

Rural Health Transformation

STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Welcome & Announcements

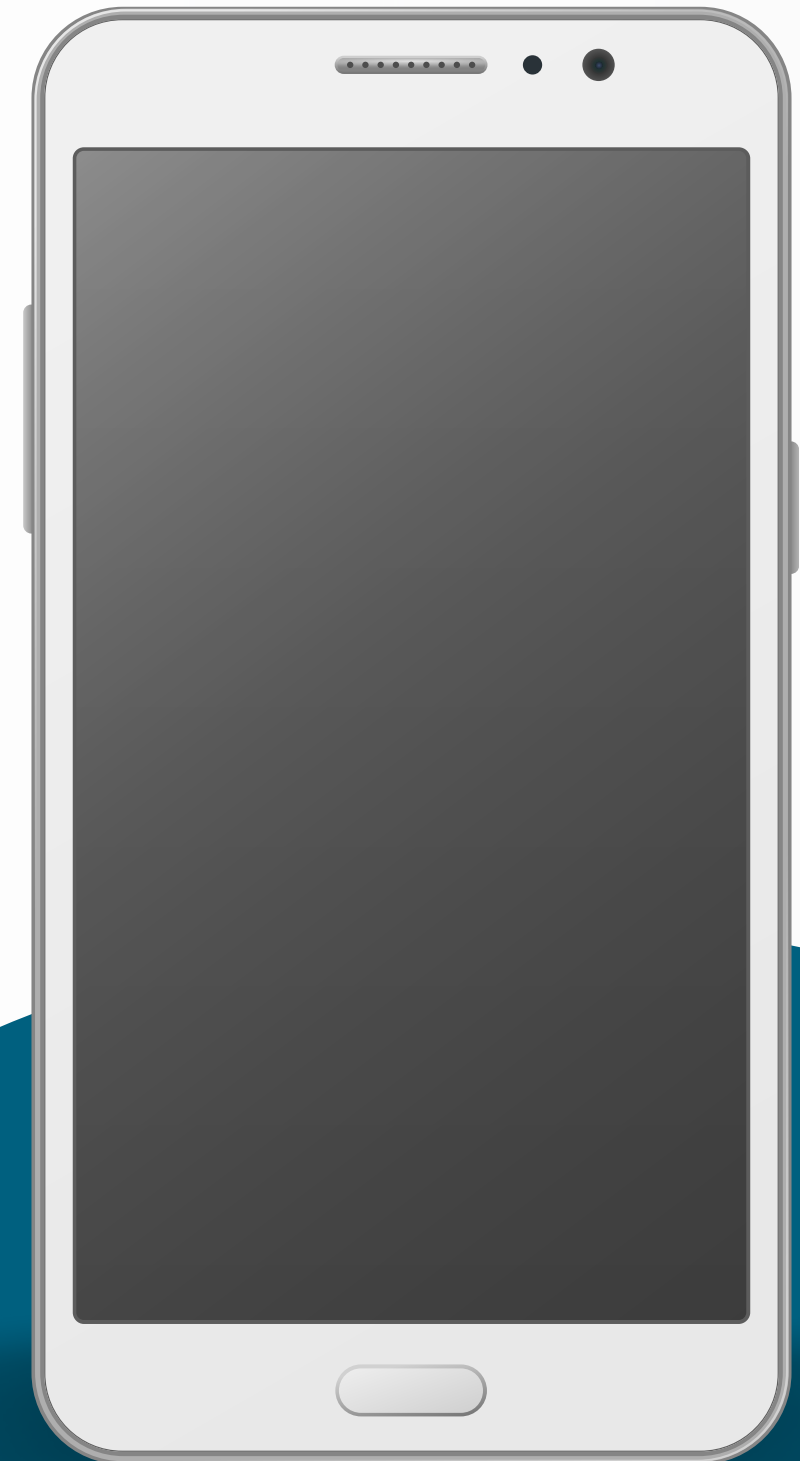
- Welcome
- Announcements
 - Take a break when you need one
 - Help yourself to water and snacks
 - Keep your cell phone close but on silent
 - Please remember the purpose behind your responses

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Poll Question



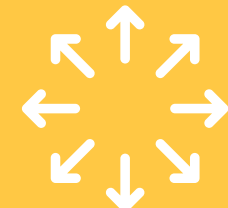
RHTP Background

PURPOSE, FUNDING , TIMELINE



Program Basics

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act creates a \$50B Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) to improve rural healthcare through improved access, quality, and outcomes through system transformation.



