

Rural Health: Building the Foundation for Lasting Change

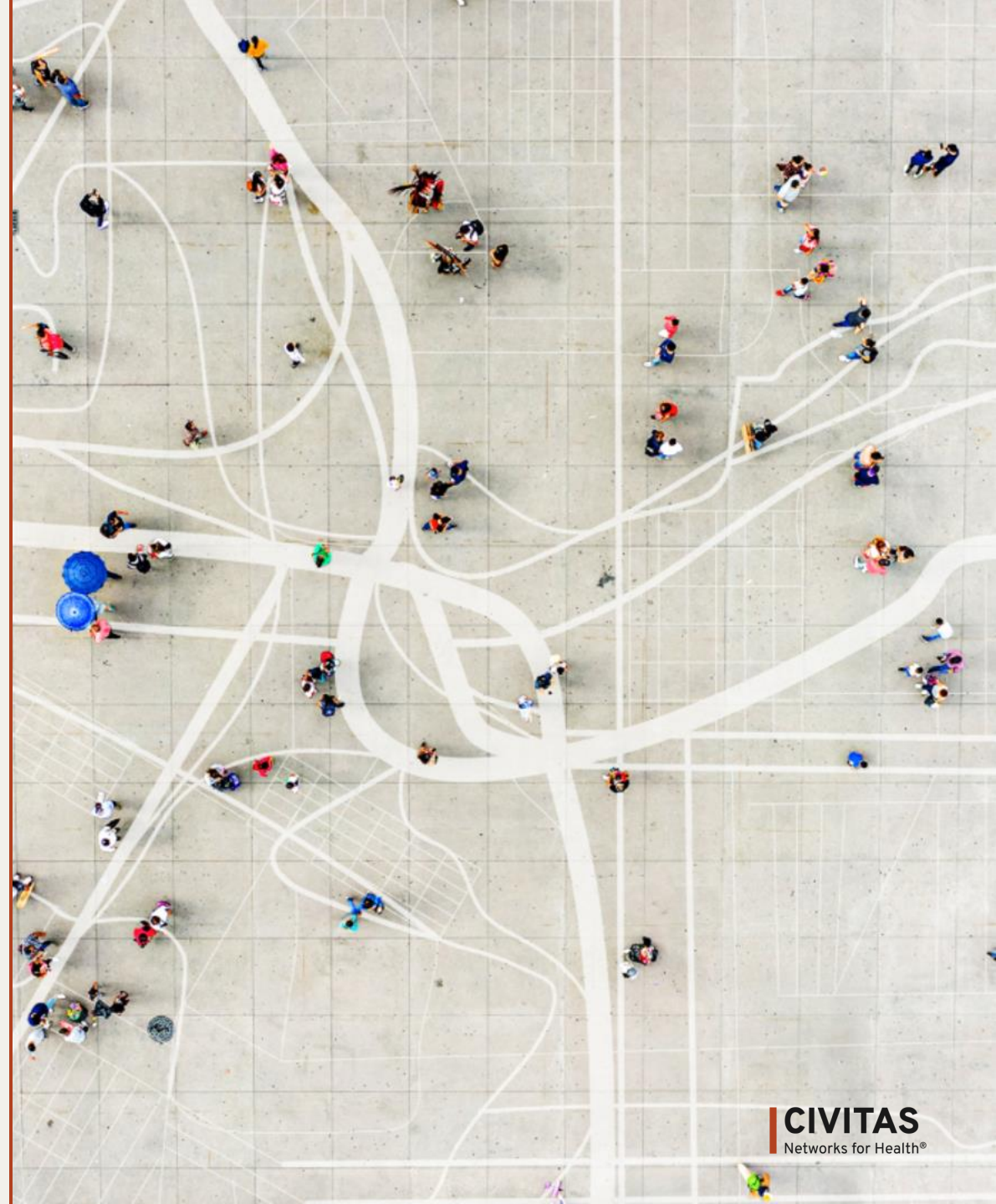
*Member-Led Webinar Presented by
InterSystems*

July 29, 2026



Housekeeping Reminders

- This is a webinar where all participants are automatically muted and your video is not displayed.
- If you would like to ask a question, please use the Q&A function on the right-side taskbar.
- Please note that AI notetakers are not permitted and will be removed.
- This webinar is being recorded, and the recording will be shared after today's event.
- For questions following the webinar, please reach out to contact@civitasforhealth.org.

