

MADISON COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AWARDED \$4.4 MILLION FOR RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

YEAR ONE AWARD WILL STRENGTHEN ACCESS ACROSS RURAL COMMUNITIES IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA THROUGH PREVENTION, CARE AT HOME, MEDICATION ACCESS, REMOTE MONITORING, AND SECURE INFORMATION SHARING.

Madison County Memorial Hospital (MCMH) has been awarded \$4,413,823.45 through Year One of Florida's Rural Health Transformation Program. MCMH will lead implementation of the Preventive Care and Care at Home Bundle, known as Bundle One, within Florida's Northwest Region.

The competitive award represents a major investment in a rural care model built around the realities and priorities of the communities it is intended to serve. Across rural North Florida, distance, transportation, provider shortages, financial hardship, and limited specialty access can turn routine healthcare into an obstacle. For some residents, leaving home is simply difficult. Because of age, illness, disability, transportation, or another barrier, it may not be an option at all. MCMH's goal is to bring care closer to home, detect concerns earlier, and create a clear path from the first encounter to follow-up and ongoing care.

"This award carries both extraordinary opportunity and serious responsibility. Our hospital has been entrusted to lead an effort that can strengthen how rural residents enter, experience, and remain connected to healthcare. We will approach that responsibility with careful stewardship, measurable accountability, and a clear understanding that every decision must ultimately improve care for the people and communities we serve."

Tammy Stevens, Chief Executive Officer

Bundle One is designed as one connected system rather than five separate projects. It brings together mobile health services, community paramedicine and mobile integrated healthcare, remote patient telemonitoring, outpatient pharmacy services, and expanded operational use of the Florida Health Information Exchange and Encounter Notification Service. The model is not intended to replace local facilities or providers. It is intended to extend their reach and strengthen the connections among them.

Mobile health will serve as a front door to care, bringing preventive screenings, wellness checks, chronic disease support, maternal and prenatal services, behavioral health assessments, and referrals closer to the communities where people live and work. Regular and dependable access points can help residents recognize warning signs of diabetes, heart disease, respiratory illness, depression, pregnancy-related concerns, and other health needs before a manageable condition becomes a crisis.

Community paramedicine and mobile integrated healthcare will extend that connection into the home. Under medical oversight and within approved scopes of practice, these services can support patients following discharge, help monitor chronic conditions, identify concerns earlier, and connect residents with needed clinical follow-up. Remote patient monitoring can continue that connection between visits by allowing care teams to follow important health indicators and respond when changes may require attention.

Medication access is another essential part of the continuum. A prescription cannot improve a person's health if distance, transportation, cost, or a disconnected transition home prevents that medication from reaching the patient. The outpatient pharmacy component is intended to strengthen medication management, refill support, delivery options, and coordination with the larger care plan, helping patients remain consistent with treatment and reducing preventable returns to the hospital.

Secure information sharing helps keep the patient visible as care moves between locations. Rural patients do not receive all their healthcare in one building, one county, or even one region. Through expanded use of existing Florida Health Information Exchange capabilities, authorized care teams can review relevant records from participating organizations. Encounter notifications can also alert providers when a patient is admitted to or discharged from another participating facility, helping the care team recognize that encounter and determine whether follow-up is needed.

“True transformation will not be measured by how many separate services we launch. It will be measured by whether an expectant mother reaches prenatal care earlier, whether a homebound resident receives proper follow-up, whether a patient can obtain and understand the medication needed, and whether a care team has the information needed to respond. Our goal is to build a coordinated and sustainable system that earns the trust of the communities it serves and remains strong beyond the life of the grant.”

Tammy Stevens, Chief Executive Officer

Chronic disease and behavioral health remain among the most pressing concerns across rural communities in Northwest Florida. Maternal and prenatal access is also an urgent need, particularly where reaching a primary care or obstetric provider requires significant travel time. Guided by community-level health data and the barriers rural residents experience every day, MCMH intends to bring services closer and help more people receive support earlier and remain connected for the long road, not only the emergency in front of them.

MCMH will now begin detailed planning and implementation activities in coordination with the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). Participating organizations, service areas, mobile routes, enrollment processes, and timelines will be announced after required approvals and agreements are completed.

The MCMH award is part of nearly \$188 million announced by Governor Ron DeSantis on August 11 to strengthen healthcare across Florida's rural communities. The statewide investment includes more than 80 awards serving 31 rural counties and nearly 1.2 million Floridians. The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration administers Florida's Rural Health Transformation Program.

MCMH is committed to working with rural communities, healthcare partners, and community organizations to build a more accessible, connected, and sustainable healthcare system for Northwest Florida. Through this initiative, MCMH will focus on bringing care closer to where people live, strengthening connections across the continuum of care, and helping rural residents stay connected to the care they need—when they need it.