Fund Distribution

\$50 billion to states over 5 years (2026-2030).

\$25 billion divided equally among all successful applicants.

\$25 billion at the discretion of the CMS Administrator.



Who Applies

Only single states are eligible to apply. The Governor designates a lead agency to lead the application and manage the grant.



Funding Flow & Roles

The State is the prime awardee and responsible for the use of funds.

The State may sub-award or contract with partners for various activities.



Application Timeline

1. Stakeholder engagement
2. Draft application
3. Submit by federal deadline
4. CMS review and awards

CMS-Prioritized Funding Opportunities



Make Rural America Healthy Again

Evidence-based prevention, chronic disease, behavioral health, and prenatal care.



Sustainable Access

Help rural providers become long-term access points by coordinating operations, tech, primary/specialty, and emergency services.



Workforce Development

Recruit and retain highly-skilled providers to rural areas.



Innovative Care

Grow new care models, improve coordination, and use mechanisms that reduce costs, improve quality, and shift care to lower-cost settings.



Tech Innovation

Adopt technologies for efficient care delivery, data security, and digital health tools that support remote care, data sharing, and emerging technologies.

Why RHTP Funding Matters to Nebraska

Rising state costs and fragile rural infrastructure stretch care thin. RHTP funds practical fixes, grows the workforce, and connects care so people get services closer to home.



Nebraska's Reality

How RHTP Helps

FMAP volatility increases state costs and impacts rural access.

✓ Target funds to keep essential rural access points stable while modernizing operations.

Long distances, frontier counties, and small populations complicate service delivery and increase costs.

✓ Fund a regionalization model that can optimize care delivery across Nebraska.

Workforce shortages across primary care, dental, and mental health.

✓ Recruit and retain highly-skilled staff and train to top of licenses.

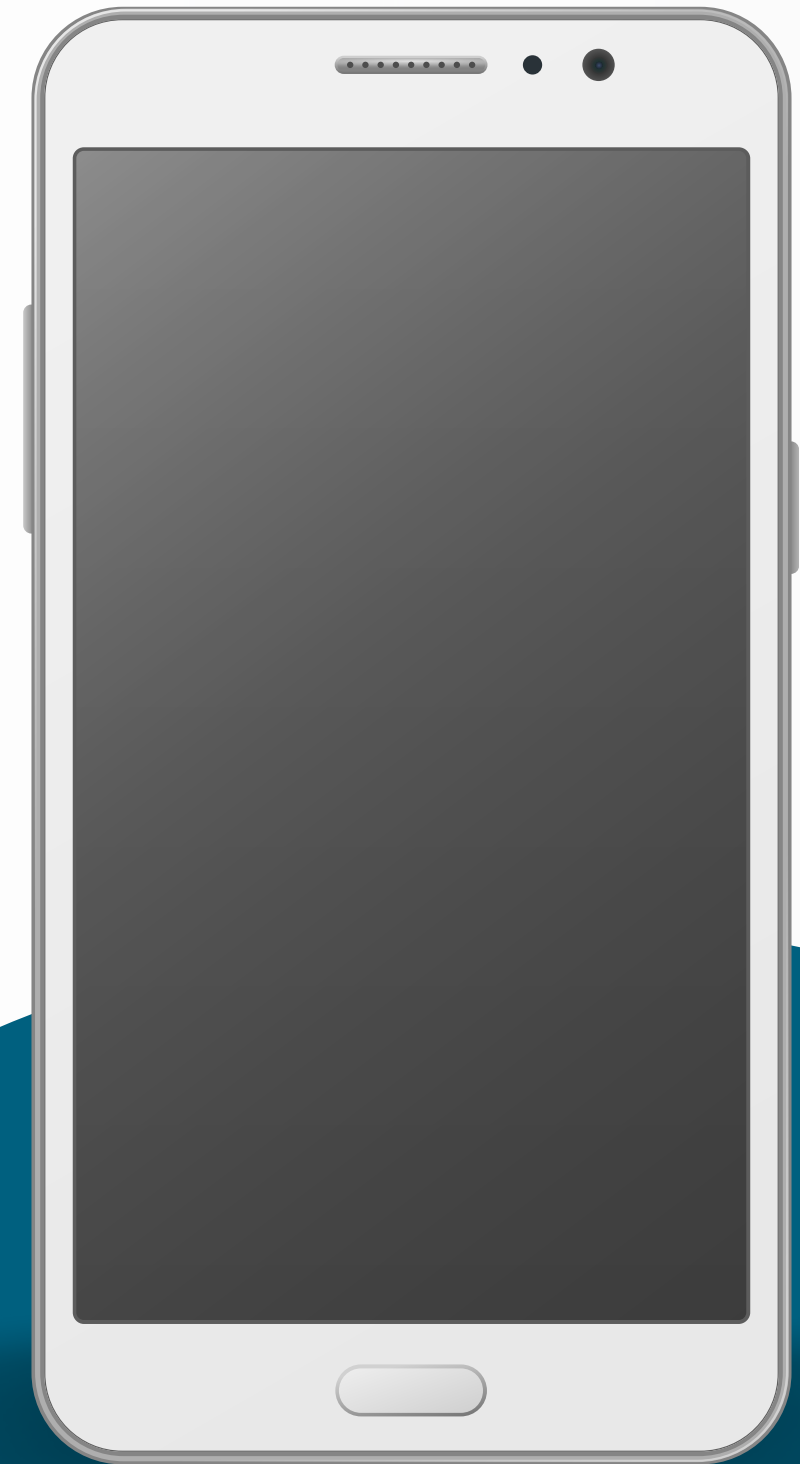
Behavioral health gaps and maternity care deserts persist in over half of counties.

