



News: For Immediate Release
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MEDCHI AND CRISP JOIN STATE TO LAUNCH NEW RURAL HEALTH CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

BALTIMORE – July 15, 2026 – As part of Maryland’s Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), CRISP and MedChi have collaborated with the State to launch a rural connectivity program to strengthen and modernize health care across Maryland’s rural communities.

The CRISP Rural Health Connectivity Program (RHCP) offers funding to help offset costs for connecting to CRISP and exchanging data. Funding is available to providers that implement new inbound and/or outbound data connections that can be seen on the [overview flyer](#). These new inbound and outbound connections increase the availability of timely clinical data for care teams and the rural communities they serve. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the availability of funds.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Eligible Entities:** HIPAA-covered providers: physically located in rural Maryland, operating from a distinct physical address to qualify or serving a patient population where the majority of patients are from rural Maryland.
- **Definition of Rural MD:** For this program, rural Maryland includes the following counties: Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne’s, St. Mary’s, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester.
- **Technical Capability:** The participant’s certified EHR (CEHRT) must be able to electronically submit encounter and clinical data to CRISP’s HIE infrastructure.
- **Participation:** Participants must provide reasonable access to relevant staff, EHR systems, and EHR vendors, as needed, for CRISP to complete onboarding and program requirements.

MedChi CEO, Gene Ransom, states “The Rural Health Connectivity Program is an important step toward ensuring physicians practicing in rural Maryland have the technology and connectivity needed to deliver coordinated, high-quality care. Investments like these strengthen our healthcare system, improve patient access, and help close longstanding gaps between rural and urban communities.”

“Strong health information exchange is the foundation of coordinated, high-quality care,” said Jessica Heslop, Director of Engagement Strategy at CRISP. “Through the Rural Health Connectivity Program, we are helping rural healthcare providers overcome barriers to connectivity so they can securely exchange critical patient information,

improve care coordination, and better serve their communities. By expanding participation in Maryland's statewide health information exchange, we are strengthening the healthcare infrastructure that supports patients and providers across the state.”

To learn more about the CRISP Rural Health Connectivity Program you can [visit the website](#) or this [overview flyer](#).

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.

About CRISP

CRISP is the State Designated Health Information Exchange (HIE) and Health Data Utility (HDU) for Maryland. CRISP is a non-profit organization that facilitates the electronic transfer of clinical information between disparate health information systems. Visit www.crisphealth.org.

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