



# Southeast Regional Eldercare Coalition

Quality Care • Care Coordination • Social Engagement

## SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ELDERCARE COALITION

April 3, 2026, at 8:30AM

### Meeting Minutes

#### Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89966612080?pwd=Y2s1MU16dzdjbFkraFF4ZFZjcXNPQT09>

**Meeting ID: 899 6661 2080**

**Passcode: 471844**

1. **Call to Order 8:35am**
2. **Agenda Approval** - John Smith motioned for approval. Joan Okeefe seconded motion. Agenda approved.
3. **Minutes Approval** – John Smith Motioned for approval. Joan seconded motions. Minutes approved.
4. **SREC Project Update** – Tonya Muldoon
  - a. AHFC Application: please provide feedback. An email was sent to the SREC members asking for assistance in identifying seniors and others who may have needs met through the Senior assistance program and or the Homeowners Assistance Fund for home modifications or mortgage stability related to Covid 19. Asking for responses by April 8.
  - b. Coalition Survey, where we want to go. A survey has been sent to you asking about the value, your engagement, and forward movement of the Coalition. Please take some time to respond.



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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5VLZG6C>

- c. Rural Health Transformation Program – Submitted Letters of Intent
  - i. Aging-in-Place Home Modification Infrastructure Initiative
  - ii. Rosarium Health: Alaska Aging in Place Value-Based Care Initiative
  - iii. Community Navigator Connection Statewide Care Coordination & Resource Navigational Platform
  - iv. Thrive Together Child Health & Provider Support Pilot
  - v. Southeast Alaska Rural Healthcare Hubs CNA, MA, HIM, & PCA Pathways
  - vi. St. Ann’s Center for Integrated Care – Redevelopment Project

### 5. **SREC Steering Committee Report** – Erin Walker-Tolles and/or Sharyl Yeisley

- a. Steering Committee Meeting Update

Tabled, to allow for more time for Best Practice speaker. Erin suggested that we focus on the RHTP funding opportunities and may want to put together a meeting for us to talk more about workforce development and how each of us could partner more to create better sustainability.

Comment: There is a need for a Risky Situation Training, helping providers stay safe in environments that pose risks.

### 6. **Advocacy Update:** Wayne Stevens

- a. Advocacy update from the Hill



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Tabled, Comment that we will be looking for ways to build awareness of the senior needs for representatives over the summer. We will be looking to have coalition support and engagement in the advocacy.

7. **Best Practice:** Department of Health Deputy Commissioner Emily Ricci to discuss the Alaska Rural Health Transitional Program

<https://health.alaska.gov/en/education/rural-health-transformation-program/>

**Tricia Franklin** | Program Coordinator  
Rural Health Transformation, Commissioner's Office  
Alaska Department of Health

[tricia.franklin@alaska.gov](mailto:tricia.franklin@alaska.gov)

907.300.5317

Deputy Commission Emily Ricci joined the coalition meeting as the Best Practice speaker. She presented a slide show and explanation about the Alaska Rural Health Transitional Program. A copy of the presentation will be added at the end of this document. Alaska received the second largest distribution nationally with an annual grant fund of \$272 Million for the next 5 years. The funding must be fully utilized each year to receive the following years' funding. Funding for the first year must be spent down by September 30, 2027. Funding areas have been broken into sections: Healthy Beginnings, Healthcare Access, Healthy Communities, Pay for Value, Strengthen Workforce, and Spark Technology and Innovation. The Department of Health received and are reviewing 1800 Letter of Intent requesting \$2.5 Million in the initial round out of the grant funding. The Department is offering meeting for agencies interested in meeting together to review the funding areas, network, and start coordinating with one another.



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8. **Comments from members:**

9. **Adjournment:** 9:34AM

10. **Next Meeting:** Scheduled May 1, 2026, at 8:30AM

a. Sub-Committees:

i. **Senior Empowerment and Advocacy** – Wayne  
Stevens Sub-Committee Chair

**Goal:** Support policy, regulation, law, and procedural changes in the Alaska system to improve direct care services for seniors. **Third Wednesday of the month at 9am. Next meeting April 15, 2026**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85018791334>

Meeting ID: 850 1879 1334

11. **Upcoming events:**



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### a. ACoA Community Webinar: Social Security 101 April 7

**Social Security**  
with  
**Regional Public Affairs Specialist  
Nathan Cole**

Free  
webinar  
via Zoom

Tuesday  
April 7th  
12pm - 1:30pm

Join the meeting using this link at noon:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84182410973>

Questions? Contact ACoA Staff Yasmin Radbod at 907-230-0871.