✓ Support of prenatal services, telehealth specialty, and integrated behavioral health in primary care.

Rural infrastructure, telehealth, and data-sharing are uneven across rural providers.

✓ Investment in connectivity, interoperability, and security to connect care safely.

Poll Question



How Rural is Nebraska?

- 37% of Nebraskans live in rural areas
 - 88 of 93 counties are rural
 - 30 counties are frontier
- Healthcare shortages span rural counties
 - 66 counties have a primary care shortage
 - 61 counties have a dental care shortage
 - 88 counties experience psychiatry and mental health shortages
- Over half of counties are maternity care deserts
- 84% of rural EMS agencies rely primarily on volunteers



Nebraska Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Licensed Facilities (DHHS)

Hospitals

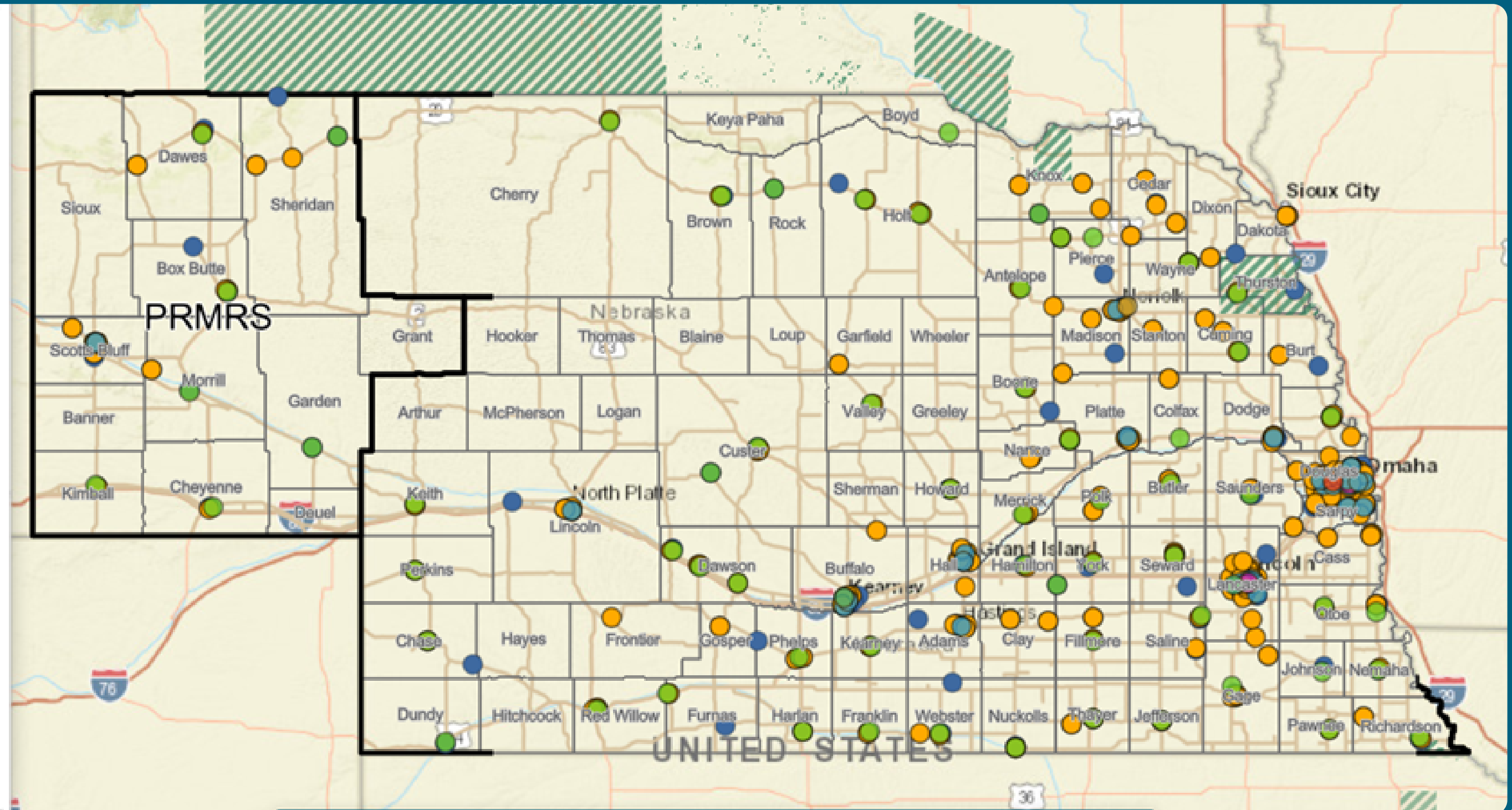
Type of Facility

- General Acute Hospital
- Critical Access Hospital
- Children's Hospital
- Long Term Care Hospital
- Psychiatric - Licensed Only
- Psychiatric Hospital
- Rehabilitation Hospital

