Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
November 19, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT: Brandon Cwalina, ra-pwdhspressoffice@pa.gov

MEDIA ADVISORY: TODAY IN INDIANA – Shapiro Administration to Announce Major Investments to Boost Pennsylvania's Rural Health Care Workforce

Indiana, PA – Today, **Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (PA DHS) Secretary Dr. Val Arkoosh, Department of Health (PA DOH) Secretary Dr. Debra Bogen,** and leadership from **Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP)** will announce major investments in funding to support Pennsylvania's rural health care workforce through Rural Health Transformation Plan (RHTP) funding.

The announcement will be made in partnership with IUP's College of Osteopathic Medicine (IUPCOM) during the Fifth Annual Pennsylvania Mountains Rural Health Conference.

Pennsylvania was awarded **$193 million** in federal funding for the first year of its approved five-year RHTP. The Shapiro Administration's RHTP was informed by extensive feedback and the priorities of stakeholders across rural Pennsylvania. Based on the feedback received, the Shapiro Administration drafted a federally approved, comprehensive plan in line with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' primary goals. One of the Commonwealth's RHTP initiatives focuses on expanding the rural health workforce, including supporting incentives like financial assistance, mentoring, short-term housing, and stipends based on a commitment to service in rural communities.

WHO:
PA DHS Secretary Dr. Val Arkoosh
PA DOH Secretary Dr. Debra Bogen
IUP President Dr. Michael Driscoll
IUPCOM Founding Dean Dr. Miko Rose
Students from IUPCOM's inaugural class

WHEN:
Thursday, November 19, 2026; 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex, Ed Fry Arena
711 Pratt Drive, Indiana, PA 15705

MEDIA RSVP:
Press interested in attending must RSVP with the name of photographer/reporter to ra-pwdhspressoffice@pa.gov.

###