Please join us for our second webinar with Nathan Cole, Social Security Administration Regional Public Affairs Specialist on Social Security 101. Do you have questions you need answered? Please email those to us at [doh.acoa.info@alaska.gov](mailto:doh.acoa.info@alaska.gov)

The SSA webinar is April 7th via Zoom from 12pm to 1:30pm. The last 30 minutes is for Q&A. These webinars are not recorded or publicly shared.

Link to join:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84182410973>

### b. 2026 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Resilience Fair, brought to the community by BRAVE

**Free tables available, applications due by April 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Event:** Nolan Center Wrangell, Alaska

April 18, 2026, 11AM-2PM

Each participating organization/program will be given a table for distributing information, flyers, swag, resource applications, or whatever else they want to share. This fair is highly energetic and interactive, so we highly encourage folks to bring a game or activity that families and children can do at or next to their table. If you



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need extra space for an activity or have a special request, let us know and we'll try to make it happen.

Please email or call if you have questions! 907-204-0530.  
Maleah Nore (She/Her) [maleaharianne@yahoo.com](mailto:maleaharianne@yahoo.com)

**c. First Mondays**

Congressman Nick Begich's Office  
2401 Eagle Ave Ketchikan, AK 99901  
11AM-2PM

Direct help from Congressman Begich's office for Seniors  
They can assist you with issues with IRS, Social Security, Medicare,  
Veteran Affairs, and other Federal Programs

**d. Service Provider Connect**, formerly known as Community

Resource Connect

May 13, 2026

11:00AM-1:00PM

Mendenhall Library, Juneau

**Monthly topic:** Youth Resources

Contact for more information Vilda Cooday at

[vcooday@tlingitandhaida.gov](mailto:vcooday@tlingitandhaida.gov)

**e. Alzheimer's Resource Alaska: Ten Keys to Dementia Risk  
Reduction**

Mondays March 16-May 18 2-4PM in-person in Anchorage

Thursdays March 19-May 21 6-9PM virtual online, statewide



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There is a \$200 fee for this program with registration required. Financial assistance is available. For more information or to register scan the QR code or mail Jane at [jthomas@alzalaska.org](mailto:jthomas@alzalaska.org).



### f. **Juneau: Applications Open for 2026 Senior Citizen Hardship Tax Program**

Applications for two senior citizen hardship tax programs are open. Juneau residents ages 65 and older may qualify for one or both the Senior Citizen Real Property Hardship Exemption and the Senior Citizen Sales Tax Hardship Rebate. Both programs require an annual application, so you must reapply each year.

Applications are based on your 2025 gross income level.

More information and applications for both programs can be found online at [juneau.org/finance/sales-tax/senior-citizen-tax-benefits](http://juneau.org/finance/sales-tax/senior-citizen-tax-benefits).

#### **Senior Citizen Real Property Hardship Exemption**

The deadline to apply for the Senior Citizen Real Property Hardship Exemption is April 30, 2026. Contact the Assessor's Office at 907-586-5215 ext. 4906 or [assessor.office@juneau.gov](mailto:assessor.office@juneau.gov) for help applying.

Applicants who receive the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption may qualify for the Real Property Hardship Exemption if the gross household income for all members of the household falls below 120% of the HUD median income for Juneau. HUD data for 2026 has not been published and is not expected to be released until April; below are the levels for 2025 for reference. Please note that



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final determinations will be based on 2026 data, so seniors are encouraged to apply even if their gross income exceeds the 2025 levels.

Household Size	Median Income	120% of Median Income
1	\$90,100	\$108,120
2	\$103,000	\$123,600
3	\$115,900	\$139,080
4	\$128,700	\$154,440
5	\$139,000	\$179,160

If it's your first year applying for the Real Property Hardship Exemption, don't forget to file for your Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption by March 31, 2026. If you're not sure which application is which, contact the Assessor's Office for help. Please be aware that the Assessor's Office has moved from City Hall to 1208 Glacier Ave.