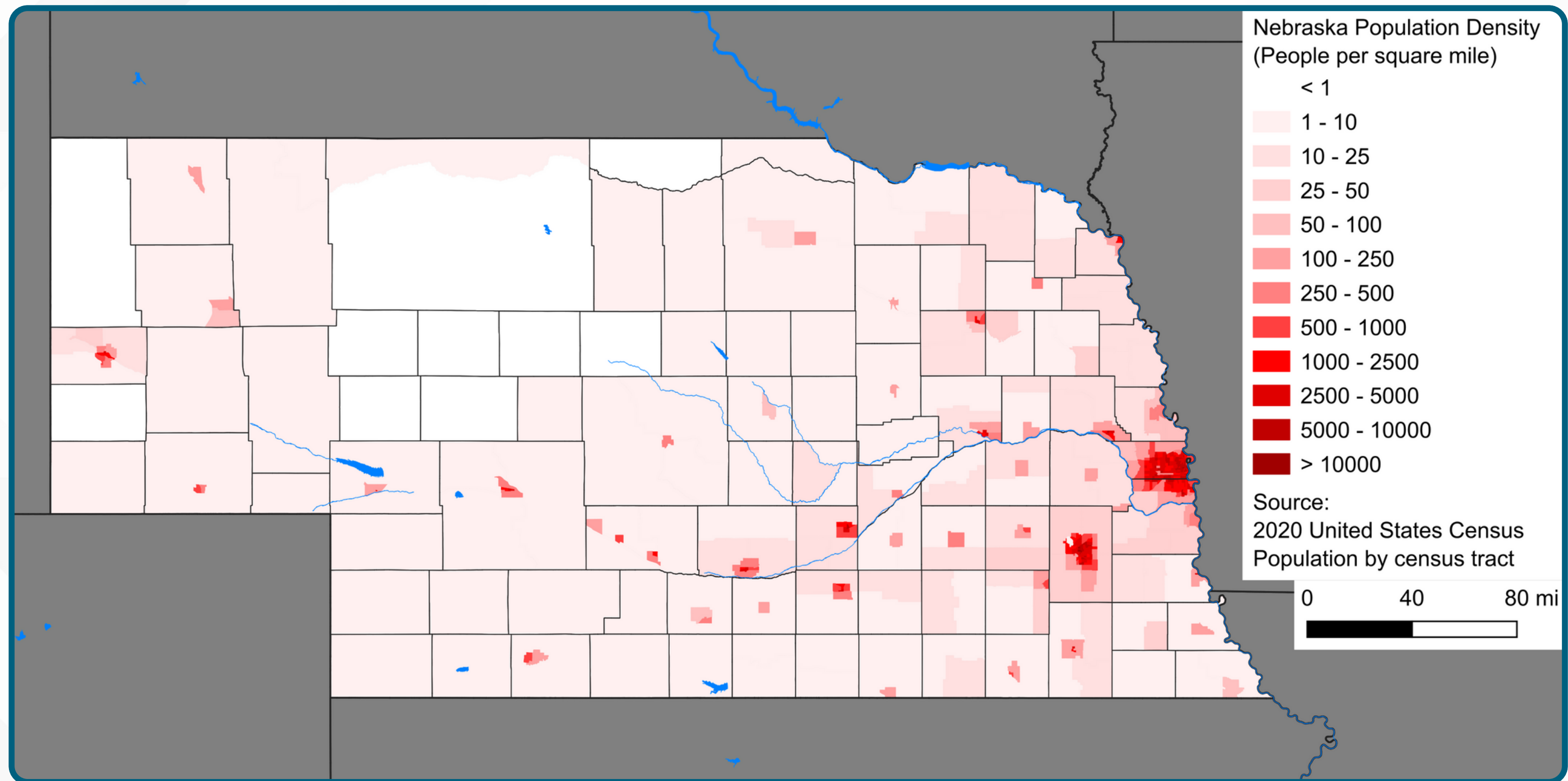
Assisted Living Facilities



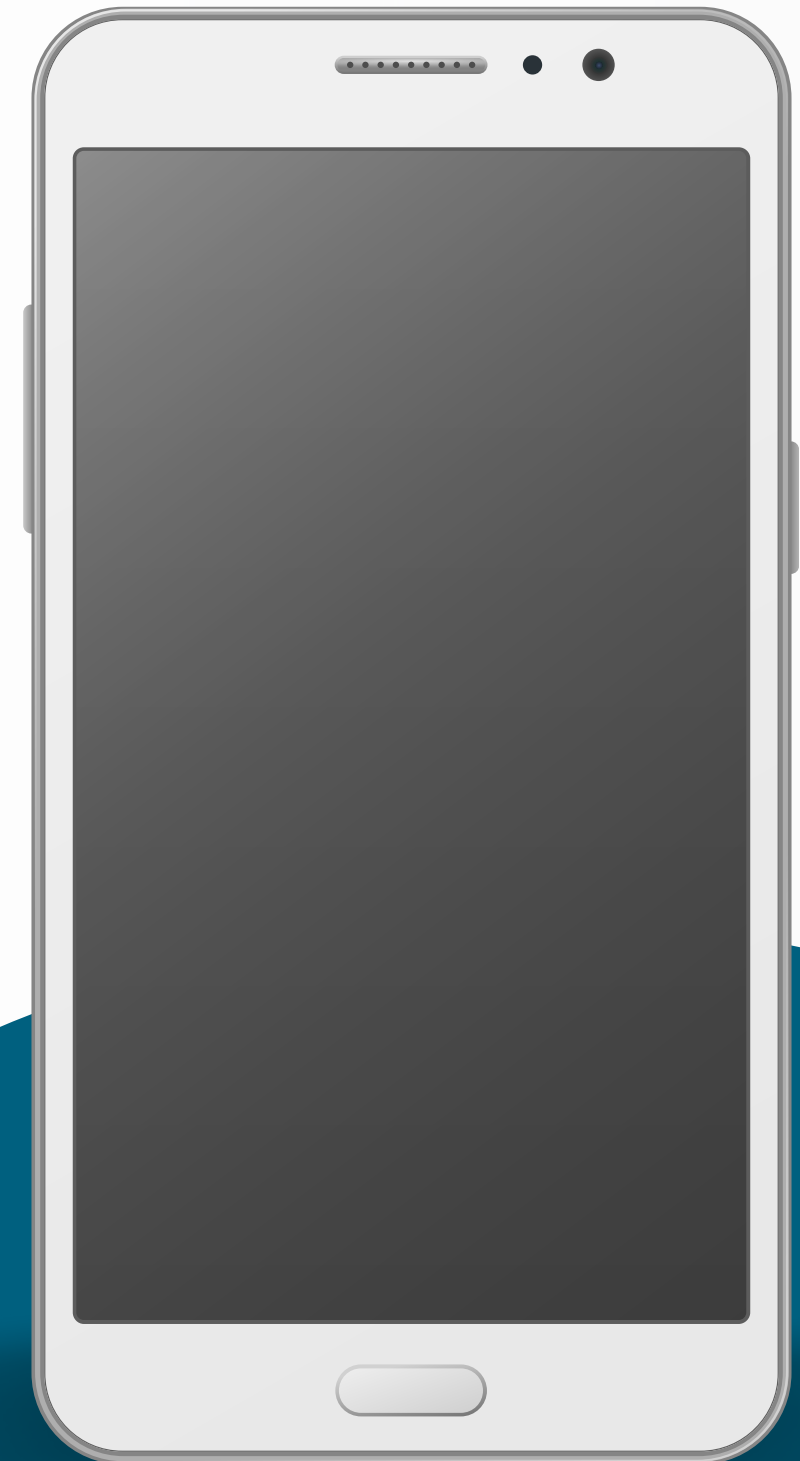
Long Term Care Facilities



Population Density Heat Map



Poll Question



Cultivating Quality Health Care in Rural Nebraska

Make Rural America Healthy Again

Improve rural health outcomes through a focus on food as medicine, preventative care, chronic disease management, and behavioral health access.