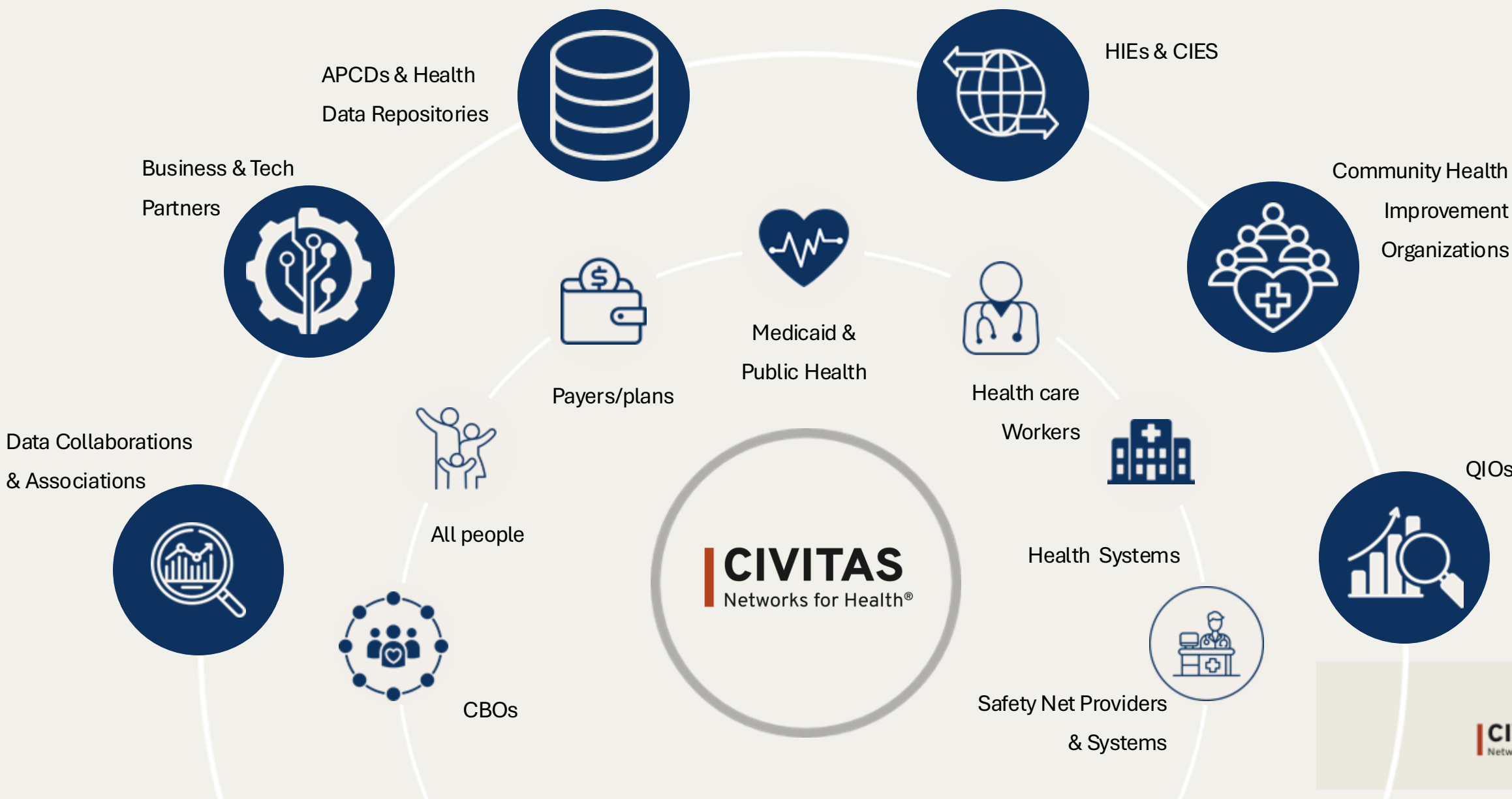


An aerial photograph of a park with a network of winding, light-colored paths on a paved surface. Numerous people of various ages and colors are scattered throughout the scene, walking along the paths. The overall tone is bright and airy, with a soft, slightly desaturated color palette.

