



# Rural Health Transformation Program Post-Submission Public Webinar

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# Arizona's RHTP Application

# RHTP Application Overview

Arizona **submitted its application** for the Rural Health Transformation Program on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The state could receive **up to \$200 million per project year period** (a total of \$1 billion over the 5-year grant). Arizona's application featured four initiatives aligned to the program's strategic goals below:



Strategic Goal	Description
<b>Make Rural America Healthy Again</b>	Focus on <b>preventive care, chronic disease management, behavioral health, and prenatal care</b> using evidence-based approaches. Address root causes of poor health and <b>improve long-term outcomes</b>
<b>Sustainable Access</b>	Help <b>rural providers become long-term, reliable access points</b> by improving efficiency and encouraging collaboration across facilities and systems (e.g., better coordinate primary, specialty, and emergency care)
<b>Workforce Development</b>	Strengthen <b>recruitment and retention of health care workers in rural communities</b>
<b>Innovative Care</b>	<b>Promote new ways to deliver care</b> , such as value-based payment models or Accountable Care Organizations, to improve quality and reduce costs
<b>Tech Innovation</b>	Invest in digital health tools, telehealth, data sharing, and cybersecurity to <b>modernize health care delivery</b>



Arizona was awarded **\$166M for Budget Year 1** to implement proposed initiatives & programs

# Arizona's RHTP Initiatives

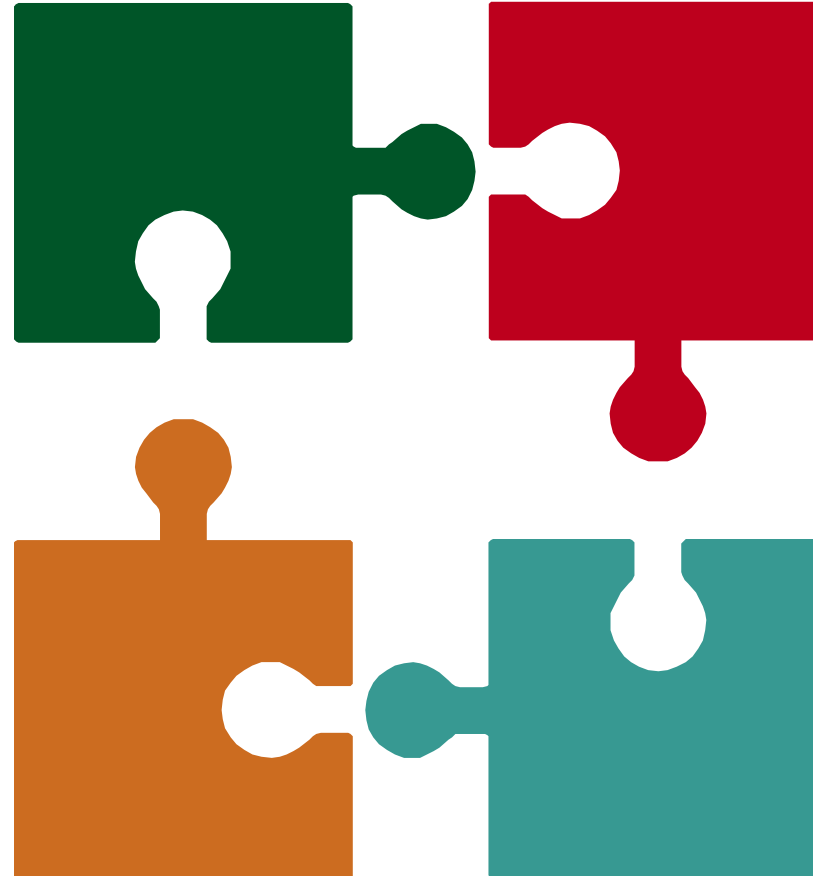
Below are the **4 initiatives** that Arizona is focusing on to address the key challenges related to access to healthcare in rural communities:

## Rural Health Workforce Development and Training Program

- **Recruit, train, and retain skilled health professionals** serving Arizona's **rural and Tribal communities** by creating new and expanding existing workforce initiatives
- Create **financial incentives to encourage recruitment and retention** of healthcare professionals, collaborating with universities colleges, and AHECs, with an emphasis on allied health disciplines

## Priority Health Initiatives Grants Portfolio

- Focused on **Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder (SUD), Maternal-Fetal Health, and Chronic Disease Prevention & Management**
- **Expand prevention and treatment access** via grant opportunities, including for mobile/digital units, enhancing training, and increasing screening



## Making Rural Healthcare Accessible

- Expand access to care in rural communities by deploying mobile units and satellite sites, and expanding telehealth services for **specialty, primary, and preventive care in remote areas**
- Integrate **regional coordination** for referrals, scheduling, and continuity of care, and telehealth-enabled access to improve rural health outcomes

## Making Rural Healthcare Resilient

- Implement shared services models to reduce administrative and financial burdens by **leveraging EMRs, HIE, and scaling back-office support**
- Provide **technical assistance** to strengthen rural network **performance and coordination** for better care delivery

# RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

## Rural Health Workforce Development and Training Program

**Purpose:** To recruit, train, and retain skilled health professionals serving Arizona's rural and tribal communities

**Allocated Amount:** \$47,100,000

### Activities:

- **Rural Health Education and Training Expansion:** Expands rural clinical rotations, residency slots, and accelerated education programs across universities and community colleges, prioritizing rural students and hard-to-fill specialties.
- **Financial Incentives for Rural Practice:** Provides sign-on bonuses, relocation support, commuting subsidies, childcare assistance, and preceptor stipends tied to a five-year rural service commitment to strengthen recruitment and retention.
- **Micro Grants for Provider Upskilling and Residency Support:** Funds specialized training and wellbeing programs for rural health professionals and offers micro-grants to clinics and hospitals to expand clinical training capacity and retention.
- **Arizona Healthcare Workforce Project:** Establishes a coordinated office at OEO to oversee long-term strategic planning and accelerate enrollment in rural workforce training programs through cross-sector partnerships.

**Expected Outcomes:** Increased rural health workforce pipeline, Increased rural clinician retention, Increased training rates, Expanded access to care

**Funding Framework:** AHCCCS will sub-award funds to OEO, which will administer cooperative contracts, agreements, and competitive Requests for Grant Applications (RFGA) to support initiative execution. Through this structure, OEO will award contracts and sub-awards based on alignment with project objectives, compliance with program requirements, and demonstrated capacity to deliver and report measurable outcomes.

# PRIORITY HEALTH INITIATIVES GRANTS PORTFOLIO (GRANT 1/3)

## Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Expansion Grant

**Purpose:** To expand clinical capacity and access points to behavioral health and substance use disorder treatments in rural and tribal areas, prioritizing integrated, evidence-based service models.

**Allocated Amount:** \$10,000,000

### Activities:

- **Opioid overdose prevention** through expanded opioid antagonists (e.g., naloxone distribution, etc.) and community-based access in rural areas
- **Mobile and digital service expansion and rural crisis services**, including clinics, detox centers, and crisis stabilization units—especially in northern Arizona where adults and pediatric crisis care gaps persist.
- **Training and recruitment** of behavioral health professionals in shortage areas.

**Expected Outcomes:** Improved geographic access to behavioral health and crisis services, Increased treatment engagement via digital therapeutics, Increased individuals engaged in prevention activities, Increased naloxone distribution events and kits provided

**Funding Framework:** AHCCCS will execute cooperative agreements through

- Contract amendments with health plans that serve as behavioral health managed care plans Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with Tribal behavioral health authorities, state agencies, rural public health departments, Tribal partners, and rural CBOs;
- RFP or limited competition contracts for eligible fee-for-service providers; and
- IGA or micro-grants for community prevention, opioid antagonist distribution, and peer support networks.

