

News Briefs

May 22, 2026

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Wyoming Hospital Association

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A Historic Win for Wyoming Healthcare: *\$205 Million Federal Investment Approved for Our Rural Communities*

The Wyoming Hospital Association applauds the federal approval of Wyoming's **\$205 million Year 1 award** under the Trump administration's Rural Health Transformation Program. This landmark investment, the result of months of rigorous planning and collaboration between the Wyoming Department of Health, healthcare providers, and community stakeholders, represents the most significant infusion of rural healthcare funding our state has seen in a generation.

For WHA members working on the front lines of Wyoming's rural and frontier communities, this funding is more than a policy milestone. It is a direct response to the challenges you navigate every day: workforce shortages, geographic barriers to care, and the financial pressures facing small hospitals and clinics across our state.

What the Funding Will Support

Wyoming's approved application targets the priorities that emerged clearly from providers, patients, and community input: building a sustainable healthcare workforce, strengthening preventive and chronic disease care, and preserving access to essential services in the communities that need them most.

Key initiatives include the **regionalization of emergency medical services**, so that EMS agencies across Wyoming can collaborate and share resources more effectively. **Clinical workforce training grants** will fund educational pathways in nursing, EMS, behavioral health, and physician training, directly addressing the provider pipeline challenge that WHA members have long identified as critical. Additional residency slots will expand Wyoming's postgraduate medical education capacity, helping to grow and retain homegrown talent.

The plan also creates **financial incentives for Critical Access Hospitals** to focus on the core services their communities depend on: emergency departments, ambulance services, and obstetric care. For WHA member hospitals operating on thin margins in small communities, this kind of targeted support can be the difference between keeping doors open and closing them.

Technology grants will help providers deliver care closer to home, improving chronic disease management and reducing the burden on patients who must travel long distances for routine

services.

A Strong Foundation, With Work Ahead

We acknowledge that the final approved application was revised from its original form. Two significant components, a state-operated emergency health insurance plan and a long-term perpetuity investment fund, were not included in the final approval. What remains is a strong, actionable plan focused on the fundamentals: basic care, workforce, and sustainability. That is something WHA members can build on.

The Clock Is Running

Wyoming must **obligate Year 1 funds by the end of October 2026**. That is an aggressive timeline. Contracts must be drafted, staff hired, proposals requested, and funds committed. WHA will be working closely with the Wyoming Department of Health and our member organizations to support swift and effective implementation. Future funding will depend on how well Wyoming executes in this first year.

We encourage all member hospitals, clinics, and healthcare organizations to stay engaged, respond promptly to contracting and proposal opportunities as they emerge, and reach out to WHA with questions or concerns as implementation begins.

The Wyoming Hospital Association has invited hospital CEOs and Nursing Home Administrators to a virtual meeting with Wyoming Department of Health Director Stefan Johansson next Thursday, May 28, to discuss the details of Wyoming's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).

Following the federal approval of Wyoming's \$205 million Year 1 award, this meeting will be an important opportunity to hear directly from Director Johansson on implementation plans, timelines, and what our member organizations can expect in the weeks ahead.

Governance, Strategy, and Legislative Dialogue **2026 WHA CEO/Trustee Spring Meeting Recap**

The Wyoming Hospital Association's **2026 CEO/Trustee Spring Meeting** brought together hospital leaders, board trustees, and elected officials on **May 19, 2026**, at the Best Western in Sheridan. From an intensive governance workshop in the morning to a candid legislative forum in the afternoon, the day offered WHA members a full slate of learning, dialogue, and connection.

Navigating the Boardroom

The morning session was anchored by a deep-dive governance workshop led by **Jerry Pogue**, a nationally recognized healthcare leadership expert. Drawing on Dennis D. Pointer's acclaimed framework *Navigating the Boardroom: 40 Maxims*, Pogue guided both new and experienced trustees through the practical wisdom needed for effective governance in today's complex healthcare environment.

The interactive workshop challenged participants to examine their roles with fresh eyes; exploring what it truly means to govern, not just oversee, a healthcare organization. Trustees left the session with concrete tools and a renewed sense of purpose in their work on behalf of Wyoming's communities.

