

DATE, 2025

Honorable **NAME**
Governor
MAILING ADDRESS

Governor **NAME**:

Thank you for your impactful leadership on access to healthcare for our citizens.

I am writing to you along with **Driving Health Forward** to encourage you to prioritize mobile healthcare expansion as part of your state's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Driving Health Forward is a national, multi-sector campaign of more than 80 organizations working to exponentially increase access to care via mobile healthcare. By mobile healthcare, we mean mobile clinics and vans, remote patient monitoring applications and devices, telehealth services, and other technologies that bring essential care to where people live, work, and gather. This fast-growing campaign includes broad representation from national health care associations, mobile health program operators and manufacturers, health plans, hospitals and academic medical centers, and health policy researchers. The campaign is implementing initiatives this fall to reduce barriers to expanding mobile healthcare, setting the necessary policy environment to grow this proven and powerful service delivery solution.

Prioritize RHTP Funding for Mobile Healthcare

The moment for mobile healthcare is now given current rural health care realities and the projected impact of federal Medicaid policy and funding changes on rural healthcare access. To realize the full potential of mobile healthcare in your state, we urge you to make such investment an integral part of your strategy and formal RHTP application as follows:

- Designate 5% of the total funding in your state's RHTP application as a priority investment to strengthen and grow the mobile health sector as a high quality, low cost, and financially sustainable strategy to achieve greater access to care;
- Make those designated funds available to current and new mobile healthcare programs for both capital (i.e., mobile health vehicles, GPS satellite, integrated electronic medical records, and AI technologies) and operating expenses (i.e., clinical and community health workforce salaries, medical supplies, fuel, and recurring maintenance and repairs); and
- Adopt a standard five-year business model roadmap for establishing new or expanded mobile healthcare programs with the explicit goal of achieving financial sustainability by the completion of the RHTP.

The health policy case for such an investment is compelling. As you well know, mobile healthcare can directly improve access to care for many rural Kentuckians. It can also strengthen partnerships between rural hospitals and other providers to promote quality improvement, financial sustainability, economies

of scale, and best practices. Most of all, mobile healthcare focuses on prevention, early detection and treatment strategies that can improve health outcomes for individuals and families and reduce costly emergency department visits and hospitalizations. Including a formal business planning model requirement focused on achieving financial sustainability will ensure a demonstrable and enduring return on investment—most notably improved health outcomes for Kentuckians as well as cost savings and/or avoidance for the state Medicaid program.

Programmatically, the new mobile healthcare investment fits within the RHTP’s allowable use criteria as outlined by CMS. Mobile healthcare would promote evidence-based, measurable interventions to improve prevention and chronic disease management. It would help rural communities right-size their health care delivery systems by identifying needed preventative, ambulatory, pre-hospital, emergency, acute inpatient care, outpatient care and post-acute service lines. Finally, mobile healthcare would expand access to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder, other substance use disorders, and mental health conditions. Integrating these services into mobile platforms would complement and strengthen your Administration’s ongoing efforts to expand the availability and continuity of behavioral health care.

Support Greater Opportunity for Integrated Community Partnerships and Collaborations across the Commonwealth

Major investment in mobile healthcare through the RHTP would expand opportunities for integrated community partnerships and collaboration to address pressing rural health care issues. For example, designation of RHTP funds to support both capital and operating expenses for new or expanded mobile healthcare programs would clearly incentivize community-based groups to collaborate on integrated service delivery models. To foster such impactful partnerships and collaborations, we recommend state and local health planning officials begin discussions immediately with rural hospitals and clinics, federally qualified health centers, health plans, academic medical centers, and other community groups.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and suggestions to prioritize mobile healthcare in **STATE**’s RHTP application to CMS. For any questions or additional information about *Driving Health Forward*, please reach out to nicky@ngstrategies.net and don@wasqueadvisors.com.

Sincerely,

NAME