Three Connecticut Health Districts Move Forward with Rural Health Transformation Initiatives Across 77 Communities

Mobile Integrated Health and Mobile Clinic investments will expand access to care across rural Connecticut

11/24/26 — CONNECTICUT — Eastern Highlands Health District, Torrington Area Health District, and North Central District Health Department are moving forward with Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) initiatives that will bring Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) and Mobile Clinic Pilot (MCP) programs to 77 communities serving approximately 519,925 residents.

The initiative represents a coordinated investment in bringing care and connections to services closer to where people live. Through MIH and MCP services, the three health districts will work with hospitals, primary care providers, emergency medical services (EMS), federally qualified health centers, behavioral health providers, municipalities, and community organizations to strengthen access, referral pathways, and care coordination.

> *"Rural health transformation is about creating better connections between people and the services they need. This investment gives us an opportunity to strengthen those connections and develop approaches that reflect the geography and healthcare needs of eastern Connecticut."*
>
> **Robert Miller, M.P.H., R.S., Director of Health, Eastern Highlands Health District**

Investment in Connecticut's Rural Communities

Current state program materials allocate $6.775 million in first-year funding for MIH and MCP activities across the three catchment areas. The five-year program funding structure totals approximately $30.875 million across the three districts.

Health District	Year 1	Year 2	5-Year Total
Eastern Highlands Health District	$2,246,000	$1,996,000	$10,230,000
Torrington Area Health District	$2,442,000	$2,192,000	$11,210,000
North Central District Health Department	$2,087,000	$1,837,000	$9,435,000
TOTAL	$6,775,000	$6,025,000	$30,875,000

Five-year totals reflect the program funding structure across all five funding periods; Year 1 includes higher Mobile Clinic start-up funding than Years 2–5.

> *"This funding represents a significant investment in the health of our rural communities. It will allow the Torrington Area Health District to work with local healthcare providers, emergency medical services, municipalities, and community partners to bring care closer to where people live, strengthen connections to existing services, and address barriers such as transportation, distance, and limited provider availability. We are grateful for this opportunity and committed to developing programs that reflect the needs of the communities we serve and create lasting improvements in access to care."*
>
> **Robert Rubbo, M.P.H., R.S., Director of Health, Torrington Area Health District**

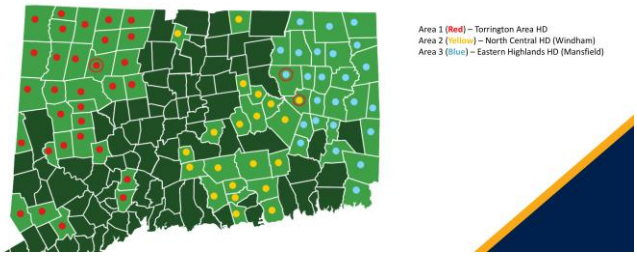
Building the Programs Through Partnership

Planning and program development are underway across the three catchment areas. Current work includes development of program plans, procurement documents, service and referral pathways, contractor and partner engagement, performance-monitoring systems, and community outreach. Program plans and

Requests for Proposals are anticipated for late 2026 or early 2027 as the districts continue working with state and local partners toward implementation.

> *"The strength of this initiative will come from partnership. Local public health, EMS, healthcare providers, municipalities, and community organizations all bring important resources to the table, and this program gives us an opportunity to connect those resources in new ways, with the hope of providing sustainable health services to Connecticut's rural communities."*
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> **Patrice Sulik, M.P.H., R.S., Director of Health, North Central District Health Department**

Connecticut received $154,249,105.53 in federal RHTP funding for Budget Period 1. The health districts recognize the investment of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), along with the leadership of the State of Connecticut, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Public Health, and the municipalities, healthcare organizations, EMS agencies, and community partners helping move this work forward.



Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health, Proposed Catchment Areas (Updated June 30, 2026)

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