Creating Generative Discussion in the Boardroom

After lunch, **Jason Spring** led an engaging session on moving boards beyond routine reporting and into the kind of meaningful dialogue that shapes strategy and strengthens decision-making. The session focused on practical approaches to framing questions, structuring agendas, and creating the conditions for genuine generative conversation.

A highlight of the afternoon was a featured conversation with **Tim Thornell**, CEO of Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, who shared firsthand how his organization's board has built space for generative discussion, and the difference it has made in the quality of their governance. His candid perspective resonated strongly with attendees navigating similar challenges at their own institutions.

Legislative Open Forum

The meeting culminated in a Legislative Open Forum that gave hospital CEOs and trustees rare direct access to their elected representatives. Four legislators attended and participated in a candid, wide-ranging conversation about the issues facing Wyoming's healthcare system:

- **Senator Tara Nethercott**
- **Senator Gary Crum**
- **Representative Lloyd Larsen**
- **Representative Christopher Knapp**
- **Representative Pepper Ottman**

Hospital leaders used the forum to raise concerns and share perspectives on workforce challenges, rural access, and the policy priorities that matter most to Wyoming's healthcare community. The legislators engaged openly, listening attentively and sharing their own views on the path forward. The exchange was exactly the kind of productive, relationship-building dialogue that WHA works to foster between the healthcare sector and the Legislature.

WHA extends its sincere thanks to all four legislators for making the trip to Sheridan and giving our members their time and attention.

Looking Ahead

The 2026 Spring Meeting reinforced what WHA members already know: strong governance, meaningful dialogue, and engaged legislative relationships are essential to the future of healthcare in Wyoming. We are grateful to every CEO, trustee, presenter, and legislator who made the day a success, and we look forward to continuing these conversations in the months ahead.



WHA Golf Tournament Returns September 8

The Wyoming Hospital Association will host its **19th Annual Golf Tournament** on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026**, at the **Cheyenne Country Club** (800 Stinner Road, Cheyenne). A complimentary lunch is served at 11:30 AM, with an 18-hole shotgun start at 1:00 PM and an Awards Banquet immediately following play.

Entry fees include green fees, golf cart, prizes, and dinner. Individual registration is **\$150 per player** or **\$600 per four-person team**. Hole sponsorships are available for \$300, and prize donations are welcome.

To register or for more information, contact **Rose Fishback** at rose@wyohospitals.com.

[Information on the golf tournament can be found here](#)

Future of Healthcare Workforce Solutions

Don't miss this exclusive complimentary WHA Member Webinar hosted by Medical Solutions on June 10, 2026: **The Future of Healthcare Workforce Solutions: Flexibility, Float Pools, and Technology.**

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Time: 11 am – 12 pm CST

Healthcare organizations are reimagining workforce strategies to meet evolving patient demands and ongoing staffing pressures. Join Karin Selfors, Chief Client Officer at Medical Solutions, for a discussion on how flexible staffing models, float pool strategies, and emerging technologies are helping hospitals improve agility, strengthen workforce stability, and support sustainable care delivery.

[Reserve Your Spot Here](#)

The logo for Medical Solutions, featuring the word "Medical" in a dark blue font with three green dots above the "i", and "Solutions" in a larger, bold dark blue font with three green dots above the "i". A small "TM" trademark symbol is at the end.

Wyoming Healthcare Leaders Gather for Policy Summit

Wyoming's healthcare community convenes June 12, 2026, in Laramie for the Wyoming Healthcare Policy Summit — bringing together hospital executives, educators, legislators, and health officials to address the state's most urgent health system challenges.

Co-hosted by the Wyoming Hospital Association, Wyoming Medical Society, Wyoming Nurses Association, Wyoming Primary Care Association, and other partners, the day opens with a keynote by Beth Worthen of the Natrona Collective Health Trust on the link between Wyoming's health and its economic future.

