



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA, HEALTH CAMPUS
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost

February 23, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

As you likely know, Oklahoma received good news at the end of last year when it was announced that the state had secured \$223 million to expand rural health care access. This federal funding, part of the Rural Health Transformation Program overseen by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), is intended to reshape care delivery in rural Oklahoma, specifically focusing on strengthening the health care workforce, technology and career needs, and improving health outcomes. The Rural Health Transformation Program in Oklahoma is being coordinated by the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

As the state's only academic health system, we understand the urgent unmet health care needs of rural Oklahoma. We also know that these funds are most efficiently and effectively utilized when we approach access to them in a unified, cohesive structure as one University system focused on research, education and health care delivery. To achieve this, University leadership has been working directly with the leadership at the Oklahoma State Department of Health to determine the areas where the OU academic health system can achieve the greatest impact in achieving the State's goals and those of CMS.

OSDH anticipates receiving final approval from CMS for Oklahoma's efforts under this program in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we will be establishing a cohesive structure that will provide a common framework for pursuing access to these funds. This information will be communicated to you in detail as soon as it is available. We ask that you do not submit proposals to OSDH until this framework is coordinated.

We remain excited about the opportunity to continue to elevate access to quality health care for all Oklahomans.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Raskob, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President and Provost
OU Health Campus