# PRIORITY HEALTH INITIATIVES GRANTS PORTFOLIO (GRANT 2/3)

## Improving Rural Maternal-Fetal Health Grant

**Purpose:** To improve the health and well-being of mothers and babies before, during, and after pregnancy through coordinated prevention and early intervention.

**Allocated Amount:** \$5,000,000

### Activities:

- **Expanding maternal health programs**, including statewide adoption of evidence-based maternal health bundles to standardize obstetric care
- **Enhancing OB and maternal mental health training**, including supporting OB simulation training for rural hospitals to improve emergency response and obstetric care and Perinatal Mental Health Certification (PMH-C) training to build a skilled and sustainable workforce.
- **Ensuring access to critical help lines**, including perinatal psychiatric help for patients, and perinatal help for rural clinicians for real-time provider and patient navigation.

**Expected Outcomes:** Increased implementation of the AIM Maternal Health Safety Bundles, Enhanced readiness for rural hospitals to respond to obstetric emergencies, Expanded access to perinatal mental health consultation and education, Increased number of healthcare providers trained and certified in PMH-C, Increased percentage of pregnant women with syphilis linked to care, Increased percentage of pregnant women treated for syphilis

**Funding Framework:** ADHS will manage cooperative contracts, agreements, and competitive RFP processes. Funds may be awarded to local and Tribal health departments, rural hospitals or clinics, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions. ADHS will monitor implementation through performance measures and provide technical assistance.

# PRIORITY HEALTH INITIATIVES GRANTS PORTFOLIO (GRANT 3/3)

## Chronic Disease Prevention & Management Grant

**Purpose:** To strengthen county and **regional chronic disease prevention capacity** and **improve long-term health outcomes**.

**Allocated Amount:** \$12,000,000

**Activities:**

- **Rural health screening events and targeted outreach campaigns** to identify and address chronic disease risk factors early
- **Embedding resources within healthcare environments** to ensure Arizonans who are eligible for health insurance programs become enrolled, and that **Arizonans are connected to social services for which they are eligible**.

**Expected Outcomes:** Improved rural prevention infrastructure, Increased rural chronic illness screening opportunities/events

**Funding Framework:** ADHS which will administer cooperative contracts, agreements, and competitive RFP processes. ADHS will require quarterly performance reports with standardized chronic disease indicators.

# MAKING RURAL HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBLE (GRANT 1/2)

## Telehealth Digital Transformation, Adoption, and Care Coordination Grant

**Purpose:** To expand equitable access across rural Arizona to telehealth and **technology-enabled healthcare across all clinical types**. This initiative integrates **investments in telehealth expansion with digital infrastructure modernization**, ensuring that rural patients, providers, and systems are connected through **reliable, interoperable, and secure digital infrastructure** and statewide platforms.

**Allocated Amount:** \$17,000,000

### Activities:

- **Telehealth hubs and remote monitoring:** Establish and expand telehealth hub sites to provide virtual specialty consults and implement remote patient monitoring programs that extend care to patients at home.
- **Grants for technology, including digital infrastructure and access, and care coordination:** Funds modernization of telehealth and digital infrastructure, integrates care coordination across mobile, tele-behavioral, and EMS networks, and expands the AZ REACH Behavioral Health Transfer Program to rural areas.

**Expected Outcomes:** Increased telehealth utilization, Improved care coordination

**Funding Framework:** AHCCCS will enter into cooperative agreements through:

- Contract amendments with health plans;
- IGAs/grants with state agencies, local governments, Tribal behavioral health authorities;
- Limited RFPs competitive contracts with 'rural health facilities' as defined by HR1, Title VVII Sec. 71401. to include fee for service providers
- Competitive RFP for implementation of specific programs/services.