[Healthcare Policy Summit](#)

[Register for the Summit Here](#)

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR • 2026

Sep 8, 2026

WHA Golf Tournament

Cheyenne Country Club

Golf

Sep 9-10, 2026

WHA Annual Meeting

Little America, Cheyenne

Annual

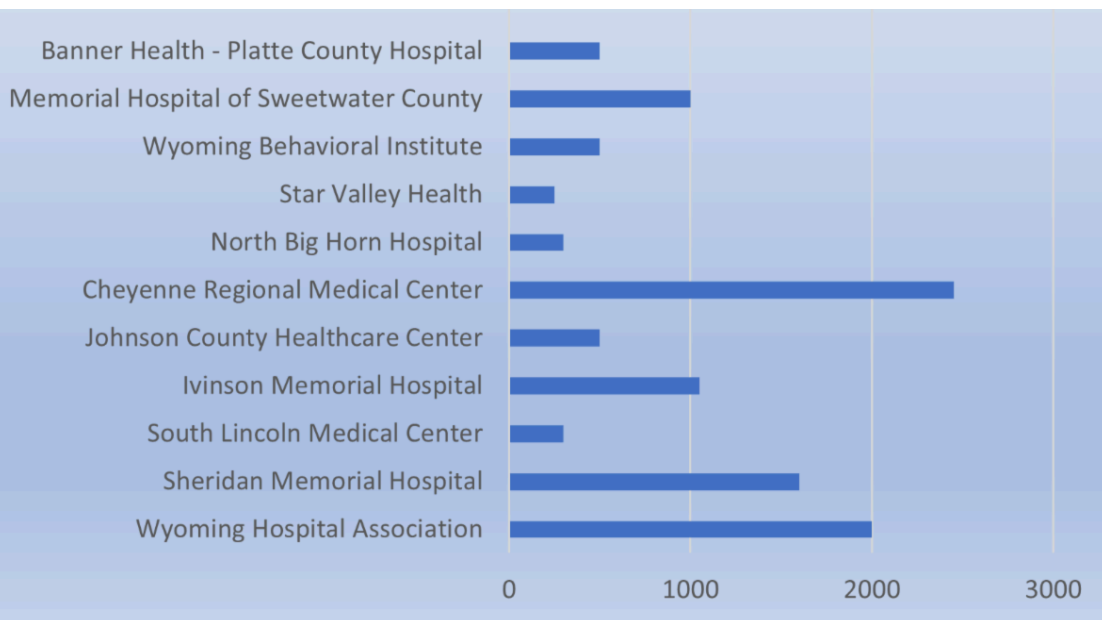
June 12, 2026

Healthcare Policy Summit

Laramie, WY

Summit

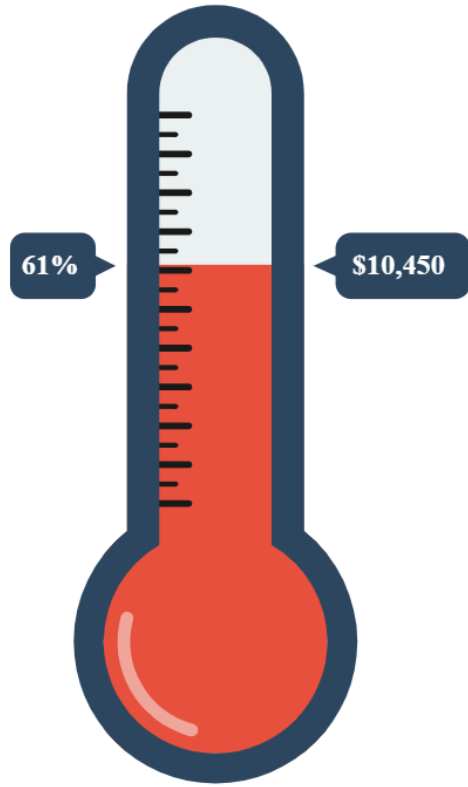
WHA PAC Goal for 2026 Contributors



WHA PAC

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Eric Boley
Kelsey Prestesater
Jenifer Shassetz
Dave Ryerse
Terry Moss
Mike McCafferty
Shelli Shelton
Joe Wright
Tim Thornell
Doug Faus
Luke Senden

GOAL: \$17,000



Joanna Vilos
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Scott Fox
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Mike Hunsaker
Mike Phillips
Steven Leafgreen
Brad Jackson
Irene Richardson
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