



A GUIDE FOR STATES

Mobile Healthcare: Planning and Investment Guide for RHTP

If your state is using Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) funds for mobile healthcare, this guide can help you plan, launch, and expand access to care.

1. UNDERSTAND YOUR HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE

Effective RHTP investment begins with a clear understanding of your current healthcare ecosystem. Start by conducting:

- A landscape analysis to identify the systems and services already in place.
- A needs assessment to determine priority services and locations (e.g., primary care, maternal care, behavioral health).

2. REVIEW YOUR STATE'S POLICIES

Mobile healthcare policies, regulations, credentialing, and licensing requirements vary significantly by state.

- Assess how existing state and local policies affect mobile care delivery, including enablers (e.g., scope of practice, facility definitions, reimbursement policies) and potential constraints (e.g., site-of-service or network-participation requirements).
- Consider whether current statutes, regulations, and payment policies explicitly recognize mobile healthcare delivery and whether RHTP planning can be used to modernize or clarify policies to better support mobile care.

A recent policy scan by the [Georgetown Center on Health Insurance Reforms](#) found that, for many mobile programs, the primary constraint is sustainable reimbursement and integration into payer networks, not a lack of evidence that mobile care is effective.



Between 2010 and 2021

136

RURAL HOSPITALS CLOSED*

* Data: American Hospital Association.



Mobile clinics have stepped in to fill the gap.

65%

OF REGISTERED MOBILE CLINICS SERVE RURAL COMMUNITIES**

almost 50% growth from 2020

** Data: Mobile Health Map.



3. CONNECT WITH EXISTING MOBILE CLINICS

Reach out to mobile clinics already operating in your state. Supporting existing programs strengthens the healthcare system and accelerates progress toward your goals.

- Mobile clinics are nimble and adaptable. States can leverage existing infrastructure to expand services and increase access.
- Identify underutilized units that could return to service with minimal capital investment.

IDENTIFY MOBILE CLINICS IN YOUR STATE

Use the Mobile Health Map's Impact Tracker at mobilehealthmap.org/our-impact

Filter by service type, population served, and funding source to spot opportunities for coordination or expansion.



4. EQUIP GRANTEES WITH IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Once awards are made, share the [Mobile Healthcare: Quick Start Guide for Organizations](#) with funded organizations. The guide is designed for implementers, such as hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), universities, community-based organizations, and other providers, and offers practical steps on how to:

- Expand existing mobile services or launch new mobile programs
- Select and configure appropriate vehicles and equipment
- Plan for evaluation, impact measurement, and long-term sustainability
- Develop and support the mobile healthcare workforce

Providing this resource early helps grantees move more quickly from award to implementation while aligning their programs with state goals.

National Partners

Partner with leading organizations to plan, implement, and evaluate your mobile healthcare program:



Mobile Health Map (MHM) is a program of Harvard Medical School that supports a national network of more than 1,300 mobile clinics working to expand access to high-quality, community-based health care. It offers free tools, data, and an “Impact Tracker” to help mobile health providers demonstrate their value, improve services, and advocate for health equity. www.mobilehealthmap.org

- Free evaluation tools and resources for mobile clinics
- Sector research and interactive database
- Landscape analysis, needs assessment & stakeholder mapping services
- Clinic specific evaluation planning



The Mobile Healthcare Association (MHA) is the leading membership-based organization for mobile healthcare professionals in the U.S. and Canada. Founded in 2005, the Association strengthens the mobile health sector by providing education, networking, best practices, field data, and funding and advocacy resources to new and current programs seeking to increase access to care and promote health equity. www.mobilehca.org

- Start-up guide
- Peer learning
- Operational best practices
- Program planning



The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) supports over 1,245 mobile clinics run by Federally Qualified Health Centers. The program provides competitive awards to support staff training, outreach, and technology/operations expansion so mobile clinics can increase their reach and capacity. NACHC recently launched a Center for Mobile Health, which aims to support mobile health programs to reach sustainable operational efficiency through well-informed best practices, state and federal policy making and national operating standards. www.nachc.org

- Health center integration
- Workforce alignment
- Medicaid considerations



Driving Health Forward (DHF) is a national campaign focused on expanding access to essential healthcare by scaling mobile healthcare across the United States. It raises awareness about systems change needed to remove barriers, coordinates policy advocacy, and amplifies the value of mobile healthcare as a high-quality, cost-effective access point for healthcare. www.drivinghealthforward.org