

The Rural Health Transformation Program & IDD: Building Accessible Systems That Work



What Is the Rural Health Transformation Program?

The [Rural Health Transformation Program](#) (RHTP), authorized by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Section 71401 of Public Law 119-21), is a federal initiative that empowers states to strengthen healthcare systems in rural communities by improving access, stabilizing the workforce, advancing health equity, and reducing preventable health crises.

RHTP is a long-term opportunity to redesign systems, awarding \$50 billion to states through 2031.

Why RHTP Must Include People with IDD

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) face some of the greatest health risks in rural systems. They experience higher rates of preventable illness and premature mortality due to:

- Limited access to IDD-competent providers
- Severe workforce shortages
- Fragmented support coordination and data systems

What States Can Do with RHTP Funding

RHTP enables states to:

- Standardize health risk identification
- Strengthen rural workforce capacity
- Improve support coordination
- Reduce avoidable hospitalizations
- Invest in sustainable infrastructure

The strongest RHTP strategies leverage preventative measures, workforce support, and system-wide data.

Without intentional inclusion, people with IDD may likely be left out of transformation efforts, despite being among the highest-risk populations.



2–3× higher risk of preventable health complications for people with IDD



40–50% workforce turnover in rural direct support and care roles



High rates of avoidable hospitalizations tied to unmanaged health risks

Advancing rural health equity through prevention, workforce stability, and data-driven care



Prevention and system oversight

- Identifies and tracks critical health risks
- Supports proactive care to prevent ER visits and hospitalizations
- Provides system-level visibility and accountability

Impact: Fewer crises. Stronger prevention. Better oversight.



Workforce development at scale

- On-demand, rural-accessible training
- Fatal Five, trauma-informed support, person-centered thinking, health & safety
- Custom pathways aligned to state priorities

Impact: Confident staff. Lower turnover. Safer services.



Curriculum in IDD Healthcare

- Trains medical professionals in IDD healthcare
- Improves diagnosis and coordination
- Expands rural clinical capacity

Impact: Better clinical outcomes. Stronger provider networks.

How IntellectAbility Delivers RHTP Infrastructure

IntellectAbility provides integrated solutions that support Rural Health Transformation for people with IDD.

Why This Matters for RHTP Outcomes

Together, these solutions help states:

- Shift from reactive to preventative care
- Stabilize rural workforces
- Demonstrate measurable impact
- Build systems that last beyond pilot funding

Health equity. Workforce stability. Prevention.

Full transformation is only possible when people with IDD are included.

#IDDinRHTP



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