### **Senior Citizen Sales Tax Hardship Rebate**

The deadline to apply for the 2025 Senior Citizen Hardship Sales Tax Rebate is June 30, 2026. Contact the Sales Tax Office at 907-586-5215 ext. 4901 or [sales.tax.office@juneau.gov](mailto:sales.tax.office@juneau.gov) for help applying.

Applicants ages 65 and older who have established residency in Juneau may qualify for the Hardship Rebate if their gross income falls below 250% of the current Federal Poverty Guidelines for Alaska. Below are the income limits for the 2025 application.



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	Individual Applicant	Married Applicants
Gross Income Limit	\$49,875	\$67,625
Rebate Amount	\$325	\$650

For more information about the Real Property Hardship Exemption, contact the Assessor's Office at 907-586-5215 ext. 4906 or [assessor.office@juneau.gov](mailto:assessor.office@juneau.gov).

For more information about the Sales Tax Hardship Rebate, contact the Sales Tax Office at 907-586-5215 ext. 4901 or [sales.tax.office@juneau.gov](mailto:sales.tax.office@juneau.gov).

### g. Aging & Disability News

[Banks Are Becoming Bulwarks Against Scams for Vulnerable Seniors](#)

[Starbucks, Walmart, Other Retailers Roll Out Framework For Accessibility](#)

[Florida Legislature approves two Alzheimer's disease-related bills](#)

### 12. Weekly Events

- **BINGO**  
Ketchikan Saxman Senior Center  
2401 Eagle Ave  
Saxman, Alaska  
Wednesdays 1PM  
Contact Niki at 907-225-6575.
- **Sitka Coffee Time**



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Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Thursday May 14, 2026

11AM-1:30PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

Sitka, Alaska

Contact: Sitka Tribe of Alaska (907) 747-3207

- **Juneau Senior Center**

Mondays 11AM Senior Sing Along with Jackie

Tuesdays 11:45AM Music with Tom Locher

Wednesdays 11:00AM Senior Chair Yoga

- **Art for Self-Care**

Tuesdays

5:30-7PM

418 Harris St #315 Juneau

These are groups designed to promote self-care using a variety of art activities. For adults to help relieve anxiety, depression, and stress especially during the winter months. Please RSVP: Shawn Hatt Cohen (907)321-5414 txt

- **Beginning and Advanced ESL Classes**

Tuesdays

5:30-7:30PM

Mendenhall Valley Public Library

3025 Diamond Park Loop Juneau, Alaska 99801

Beginning ESL offered from 5:30PM-6:30PM and Advanced ELS

Classes are offered from 6:30-7:30PM. Free. Check out the

Learning Connection website at <https://tlcalaska.org/english-language-learning-citizenship/> or call (907) 586-5718 for more information.

- **Senior Balance Class**



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Activities vary each week including tea & chat, trivia, arts etc.

Wednesdays at 2PM

Alaska Native Brotherhood Founder's Hall

Sitka, Alaska

Info Brave Heart Volunteers (907)747-4600

### **Tai Chi**

Mondays 7-8:00AM

Mountain View Manor

Petersburg, Alaska

- **Family Game Night**

Tuesdays and Fridays 6:30-8:30PM

Parks and Rec Community Center, Activities Room

Petersburg, Alaska

### 13. **Monthly Events**

- **Coffee, Tea and Chat for Patients and Family**

Bartlett Regional Hospital Cafeteria Juneau

Tuesday 10-11:00AM

Event info: [www.bartletthospital.org](http://www.bartletthospital.org)

Contact: Rhonda Ward 907-796-8918

- **Chair Yoga at the Library**

Tuesdays 10:30-11:30AM

Ketchikan Public Library

398 Copper Rd Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

- **Sacred Harp Sing**

Beginners and listeners' welcome

Every Second and Fourth Sundays on the month

3:00PM

Pioneer Home Chapel



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Sitka, Alaska

Contact: Sara at (907)747-2915

- **Sharing Coalition Meeting**

The group focus is community health and engagement through strong partnerships between organizations and individuals.

Everyone is welcome.

Date varies, monthly.

