

Rural Health Transformation Program

John Langefeld, MD – DPH Commissioner

Mike Tuggle – AFM Assistant Director

02/04/2026

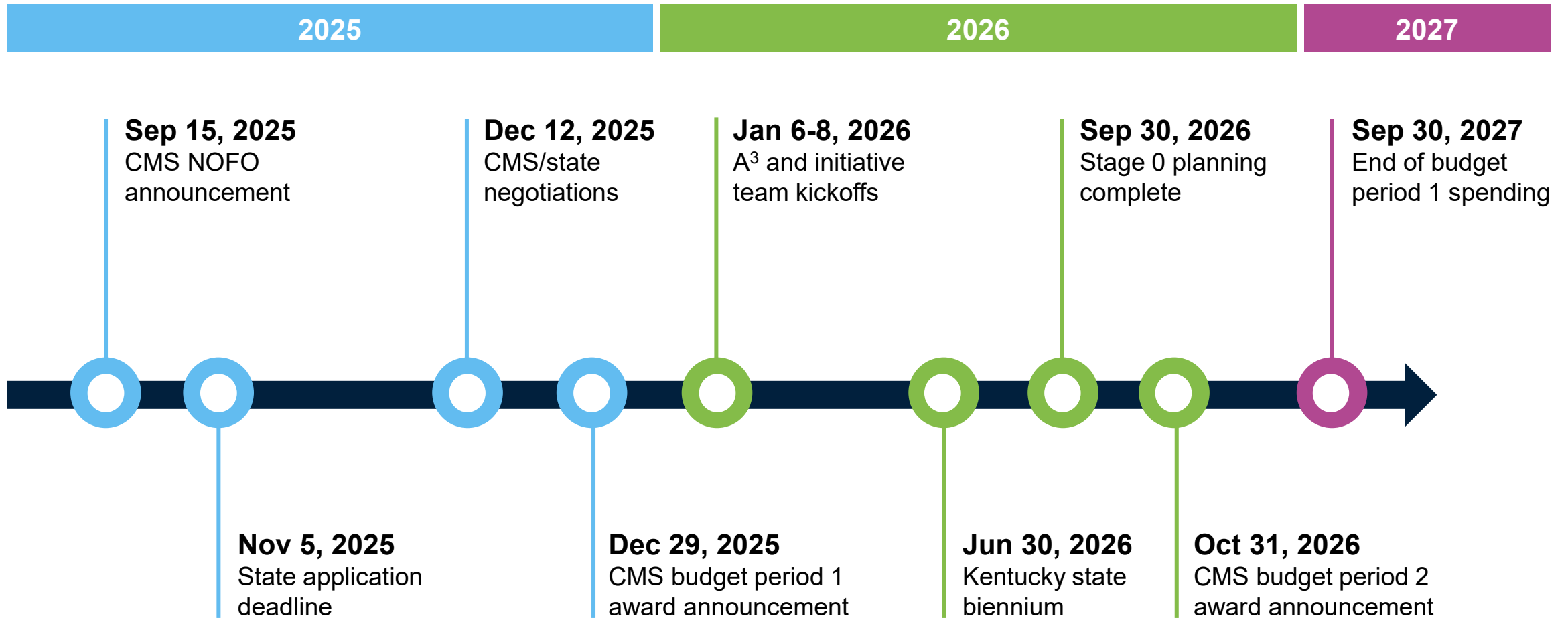


Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

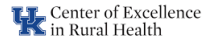


TEAM 
KENTUCKY®
CABINET FOR HEALTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES

RHTP Timeline



Thank You For Your Support



Kentucky Association of Area Agencies on Aging



Kentucky Maternal Mortality Review Committee



54

Community Partners

49

Providers

19

Academic Institutions

9

Local Governmental Entities

8

Families, Caregivers, and Consumer Advocacy

2

Payers



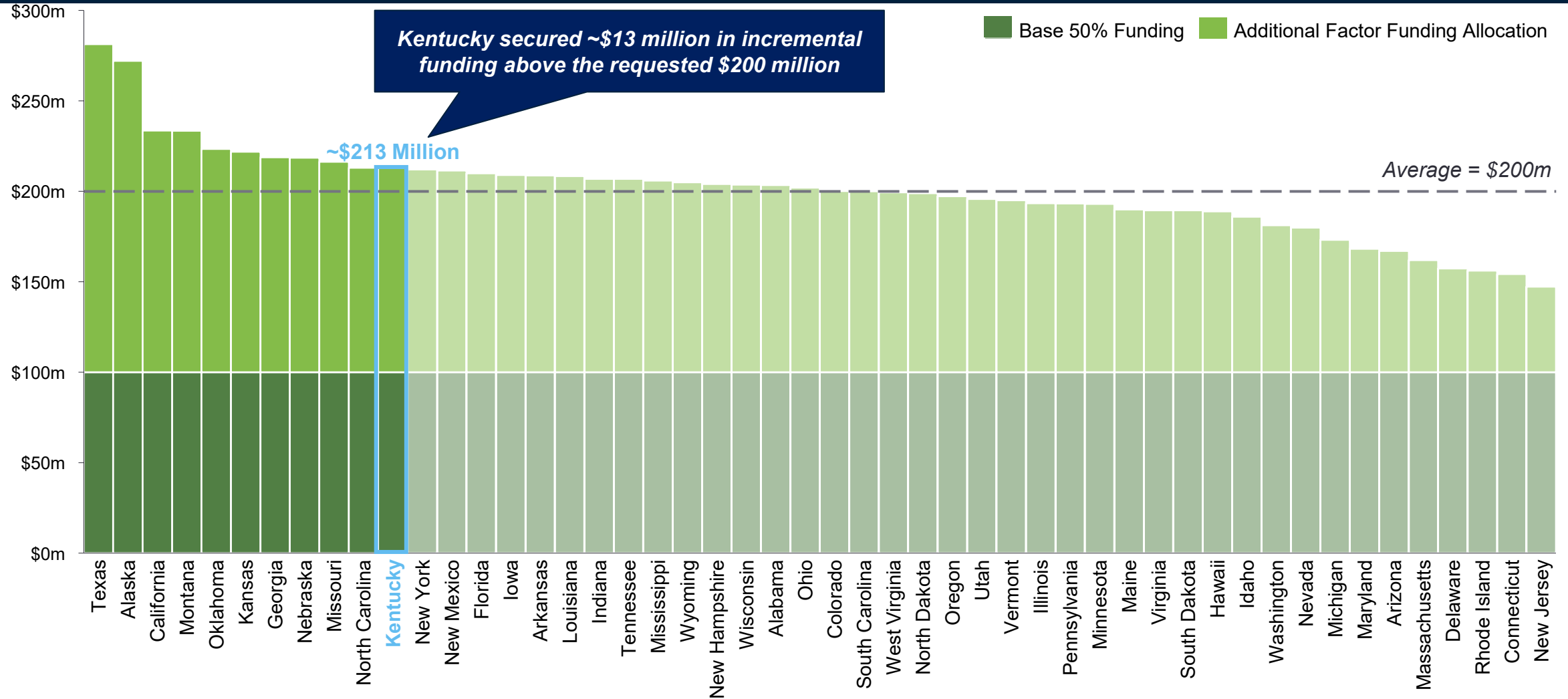
Kentucky Health Resource Alliance



Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative Panel



First Year Funding Awards



Kentucky's RHTP Initiatives



PoWERing Maternal & Infant Health

Increase timely perinatal and infant care in maternity care deserts through coordinated, telehealth-enabled teams



From Crisis to Care: Integrated EMS & Trauma Response

Enhance skills and resources for pre-hospital care and on-site interventions



Rapid Response to Recovery: EmPATH Model & Mobile Crisis

Expand integrated, technology-enabled crisis care from community response to long-term support



Rooted in Health: Rural Dental Access Program

Improve rural access to preventive dental care and treatment through expanded training and mobile, portable services



Rural Community Hubs for Chronic Care Innovation

Reduce obesity and diabetes rate through evidence-based, community-led strategies



Impact: Reimagine Rural Health Care to Achieve Effective, Sustainable Health and Vitality for All

RHTP: Opportunity to Think Differently

Focused Priorities

- ✓ Emphasizes **system transformation**
- ✓ CMS wants **big, innovative ideas** that are **evidence-based**
- ✓ A **5-year transformation**
- ✓ **Early wins** are critical
- ✓ State is **at risk to pay back funding**

What RHTP is NOT

- X** **Not** meant for ideas that are **unsustainable**
- X** **Not** meant for ideas that are **“more of the same”**
- X** **Cannot** be used to **replace or duplicate funding** or to **change fee schedules**

Funding Constraints

FUNDING LIMITS & EXCLUSIONS



**New
construction**



**Clinician's
salaries**



**Independent
R&D**



**EMR
replacement**



**Duplicate
billable
services**

Central Lab Expansion

Matthew Johnson
DLS Division Director

02/04/2026



Current State Central Laboratory Building



- 30+ years old with substantial infrastructure and space problems
- Multiple tenants:
 1. KY Dept. for Public Health
 1. Division of Laboratory Services
 2. Radiation Health
 2. KY State Police
 3. KY Medical Examiner
 4. KY Environmental Cabinet

CHFS DPH Central Laboratory Project

Construction of Central Laboratory, Funding Request - \$276,300,000

- Specialized laboratory services required by state and federal law
 - High-complexity clinical reference laboratory
 - Newborn screening (60+ disorders) for approximately 52,000 Kentucky births annually
 - State's only testing facility for potential bioterrorism threats
- Phase A & B completed. Phase C Construction Documents ends on April 13, 2026, moving to Phase D Bidding and Construction

Sample of CHFS Laboratory Mandates

- **KRS 211.190** Identifies certain services to be provided by the CHFS, including the establishment, maintenance and operation of **public health laboratories**.
- **KRS 211.345** Requires that the CHFS provide chemical and microbiological **testing of private water supplies** without charge.
- **KRS 211.903** Outlines testing for **lead poisoning**.
- **KRS 214.903** Specifies the ability to test and investigate to **prevent spread of infections diseases**.
- **KRS 214.155** The CHFS shall operate a **newborn screening** program for heritable and congenital disorders...
- **902 KAR 2:020** Requires the cabinet to implement a statewide program for the detection, prevention, and control of **communicable diseases, ..., occupational diseases and health hazards** peculiar to industry, ..., **animal diseases** which are **transmissible to man**, and other diseases and health hazards that may be controlled.
- **KRS 217.025** Testing of food filth and **food testing for adulteration**.
- **KRS 217.045 Pesticides** testing defined as an **unsafe food additive**.
- **KRS 217C.040** Establishes responsibility for oversight of **dairy products**.
- **KRS 258.085** Provides for the submission of **animal heads for rabies testing**.
- **KRS 338.031 & KAR 2:060** Kentucky state run **OSHA program support**.
- **902 KAR 45:031** Implementation of Hemp-derived cannabinoid product sampling and testing requirements.