Sustainable Access

Enable rural facilities working together through regionalization of rural health infrastructure, hub and spoke model, and by helping communities “right-size” delivery systems.

Workforce Development

Leverage AI and virtual reality training to recruit and retain a skilled workforce to ensure long-term capacity in underserved rural areas.

Expanded Technology Adoption

Enhance efficiency, security, and care coordination through focusing on adopting expanded technology.

Innovative Care: eHealth & Mobile Solutions

Support innovative care through eHealth at Home, mobile training units, and mobile urgent care.



Make Rural America Healthy Again

Evidence-based prevention, chronic disease, behavioral health, and prenatal care.



Improve rural health outcomes through a focus on “Food as Medicine”.



Access to chronic disease services to include ancillary services and technology.



Sustainable Access

Help rural providers become long-term access points by coordinating operations, tech, primary/specialty, and emergency services.



Enable rural facilities to work together through regionalization of rural health infrastructure.



Provide support for communities to optimize health care delivery systems.

Workforce Development

Recruit and retain highly-skilled providers to rural areas.



“Grow Local” through scholarships or loan repayment for provider types in care deserts tied to a commitment to work in the rural area.



Leverage AI and virtual reality training to recruit and retain a skilled workforce to ensure long-term capacity in underserved rural areas.

Innovative Care and Tech Innovation

Grow new care models, improve coordination, and use mechanisms that reduce costs, improve quality, and shift care to lower-cost settings.