About Civitas Networks for Health®

Who we are, who we serve, and what we do

The Network and Who We Serve



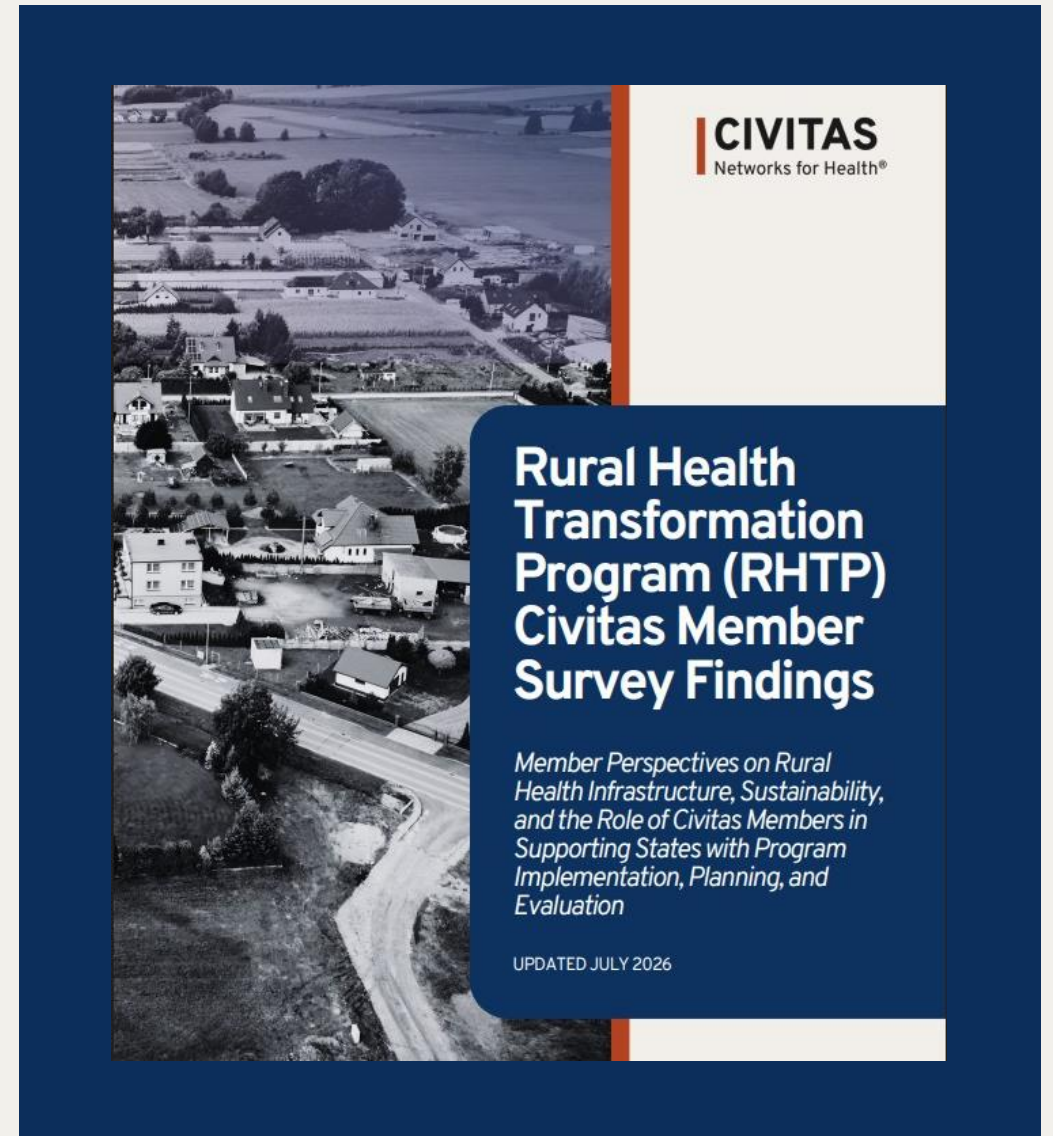
Expert Convenors

- Civitas provides a unique platform that connects collaborators working on health improvement across the country
- We believe that local communities should lead and influence national progress on health
- We offer forums for shared learning, education, networking, and advocacy, and have proven our strength at helping our members in the ever-changing health landscape



