

# Michigan's Rural Health Transformation Program

Michigan was awarded **\$173 million** through the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), which is a federal initiative created by H.R.1 to:



Expand access to care in rural communities.



Modernize rural facilities and technology.



Strengthen the rural health workforce.



Support innovative models that bring high-quality, dependable care closer to home for individuals living in rural areas.

Over a five-year period, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will make \$50 billion in RHTP funding available to states, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is responsible for applying for Michigan's share and administering awarded funds to eligible organizations. While Michigan is receiving the **eighth lowest** amount of RHTP funding in the country, CMS maintains the ability to adjust funding allotments in future years. The MDHHS will apply each year to receive additional funding. The MHA convened a rural health task force to provide recommendations for the MDHHS application each year.



Michiganders living in rural communities rely on their local hospitals for lifesaving care. Prioritizing rural hospitals in the distribution of RHTP funding reflects their outsized role in preserving access to care, strengthening regional health infrastructure and employing the rural healthcare workforce.

# Rural Healthcare Landscape in Michigan

## Demographics



Just under **2 million** Michigan residents live in a rural area, giving Michigan the **7th largest** rural population in the country.



Nearly **1 in 4** adults in rural Michigan are covered by Medicaid, making Michigan the state with the **5th largest** rural Medicaid population in the country.



Rural Michigan has a heart disease mortality rate of **368 deaths per 100,000**, higher than the national average and the state has the **8th highest** in the country.



While the percentage of rural Michiganders with a disability is on par with the national average, Michigan has the **10th largest** population of people living with a disability in the country.

## Rural Hospitals

**Roughly 1/4**

of Michigan's rural hospitals operate with negative total margins.

**Nearly 3/4**

of rural hospitals with negative margins are also the sole hospital in their communities.

**Just under 1/3**

of rural hospitals with negative margins are the sole hospital in their communities and border a county without its own hospital.



The average rural Michigan resident is **15.4 miles** from the closest hospital with a birthing center, nearly double the state average. The residents of nearly **1/3** of Michigan's rural counties live over **30 miles** from a hospital with a birthing center.



There are fewer OB/GYNs per person in rural Michigan than in the rural US overall and just under **500,000** rural Michigan residents live in a county without even one OB/GYN.



Roughly **1.7 million** rural Michigan residents live in a primary care shortage county, **4th most** in the country.



The Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan have the **highest rates** of chronic disease and the **most limited access** to primary and hospital care.



Michigan is **sixth** in the country for the number of residents who live in a rural county with a full or partial mental health workforce shortage.



Members with questions on the RHTP should contact the **MHA Policy Team**.