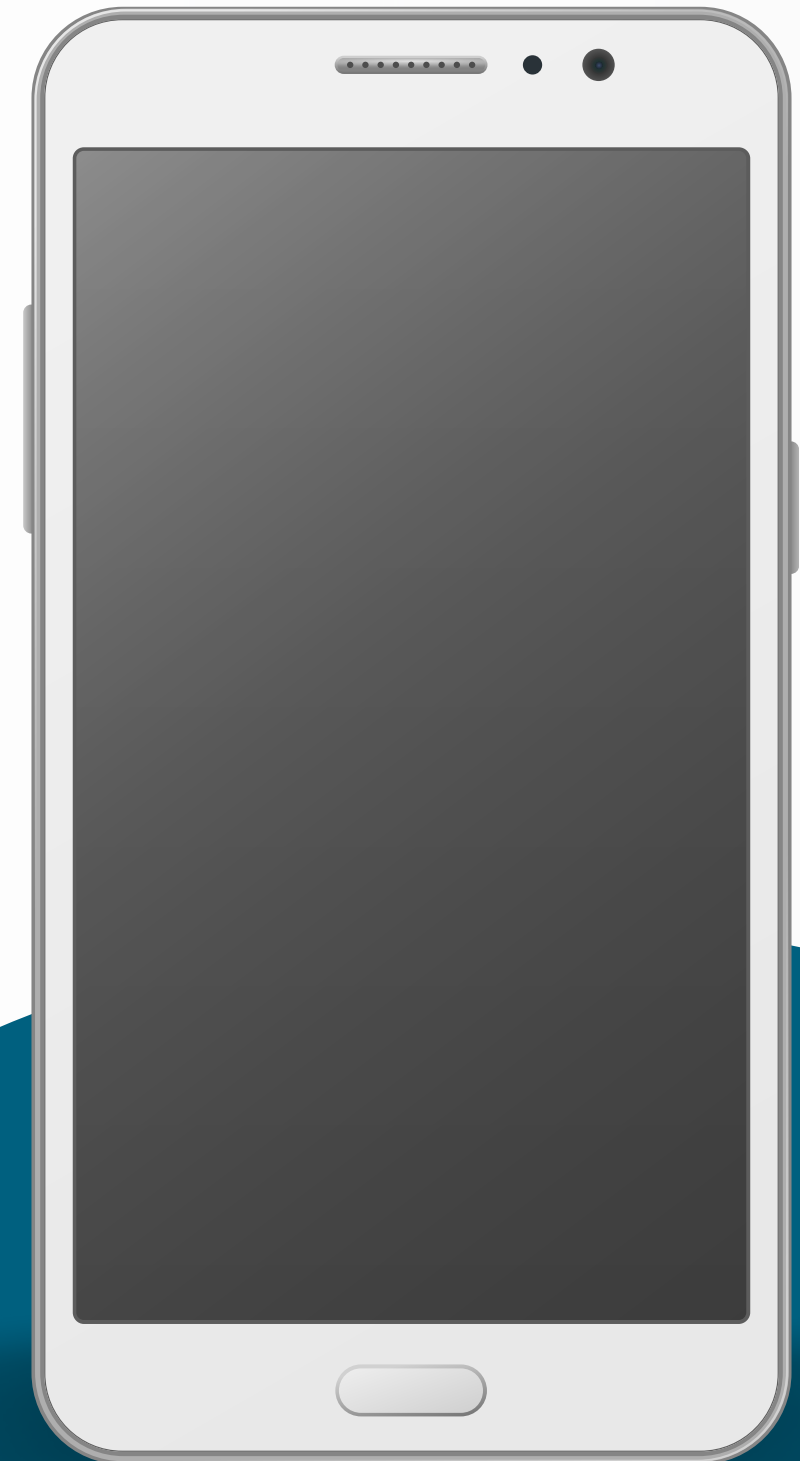


Investment in clinics, EMS, and hospitals for remote monitoring technology and training, and eHealth-at-Home.

