



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Rural Health Transformation Program Update

Public Health Funding and Policy Committee (PHFPC)
October 7, 2026



Rural Texas
STRONG



Timeline of Recent Key Events

DECEMBER
2025

CMS awards
HHSC

JANUARY
2026

HHSC submits
revised budget
narrative to
CMS

HHSC
continues to
work with CMS
for an approval
on April 7

MARCH
2026

HHSC attends
CMS Rural
Health Summit
in Baltimore, MD

APRIL
2026

HHSC launches 4
solicitations

HHSC hires full
RTS team –
within PFD

HHSC launches
GMS

MAY
2026

HHSC
informed of
Federal site
Visit: 9/21-22

HHSC
presents to
TX House
Public Health
Committee

JUNE
2026

HHSC
executes 1
IAC

Final solicitation
closes June 10

JULY
2026

HHSC
launches 1
solicitation
closing 8/26.

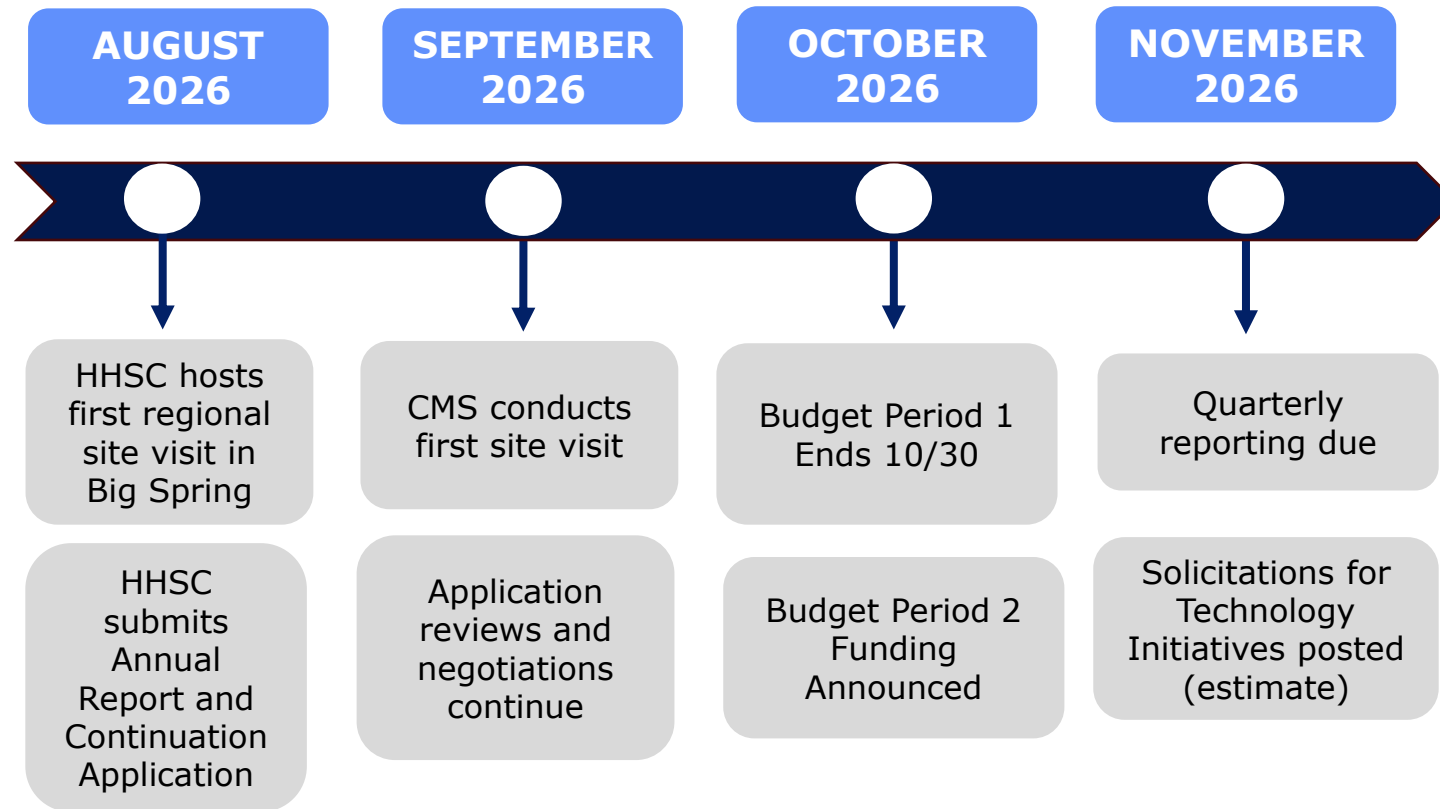
HHSC in
negotiations
for 3
initiatives

HHSC
executes 2
IAC's

Timeline of Recent Key Events



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Project Updates



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- Award received for **Budget Period 1**: \$281,319,360.67 and an estimated \$1.4 billion over the 5 years of the program.
- **Strategy shift**: Prioritize fast and compliant deployment of funds in accordance with CMS.
- **Implementation focus**: high-impact investments under Initiatives 1, 4 and 6.
- **Community engagement**: website updated with latest news and initiative contract timeline estimates, conducted first regional meeting in Big Springs, and had our federal site visit in early September.
- **State infrastructure**: launched HHSC GMS system.
- **Initiative launch**: Four solicitations successfully launched, three initiatives in negotiations, 3 IAC's in process. Hosting daily cross-systems collaborations: Procurement and Contracting Services, HHSC CFO-Procurements and Contracting, Communications, Operations, RTS Team, Provider Finance Department Leadership, System Contracting – Legal Services Division.
- **State Policy Action**: Following up on two state policy actions - nutrition as a Continuing Medical Education requirement and instating the Presidential Fitness test in schools.
- **Upcoming**: preparing for first round of federal reporting, federal checkpoints, and continuation application



How to Stay In Touch

Official Announcements

- HHSC will share procurement opportunities, grant postings and deadlines via public channels.

Where?

- [HHSC Rural Health Transformation Program website](#) and [GovDelivery](#), and [HHSC grants page](#).

Stay Connected:

- Email: RuralTexasStrong@hhs.Texas.gov

Ongoing coordination:

- HHSC will continue to work with CMS as awards launch and details are finalized.

Acknowledgment of Support



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STEVENS AMENDMENT

- Texas' Rural Health Transformation Program, Rural Texas Strong, is supported by:
 - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
 - Total financial assistance award (Budget Period 1): \$281,319,360.67.

(100 percent federally funded by CMS/HHS.)

The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Procurement Disclaimer



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- HHSC is not meeting with potential vendors or applicants.
- This ensures fairness and protects future grant and procurement opportunities under the federal Rural Health Transformation Program.

Procurement and Eligibility Status:

- Eligibility and final determinations will be made through internal contracting and procurement processes.
- Procurement details are still in development as we work through the approval process for our project design with CMS.

Important:

- HHSC is unable to discuss or answer any questions related to procurement and eligibility at this time.
- Please refer to the "How to Stay in Touch" slide for updates as they are released.



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Thank you



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