

**Funding Opportunity Number: THRIVE YR 1-2026**

**Issuing Agency: Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A),**

**Program Authority: CMS Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program**

**Contact Information: [Info@arkansasrhtp.com](mailto:Info@arkansasrhtp.com)**

## Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

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### Telehealth, Health-Monitoring, and Response Innovation for Vital Expansion (THRIVE)

#### I. Program Overview

The Telehealth, Health-Monitoring, and Response Innovation for Vital Expansion (THRIVE) initiative is a core component of Arkansas's Rural Health Transformation Program. THRIVE is designed to modernize rural healthcare delivery by expanding telehealth access, strengthening emergency medical response systems, and deploying remote patient monitoring technologies.

#### II. Program Objectives

For purposes of this NOFO, a credible plan means a proposal that demonstrates a clear implementation approach, measurable outcomes, organizational readiness, and—where applicable—regional or cross-provider collaboration.

- Expand access to high-quality telehealth and virtual specialty care
- Reduce EMS and trauma response times
- Improve chronic disease and behavioral health outcomes
- Strengthen interoperability and cybersecurity
- Support data-driven care coordination

Projects that do not clearly align with at least one objective and present a credible plan for achieving measurable results will not be considered for funding.

#### III. THRIVE Sub-Initiatives

THRIVE will support projects across the following sub-initiatives. The examples listed below are illustrative and not exhaustive. Applicants may propose other technology-enabled projects that clearly advance THRIVE objectives and are consistent with CMS RHT Program requirements.

A. **LIFELINE** (Linking Infrastructure for Emergency Lifesaving and Integrated Network Expansion): Emergency Response Modernization, including but not limited to:

- EMS tele-triage platforms
- Emergency department tele-consultation networks
- Trauma and stroke response coordination tools
- Interoperable EMS communication systems
- Purchase and equipping of ambulances, when supported by technology integration (e.g., telehealth, communications, monitoring, or dispatch systems) and clearly tied to measurable improvements in emergency response capacity

Total budget for **LIFELINE** projects up to **\$28,100,000.00** in Year 1

B. **HOME** (Health Outcomes through Monitoring & Engagement): Technology-Enabled Remote Patient Monitoring including:

- Chronic disease monitoring through digital monitoring platforms and connected devices (remote monitoring/ wearable devices)
  - Hypertension (High Blood Pressure), Diabetes prevention, heart disease, obesity, etc.
- Home-based behavioral health monitoring
- Post discharge remote monitoring
- Integration of RPM data into electronic health record (EHR) systems and care coordination workflows

Total budget for **HOME** projects up to **\$18,550,000.00** in Year 1

C. **VIRTUAL** (Virtual Innovation for Rural Telehealth, Utilization, Access, and Longevity): Telehealth Capacity Expansion including:

- Virtual specialty care
- Tele-behavioral health
- Community-based telehealth access points
- Provider telehealth training

Total budget for **VIRTUAL** projects up to **\$2,000,000.00** in Year 1

D. **TECH Fund** (Telehealth, Equipment, and Connectivity Hub Fund): Digital Health Infrastructure including:

- Interoperability upgrades
- Cybersecurity enhancements
- Data analytics platforms
- Secure cloud-based clinical systems.

Total budget for **TECH FUND** projects up to **\$7,000,000.00** in Year 1

#### **IV. Eligibility**

Eligible applicants include rural hospitals, clinics, EMS providers, behavioral health providers, CINs, and nonprofit or public entities serving rural Arkansas.

In addition to meeting eligibility by entity type, applicants must demonstrate sufficient organizational, operational, and financial capacity to administer grant funds in compliance with state and federal requirements, including **2 CFR Part 200**.

#### **V. Award Information**

No match is required.

Allowable budget categories may include personnel, contractual services, equipment, software and licensing, training, and data and evaluation costs, provided they are reasonable, necessary, and directly tied to approved project activities.

All awards are subject to the State's receipt of funds under the RHT Program. The State plans for future funding opportunities available in future RHT Program years. An Eligible participant's award of funding in one Program Year does not guarantee the award of funds in future years.

The performance period for Program Year 1 runs from the award through **September 30, 2027**, meaning all Program Year 1 funds must be spent by then. However, per CMS rules, all funds must be obligated by **October 30, 2026**. The State will provide awardees with more detailed guidance on what is required to show that funds have been obligated.

## **VI. Reporting and Compliance**

Quarterly reporting is required. Compliance with **2 CFR Part 200**.

The State will monitor Grantee's performance, including, but not limited to, through review of financial and programmatic reports and performance measures, under any Grant Agreement awarded as a result of this NOFO.

The State is required to submit detailed reports to CMS regarding activities and expenditures under the RHT Program. The State will require each awardee to submit quarterly progress reports and a final evaluation report to permit the State to fulfill its RHT Program requirements. Also, awardees may be required to respond to questions from or submit information to the Department of Finance and Administration for Plan implementation.

## **VII. Funding Restrictions**

THRIVE funds cannot be used for any purpose for which the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) prohibits the use of RHT Program funds. Funding restrictions include, but are not limited to:

- Total administrative costs may not exceed 5% of the award
- Generally, indirect costs
- Funds may not replace existing funding and must support new or expanded activities
- Salaries charged to the award may not exceed the federal salary cap (\$225,700)
- Funds may not support ongoing costs without a sustainability plan
- Broadband infrastructure is not an allowable use of funds
- Lobbying or advocacy activities are not an allowable use of funds
- Investment vehicles or endowments that generate profit are not an allowable use of funds

Please refer to the RHT Program [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) and CMS' [Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding the RHT Program for detailed information regarding funding restrictions.

## **VIII. Application Information**

- **Application open date:** May 11, 2026
- **Application close date:** June 12, 2026