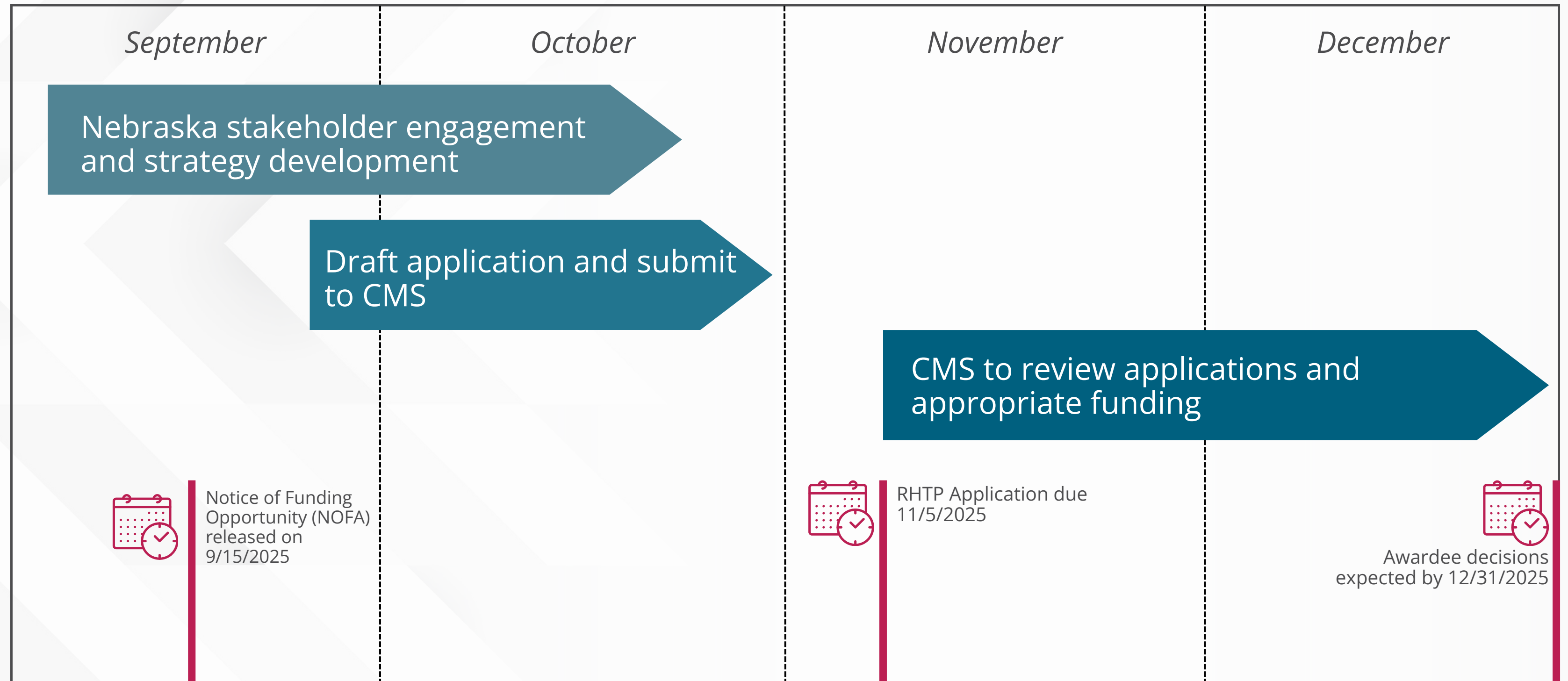


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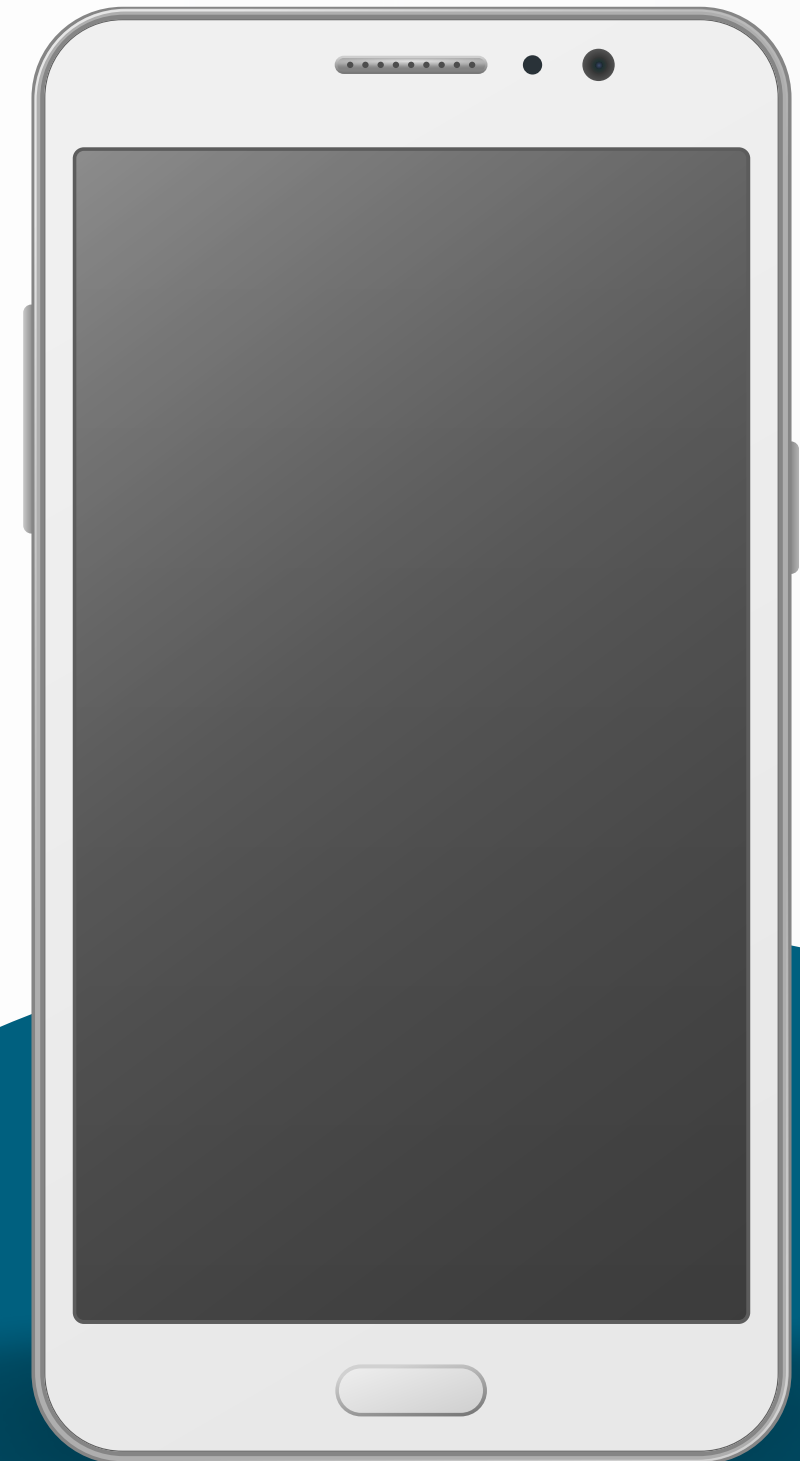
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RHTP Application Timeline



Poll Question



THANK YOU

Contact Us:
DHHS.RHTP@nebraska.gov

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