12-1:00PM

Dorothy Ingle Conference room Petersburg Medical Center  
Petersburg, Alaska

#### 14. **Support Groups (Juneau)**

- **Caregiver Support Group**

Every 1st Friday of the month

Ketchikan Saxman Senior Center

2401 Eagle Ave

Saxman, Alaska

Or by TEAMS

Open to all caregivers regionally

Information: (907) 225-8080

- **Riverview Senior Living**, in Juneau is offering free Support for Memory Care, RSVP Zoom meeting, See flyer for more details: [Riverview Memory Matter Support Group flyer](#)  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month

- **Widow's and Widower's Garden Support Group (WE ARE ALL LIVING IN THE GARDEN OF LIFE)**

Riverview Senior Living

3041 Clinton Dr

Juneau, Alaska 99801



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First Monday each month 2-4PM

More information contact Diane Kyser at (907) 723-1917

- **Virtual Low Vision Support Group**  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
Wildflower Court (Juneau)  
Call Linda Newman at Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) for more info: Email: [lnewman@sailinc.org](mailto:lnewman@sailinc.org).
- **Deaf Support Group**  
Mets in Juneau in various locations. Contact Pam Guy for details. Email [psmguy2@gmail.com](mailto:psmguy2@gmail.com) or text 907-314-0732 for more information.
- **Cancer Connection Support Group**  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
First Floor Conference Room  
8711 Teal St Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Contact: [www.cancerconnectionak.org](http://www.cancerconnectionak.org)  
(907)796-2273, or email: [admin@cancerconnectionak.org](mailto:admin@cancerconnectionak.org)
- **NAMI Juneau Peer-Led Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Skills Workshop**  
First Wednesday of the month  
5:30-6:30PM  
8711 Teal St. Main Floor Conference Room  
Information: [www.namijuneau.org/support-groups](http://www.namijuneau.org/support-groups)
- **Low Vision Support Group**  
First Monday's 1:00-2:30PM at the Plaza Mall, Ketchikan.  
Contact Brenda Loughman for more information. Email: [loughmanb@kpunet.net](mailto:loughmanb@kpunet.net)

# State of Alaska Department of Health

## Rural Health Transformation Program Overview

Emily Ricci, Deputy Commissioner

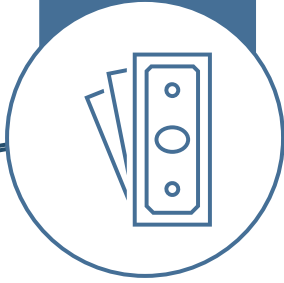


April 3, 2026

# Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Basics



The RHTP is a one-time, five-year, \$50 billion federal initiative to catalyze rural health care delivery transformation and improve access and health outcomes across the country



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded Alaska **\$272 million** to allocate between January and October 2026



The RHTP is administered through a cooperative agreement between the State of Alaska Department of Health and CMS

# Transforming Alaska's Health Care System

## Our North Star vision



### Healthier Alaskans

*Lifelong health and wellbeing for all Alaskans.*

## What people experience



### Health Care Access Across the Full Lifespan

*Prenatal → Infant/Early Childhood → Youth/Adolescent → Adult → Elder/Senior Care*

- Readily available primary and preventive care close to home
- Easier access to behavioral health, specialty, complex, emergency and long-term care services
- Coordinated, integrated, high-quality care across provider teams
- Sustained support and engagement beyond clinical settings

## What enables the system



### Workforce

*Build resilient health care teams:*

- Pipeline and incentive programs to get more clinical and non-clinical providers in rural and frontier areas
- Training to help providers deliver high-quality care at the top of their license



### Technology and Innovation

*Invest in technology and innovation:*

- Telehealth and remote monitoring tools to connect patients at home to providers
- Data systems to share clinical records among connected health care teams

## What sustains the system



### Pay for Better Health Outcomes

*Advance models to financially align reimbursements with improved health outcomes:*

- Pilot and test alternative payment models, shifting away from fee-for-service
- Reduce providers' administrative barriers so they can focus on patients and outcome



# Alaska's RHTP Goals and Initiatives



**Goal 1: Promote Lifelong Health and Wellbeing for Rural, Remote, and Frontier Alaskans**

Healthy Beginnings

Health Care Access

Healthy Communities

**Goal 2: Build Sustainable Outcomes-Driven Health Systems**

Pay for Value: Fiscal Sustainability

**Goal 3: Drive Workforce and Technology Innovations**

Strengthen Workforce

Spark Technology & Innovation

*RHTP will fund projects with clear sustainability plans that will look different for each project and community.*