Civitas Rural Health Transformation Program Member Survey – Findings

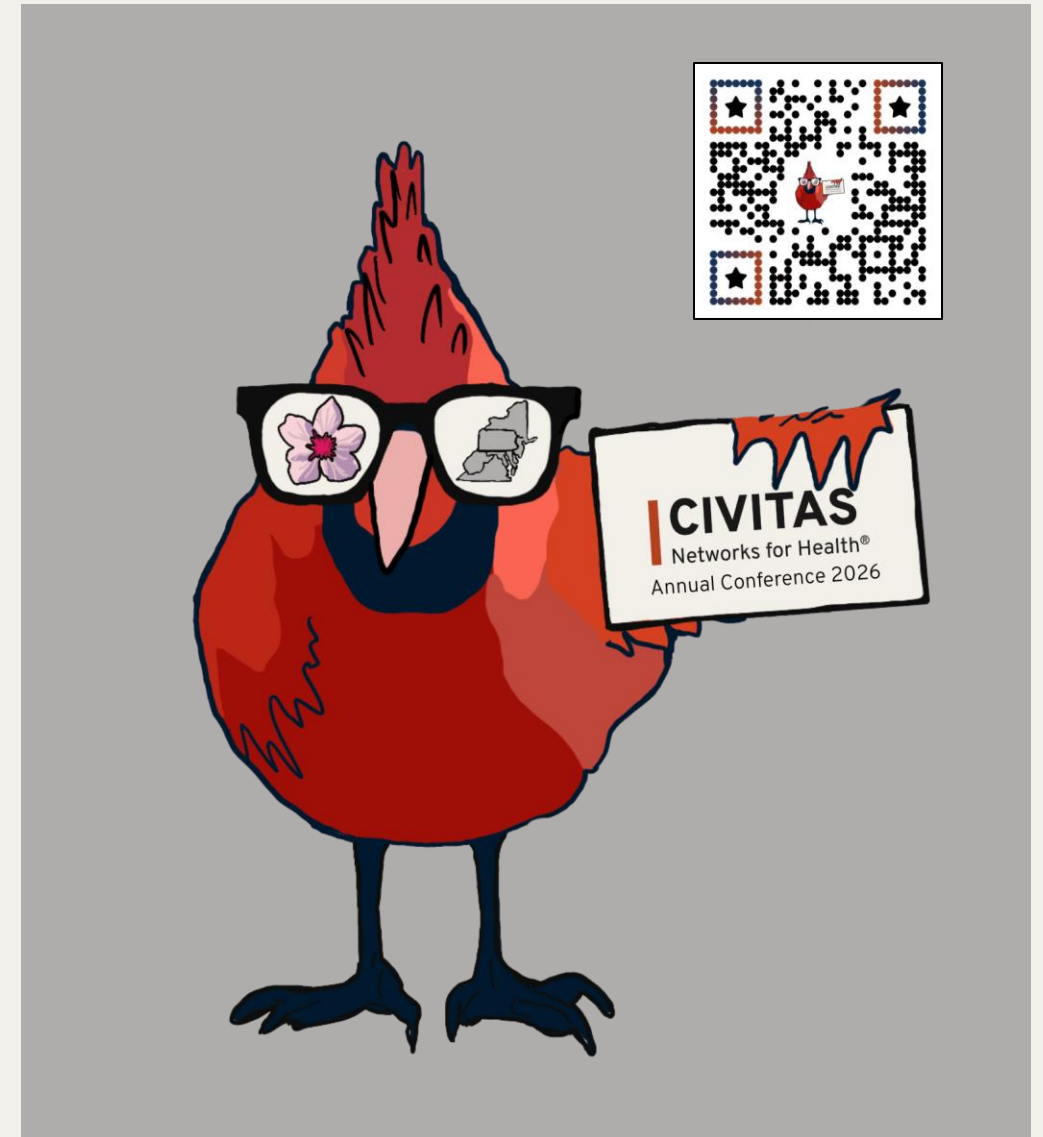
- Civitas members are essential partners in RHTP implementation, evaluation, and long-term sustainability.
- Responses from 41 member organizations show that members offer capabilities aligned with state and rural community needs, including data exchange, interoperability, care coordination, analytics, population health, technical assistance, quality improvement, and stakeholder convening.
- Key Findings:
 - Members See HIEs and Health Data Infrastructure as Foundational to RHTP
 - Interoperability, Data Exchange, and Care Coordination Are Core Member Capabilities
 - Analytics, Population Health, and ROI Measurement Are Essential to Long-Term Success
 - Sustainability Is the Central Concern
 - Members Want Civitas to Convene, Advocate, Translate, and Amplify



Early Bird Registration for the Civitas 2026 Annual Conference is Open!

Join 750+ leaders from across the health data and improvement ecosystem. Hosted in collaboration with our Mid-Atlantic Host Committee, just minutes from Washington, D.C. in Arlington, VA.

- [Registration is open](#) – secure your spot today at a discounted rate!
- Plan early and save with [discounted hotel and flight options](#).
- Interested in sponsoring? Get in front of a national audience shaping interoperability, data exchange, and health transformation. Review the [Sponsorship Prospectus](#) and email contact@civitasforhealth.org if you're interested in learning more.



Submit a Community Excellence Award Nomination by August 31

The Civitas 2026 Community Excellence Awards recognize outstanding Civitas member organizations and individuals advancing community health through innovation, leadership, and partnership. These awards highlight impactful contributions in areas such as data use, quality improvement, governance, and mentorship. Please browse this year's award categories below and submit a Civitas member organization or one of your peers that you think exemplifies the award description.

