expanded access to perinatal mental health consultation and education, Increased number of healthcare providers trained and certified in PMH-C, Increased percentage of pregnant women with syphilis linked to care, Increased percentage of pregnant women treated for syphilis

Funding Framework: AHCCCS will sub-award funds to ADHS, which will administer cooperative agreements, contracts and competitive awards to support initiative execution.

PRIORITY HEALTH INITIATIVES GRANTS PORTFOLIO (GRANT 3/3)

Chronic Disease Prevention & Management Grant

Purpose: To strengthen county and **regional chronic disease prevention capacity** and **improve long-term health outcomes**.

Lead Agency: ADHS

Activities:

- **Rural health screening events and targeted outreach campaigns** to identify and address chronic disease risk factors early
- **Embedding resources within healthcare environments** to ensure Arizonans who are eligible for health insurance programs become enrolled, and that **Arizonans are connected to social services for which they are eligible**.

Expected Outcomes: Improved rural prevention infrastructure, Increased rural chronic illness screening opportunities/events

Funding Framework: AHCCCS will sub-award funds to ADHS, which will administer cooperative agreements, contracts and competitive awards to support initiative execution.

MAKING RURAL HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBLE (GRANT 1/2)

Telehealth Digital Transformation, Adoption, and Care Coordination Grant

Purpose: To expand equitable access across rural Arizona to telehealth and **technology-enabled healthcare across all clinical types**. This initiative integrates **investments in telehealth expansion with digital infrastructure modernization**, ensuring that rural patients, providers, and systems are connected through **reliable, interoperable, and secure digital infrastructure** and statewide platforms.

Lead Agency: AHCCCS

Activities:

- **Telehealth hubs and remote monitoring:** Establish and expand telehealth hub sites to provide virtual specialty consults and implement remote patient monitoring programs that extend care to patients at home.
- **Grants for technology, including digital infrastructure and access, and care coordination:** Funds modernization of telehealth and digital infrastructure, integrates care coordination across mobile, tele-behavioral, and EMS networks, and expands the AZ REACH Behavioral Health Transfer Program to rural areas.

Expected Outcomes: Increased telehealth utilization, Improved care coordination

Funding Framework: AHCCCS will administer cooperative agreements, contracts and competitive awards to support initiative execution.

MAKING RURAL HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBLE (GRANT 2/2)

Rural Health Innovative Care Pilot Program Grant

Purpose: To establish or expand **long-term rural health access points to preventive, specialty, and primary care services** and pilot innovative care or payment models

Lead Agency: AHCCCS

Activities:

- **Mobile & Satellite Site Expansion:** Acquire, equip, and deploy mobile units & satellite sites to deliver specialty, primary, and preventive care
- **Innovative & Alternative Care Models:** Pilot and scale community health worker programs, diversion models, in-home services, and traditional healing supports.
- **Alternative Payment & Value-Based Care Adoption:** Adoption of alternative payment models and value-based care strategies to incentivize quality and efficiency in rural health delivery.

Expected Outcomes: Expanded service reach and rural specialty access, Reduced emergency and hospital utilization, Strengthened local health infrastructure, Accelerated adoption of value-based care

Funding Framework: AHCCCS will administer cooperative agreements, contracts and competitive awards to support initiative execution.

MAKING RURAL HEALTHCARE RESILIENT

Making Rural Healthcare Resilient

Purpose: Build and strengthen **co-located community hubs** and integrated rural networks that achieve efficiencies through **shared services**.

Lead Agency: AHCCCS

Activities:

- **Medical Diagnostic Equipment and Technology, including EHR Upgrades & Data Sharing:** Supports upgrades to medical equipment and EHR systems for rural providers, improving interoperability with Arizona's HIE, and strengthening cybersecurity and administrative efficiency.
- **Provider Liaisons Pilot Project:** Funds Provider Liaisons at AHCCCS, DIFI, and ADHS to reduce administrative burden, streamline credentialing, and coordinate compliance reporting to agency leadership and the RHTP Project Officer.
- **Adopt Shared Services Consortia:** Implements shared staffing, training, data systems, and facilities to strengthen operational efficiency and sustainability in low-population and Tribal areas.
- **Provide Technical Assistance to Improve Operational and Fiscal Performance:** Delivers targeted support to rural healthcare organizations to enhance operations, financial management, and network administration—building long-term community resilience and self-sufficiency.

Expected Outcomes: Increased co-located care sites, Increased improved care coordination, Reduced service duplication, Improved operational sustainability, Expanded cybersecurity capabilities for providers

Funding Framework: AHCCCS will administer cooperative agreements, contracts and competitive awards to support initiative execution.