# Alaska RHTP Participants



**Potential funding recipients include, but are not limited to:**

Health care providers

Hospitals and clinics

Tribal Health Organizations

EMS

Local governments

Community centers

Schools

Non-profit organizations

State agencies

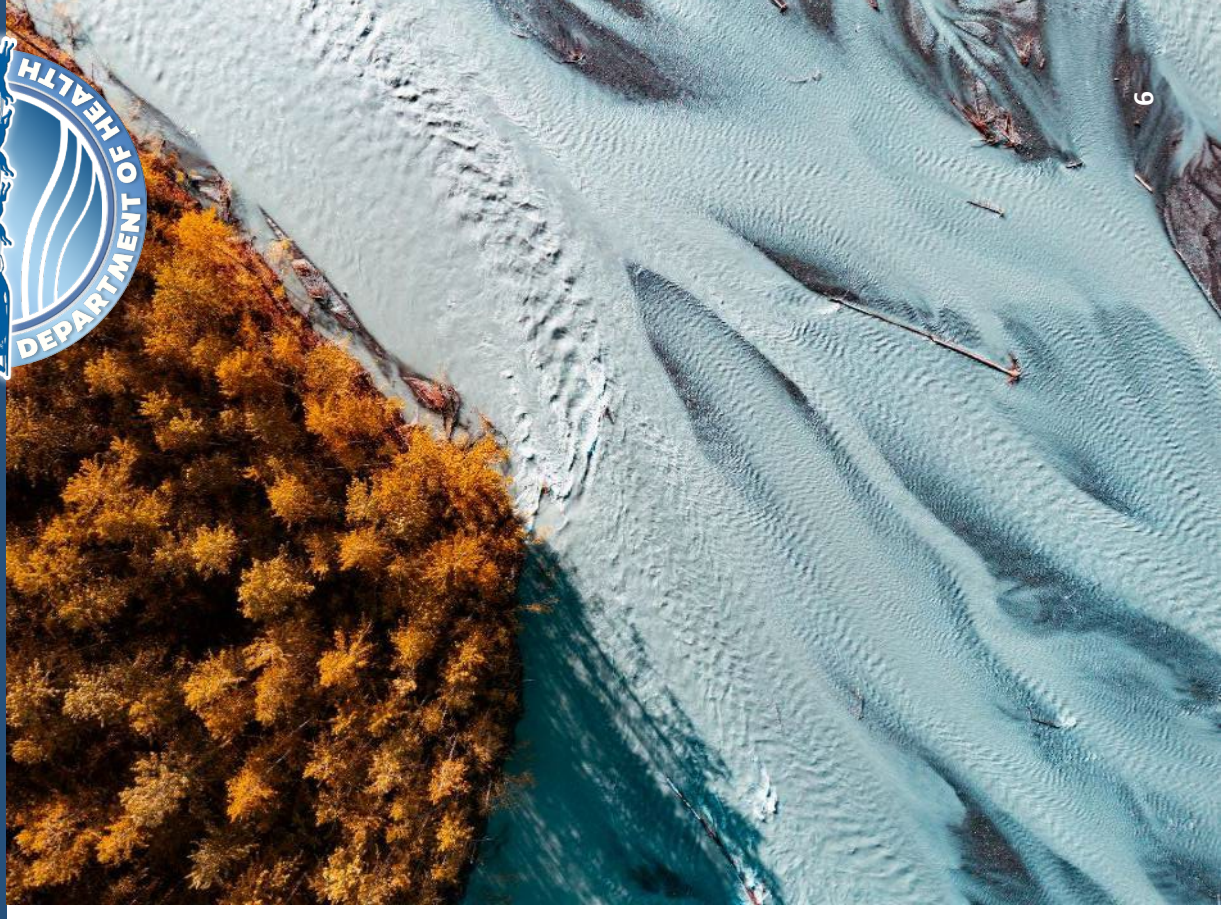


**Entities across Alaska can apply for RHTP funds**

# Federal Limitations on RHTP Funding

Examples of CMS-defined unallowable uses of RHTP funding include:

- Construction of new facilities or building expansions
- Purchasing land and/or buildings
- Funding clinical services already covered by insurance
- Supplanting existing funding
- Broadband infrastructure, major installation costs, and certain telecommunications equipment
- Provider loan repayments
- Direct payments to individuals (e.g., cash assistance, gift cards)
- Supplanting state contribution to Medicaid match
- Food



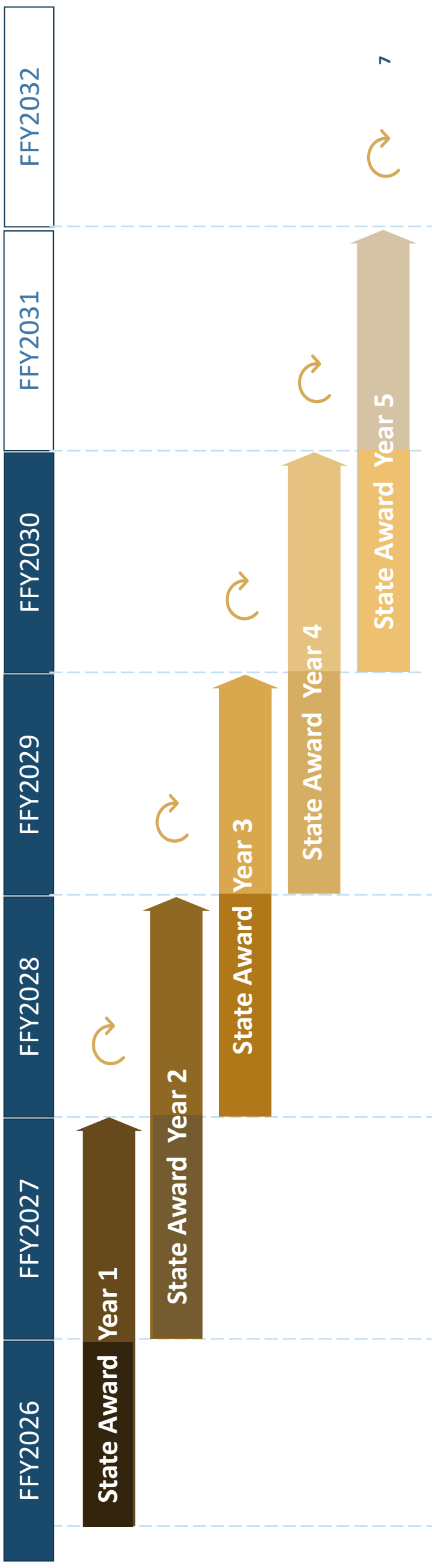
# RHTP Funding Timeline



CMS will make annual awards to states.

- States have one year to incur costs (obligate funds) and an additional year to finish spending them
- Beginning March 31, 2028, CMS will start annually redistributing unspent funds. Any final reallocated funds must be spent by the end of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2032

**REMINDER:** This is one-time, five-year funding. Investments must be sustainable after RHTP funding concludes



# Other AK RHTP Forums and Resources



## Regional Planning Meetings

In-person regional meetings to gather community input on strengths and needs.



## Impact Sessions

Virtual forum for dialogue, collaboration, and exploration of new approaches.



## Office Hours

Virtual meetings to answer questions about RHTP and the application process, available during open LOI and application cycles.



## Website

Source for RHTP updates, frequently asked questions, and news.

# Stay Informed

For more information, please visit:

[health.alaska.gov/RHTP](https://health.alaska.gov/RHTP)



Email:

[RHTP@alaska.gov](mailto:RHTP@alaska.gov)

Sign up for program updates



Overview   RHTP Convening   Applications and Proposed Initiatives   Background   Project Timeline

## Overview

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is a \$50 billion federal opportunity to improve health care in rural areas across all fifty states.

The Alaska Department of Health (DOH) has received [notice of award](#) from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to bring this funding to Alaska.

- Alaska is one of the top recipients nationwide, reflecting the state's large rural population, geographic challenges, and long-standing health care access needs.
- Alaska will receive \$272,174,856 each year to support targeted, systemwide investments that improve access to care and strengthen the long-term stability of the state's health care system.

[Sign up for RHTP updates here](#)