# MAKING RURAL HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBLE (GRANT 2/2)

## Rural Health Innovative Care Pilot Program Grant

**Purpose:** To establish or expand **long-term rural health access points to preventive, specialty, and primary care services** and pilot innovative care or payment models

**Allocated Amount:** \$21,000,000

### Activities:

- **Mobile & Satellite Site Expansion:** Acquire, equip, and deploy mobile units & satellite sites to deliver specialty, primary, and preventive care
- **Innovative & Alternative Care Models:** Pilot and scale community health worker programs, diversion models, in-home services, and traditional healing supports.
- **Alternative Payment & Value-Based Care Adoption:** Adoption of alternative payment models and value-based care strategies to incentivize quality and efficiency in rural health delivery.

**Expected Outcomes:** Expanded service reach and rural specialty access, Reduced emergency and hospital utilization, Strengthened local health infrastructure, Accelerated adoption of value-based care

**Funding Framework:** AHCCCS will enter into cooperative agreements through:

- Contract amendments with health plans;
- IGAs/grants with state agencies, local governments, Tribal behavioral health authorities;
- Limited RFPs competitive contracts with 'rural health facilities' as defined by HR1, Title VVII Sec. 71401. to include fee for service providers
- Competitive RFP for implementation of specific programs/services.

# MAKING RURAL HEALTHCARE RESILIENT

## Making Rural Healthcare Resilient

**Purpose:** Build and strengthen **co-located community hubs** and integrated rural networks that achieve efficiencies through **shared services**.

**Allocated Amount:** \$38,190,060.32

### Activities:

- **Medical Diagnostic Equipment and Technology, including EHR Upgrades & Data Sharing:** Supports upgrades to medical equipment and EHR systems for rural providers, improving interoperability with Arizona's HIE, and strengthening cybersecurity and administrative efficiency.
- **Provider Liaisons Pilot Project:** Funds Provider Liaisons at AHCCCS, DIFI, and ADHS to reduce administrative burden, streamline credentialing, and coordinate compliance reporting to agency leadership and the RHTP Project Officer.
- **Adopt Shared Services Consortiums:** Implements shared staffing, training, data systems, and facilities to strengthen operational efficiency and sustainability in low-population and Tribal areas.
- **Provide Technical Assistance to Improve Operational and Fiscal Performance:** Delivers targeted support to rural healthcare organizations to enhance operations, financial management, and network administration—building long-term community resilience and self-sufficiency.

**Expected Outcomes:** Increased co-located care sites, Increased improved care coordination, Reduced service duplication, Improved operational sustainability, Expanded cybersecurity capabilities for providers