Thank you in advance for helping us recognize the amazing organizations across our networks!

[Learn more](#) and [submit a nomination](#) by August 31 to be considered.



Register to Attend Virtual Preconference Sessions (Open to the Public!)

Join us for virtual preconference sessions designed to deepen learning and spark meaningful discussion ahead of the Civitas Annual Conference. Register to attend:

- **August 12, 2-3:30 p.m. ET** – [Building Healthier Communities Through Coordinated and Highly Collaborative Statewide Action](#)
- **August 18, 2:30-4 p.m. ET** – [Using Real-Time Data to Drive Proactive Postpartum SUD Care and Strengthen Rural Care Continuity](#)
- **September 10, 3-4:30 p.m. ET** – [From Data to Impact: Using APCD Analytics to Shape Policy and Improve Population Health](#)
- **September 16, 2-3:30 p.m. ET** – [Co-Designing Trusted CIEs: Privacy, Coordination, and Data Systems for Whole Person Health](#)

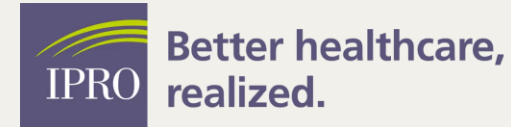
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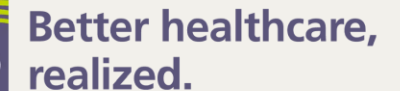
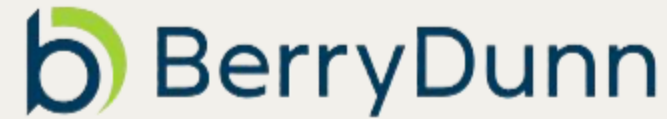
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Rural Health: Building the Foundation for Lasting Change

Dr. Tim Ferris, MD
Vice President, Healthcare Practice

Dr. Kirk Grothe, Dr. of Public Admin.
Head of Public Sector Strategy

Greg James
Senior Advisor for Public Sector





Essential Capabilities for Improving Rural Health

Technology Portfolio

- **Patient access and engagement**
- **Interoperability & interconnection**
- **Master person index**
- **Care coordination**
- **Longitudinal health record**
- **Real-time notifications and updates**
- **Referral coordination and management**
- **Consolidated clinical record viewer**
- **Data analytics and reporting**
- **AI-accelerated workflows**

Developing a Rural Health Technology Portfolio

Strategies for Sustainable Rural Health Infrastructure



1. Lay the foundation

- **Map your business processes and data flows (as-is and to-be)**
 - Where does the data come from, where does it go, who needs to see it, and what actions are taken with it?
 - Look for commonality, intersections, and gaps
 - Consider all data purposes – operational, administrative, and monitoring
- **Know your data ecosystem (as-is and to-be)**
 - What systems exist today, who owns and maintains them, what data do they hold, and what are their capabilities and limitations?
 - What are the common data standards?
 - Assess the components against your plan, asking: reuse, enhance, replace, or new?
 - Is the data high-quality and usable, i.e. clean, standardized, trusted, and reliable?

Developing a Rural Health Technology Portfolio

Strategies for Sustainable Rural Health Infrastructure



2. Build the technology portfolio

▪ Select the tools in your portfolio

- Reuse and build on existing capacity whenever possible – *if the tool can grow and meet your needs*
- Focus on critical needs and must-haves
- Identify your standards to be supported
- Choose solutions that can scale and grow with you.
- Build lasting solutions, not pilots
- Solutions should be flexible and support multiple objectives
- Consider the long-term maintenance – fiscal and operational

▪ Choose your partners

- Who will build, maintain, and support your portfolio?
- Do they have demonstrated experience and success with healthcare technology?
- Will they be there to support you in the future?

Final Thoughts



- Rural Health Transformation is about fundamentally improving health outcomes for patients in rural communities.
- Metrics of success must ultimately be defined around the goal of improving outcomes.
- Technology is the tool, not the goal.
- Wise technology investments can make a lasting change in rural health.
- A small improvement that can be sustained over time will likely accomplish more than a huge change that collapses when the initial funding ends.



Rural Health Transformation Program: A Strategic Technology Planning Guide

A practical technology guide for state government leaders and rural health transformation teams designing, reviewing, and operationalizing Rural Health Transformation Program investments.

<https://www.intersystems.com/rural-health-transformation-program-strategic-technology-planning-guide/>



Thank You

Stay in Touch with the Civitas Team



Scan for Civitas Resources

www.civitasforhealth.org