

Congressman Guthrie applauds announcement of over \$210 Million for Ky. Rural Health Projects

Congressman Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, issued the following statement applauding the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) recent announcement of funding allocations for states through the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) program, which was established in President Trump's Working Families Tax Cuts. "The Working Families Tax Cuts law delivered the most historic investment in rural health that we've seen in our lifetimes, with over \$212.9 million being allocated to projects across Kentucky," said Chairman Guthrie. "The Rural Health Transformation program will provide funding to transform health care systems so that we can help assure the long-term sustainability of our rural providers for years to come. I applaud Secretary Kennedy and Administrator Oz on this critical effort, and I look forward to seeing states use these resources

to bolster health care delivery through innovative solutions in rural America." Kentucky's award amount is \$212,905,591. Allocations of funding were based upon rigorous, data-driven merit review—led by federal and non-federal rural health experts and overseen by senior federal review directors—to assess each state's proposed initiatives and alignment with program goals to ensure a fair, transparent, and consistent merit review process across all states. Funding will be distributed over five years beginning in federal fiscal year 2026. As states begin implementation, program officers from CMS's Office of Rural Health Transformation will provide technical assistance and ongoing support to help states design, launch, and sustain initiatives that best serve their rural communities.

Background on the Rural Health

Transformation Program: The Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program was created by the Working Families Tax Cuts law and empowers states to strengthen rural communities across America by improving access to quality health care outcomes and transforming the health care delivery ecosystem. RHT funding will be allocated through the following formula: \$25 billion over five years will be distributed evenly among the states; this means each state will receive \$100 million each year for FY 2026-2030 (\$500 million total). \$25 billion will be distributed to states based on criteria established by the Secretary that target funding to states with high rural health care needs and that outline long-term programmatic goals that will transform access to care in the state. In accordance with the law, only the 50 states are eligible to receive an RHT Program award; the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories are not eligible.

Givens

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"When I was elected to start serving in 2009, I never dreamed that we would be dealing with artificial intelligence," Givens said. "No one told me we would be dealing with data centers or solar farms. It's amazing to me the changes I've seen since I've been in the legislature. It's fascinating. We'll be dealing with

all three of those issues this session. There's opportunity but there's also peril in each of these." Givens is grateful and expresses joy at getting to serve and do the work that he does in Frankfort. "I appreciate the trust of people to send me to Frankfort and especially the support of my family and my

co-workers at Central Farmers because they carry an extra heavy load for me to have this opportunity and I appreciate what they do." Presently, the Kentucky Senate is made up of 32 Republicans and five Democrats. District 37, which consists of part of Jefferson County, is currently vacant.

Health

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Talk with your physician or other health care professional to determine which vaccines are right for you. To cut through vaccine confusion and have open, honest conversations with your physician, first go to the AMA website for evidence-based information. For help finding a flu vaccine in your area, visit GetMyFluShot.org. Drink in moderation: If consuming alcohol, do so in moderation as defined by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines: up to one drink per day for women and

two drinks for men, and only for adults of legal drinking age. Quit tobacco, nicotine and e-cigarettes: Ask your doctor or health care professional for resources and guidance to help quit smoking, vaping or using other nicotine products. Make your home and car smoke-free to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure. Follow medication directions: When taking prescriptions, store them safely to prevent diversion or misuse, and properly dispose of any leftover

medication. If you're prescribed antibiotics, complete the full course to prevent antibiotic resistance. "With the holiday cookies eaten and those missed workouts officially last year's worry, the new year is a great chance to refocus on the healthy choices you want to make in 2026," said AMA President Dr. Bobby Mukkamala. "Even tiny changes now can snowball into major gains for your long-term health." For more health tips and resources visit

Bivens' update

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The Legislative Research Commission (LRC) is the legislature's administrative arm and maintains a helpful, information-packed website. It contains every bill and resolution, schedules, contact information, and information about the legislative process. For decades, Kentucky Educational

Television (KET) has televised committee meetings and the work we do on the House Floor. In addition, the legislature now offers a YouTube channel and broadcasts live from all committees and the House and Senate. To access the KET and YouTube coverage, visit www.legislature.ky.gov and click

on "Live Coverage." As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Ryan.Bivens@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

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