**Funding Framework:** AHCCCS to enter into cooperative agreements through

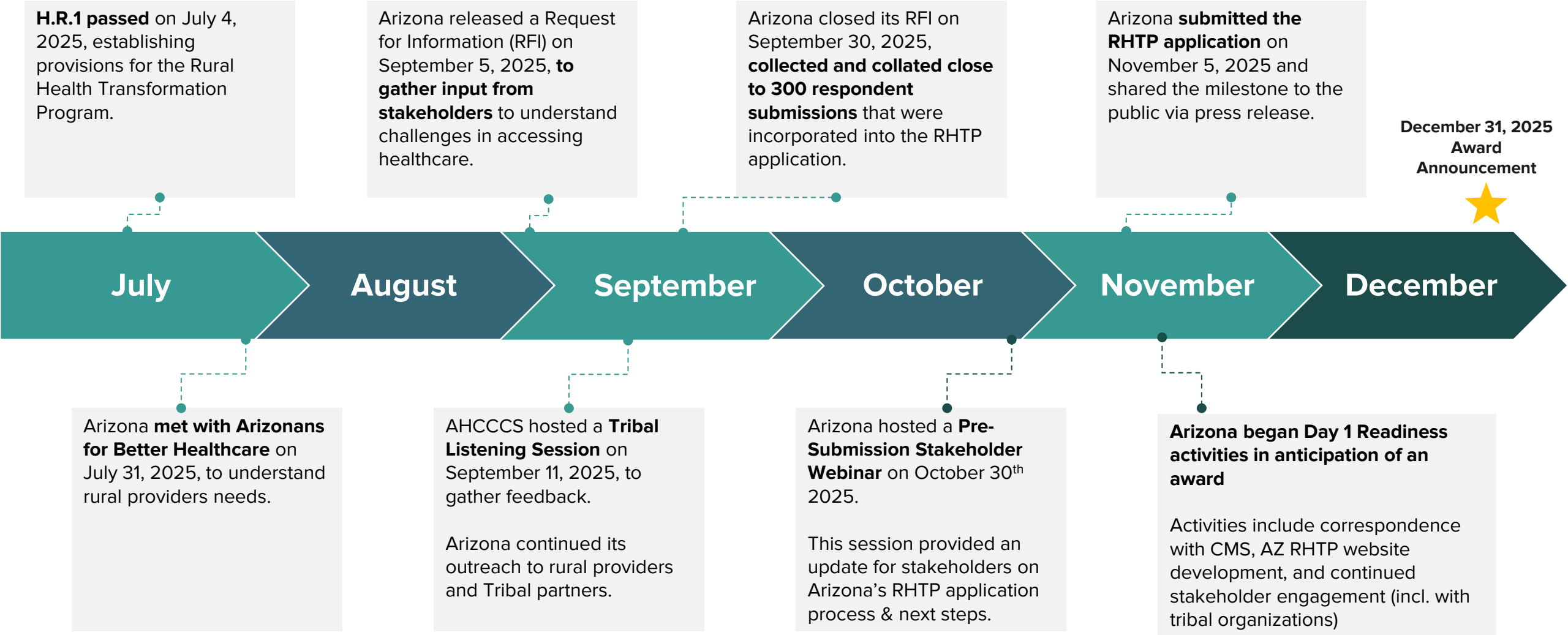
- Contract amendments with health plans
- Intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) and grants with state, local, and Tribal governments, Tribal behavioral health authorities, and other eligible entities
- Competitive RFP opportunities for rural health facilities to implement hub-based, shared-service, or integrated network programs
- Cooperative grants for shared-service hubs and programs that will connect eligible Arizonans to health insurance and social services.



**Continued Stakeholder Engagement**

# Stakeholder Engagement Journey

Arizona solicited feedback through **multiple channels from a diverse range of stakeholders**, including hospital systems, rural providers, universities, tribal representatives, and rural residents.



# Arizona's RHTP Program Reflects a Commitment to Continued Stakeholder Engagement

Recognizing the centrality of stakeholder engagement, Arizona will establish an **Executive Committee**, four specialized **Advisory Committees**, and a **Stakeholder Engagement Lead** within the first year of the RHTP program



The **Executive Committee** will provide strategic oversight, policy, funding alignment and coordinate with the advisory committees to integrate feedback across funds.



**Advisory Committees**—one for each initiative—will convene quarterly to guide planning, implementation, community-driven governance, and engagement. They will also provide technical assistance, identify emerging needs, and advise on project selection, performance tracking, and long-term sustainability.



The **Stakeholder Engagement Lead** will design statewide RHTP engagement, connecting agencies, providers, and communities to align priorities, drive awareness, and foster collaboration across initiatives.



**Next Steps**

# Next Steps



## Direct Convening

Arizona will engage other governmental partners, including congressional health staff. Additionally, AHCCCS will facilitate a meeting with tribal stakeholders in mid-December. Invitations will be sent out soon—please stay tuned for more details!



## RHTP Website Launch

Arizona will launch a dedicated RHTP webpage providing a summary of funded initiatives, FAQs, and serving as the primary platform for RFP announcements and program information



## Award Notification

CMS to announce awards on or before December 31, 2025



## Program Setup

Year 1 will focus on program setup—hiring key programmatic and administrative staff, issuing procurements, executing subrecipient contracts, and establishing a centralized RHTP Project Management Office to oversee compliance, monitoring, and interagency coordination.

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**AZ**

The text 'Q&A' is written in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font, centered horizontally in the lower half of the image. It is positioned over a foreground of desert vegetation, including yucca plants and shrubs, with a rocky outcrop visible to the right.

**Q&A**