

# 2024 Mental Health Grant for Health Care Professionals Questions and Answers

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To submit a question, please email [health.orhpc.workforcegrants@state.mn.us](mailto:health.orhpc.workforcegrants@state.mn.us) no later than 4:30 pm February 23, 2024.

## **Q1. Are current grantees automatically awarded or given an advantage during this application cycle?**

A1. The application cycle is competitive. Current grantees (past awardees) must apply for a grant this cycle. Current grantee/past awardee status will not be considered in the review of applications.

## **Q2. Is an S Corp eligible to apply?**

A2. Please see page 4 of the RFP for a list of eligible health care entities. If an S Corp falls under one of the categories of eligible health care entities, it would be eligible to apply.

## **Q3. Is it required that every grant program outcome be met for an application to be considered?**

A3. No, a project does not need to address all grant program outcomes. However, an application that meets more grant program outcomes may be prioritized over an application that addresses only one outcome. Page 17 of the RFP shows the Project Outcomes application question, in which applicants are asked which grant program outcomes their project will address and may select one or more.

## **Q4. Will funding be provided upfront or be reimbursed?**

A4. Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis. Grantees will submit quarterly invoices and documentation for reimbursement.

## **Q5. Is there an allowable amount for indirect cost spending in the budget?**

A5. An indirect cost rate is a percentage used to distribute indirect costs to all of an organization's programs that benefit from them. Applicants may use their federally negotiated indirect cost rate for their budgeting or, if they do not have one, an indirect cost rate of up to 10% of the direct costs in their budget. Applicants must provide documentation of their federally negotiated cost rate if they are using that rate in their budgeting.

## **Q6. Can you provide an example of a structural barrier that might be considered for this grant?**

A6. One of the goals of this grant program is to identify and modify structural barriers in health care delivery that create unnecessary stress in the workplace. Applicants are encouraged to consider barriers within their organization or barriers created by the systems and policies surrounding health care delivery more broadly. Structural barriers impede health care professionals' ability to provide timely, effective care and individuals' ability to access the care they need.

A few potential examples include inadequate technology to provide virtual care, burdensome or inefficient documentation procedures, challenges with insurance reimbursement, or a lack of coordination across health care entities.

## **Q7. How many applications were received last year and how many were awarded?**

A7. In the previous grant cycle, MDH received 60 applications and was able to make 13 grant awards with the funding available.

## **Q8. What was the average award last year?**

A8. The average award was \$77,000 with a range of \$32,000 to \$100,000.

## **Q9. Would an allowable expense include reimbursing employees for time spent providing support in a peer-to-peer program?**

A9. Yes, this would be an allowable expense. Grantees will receive guidance from MDH on the types of documentation that must be submitted along with invoices.

## **Q10. Are you able to comment on the sustainability of the past awardees and projects developed?**

A10. The Mental Health Grants for Health Care Professionals program awarded its first grants in summer 2023, and the grant period for those projects is ongoing, so we do not have data on sustainability beyond the grant period yet.

## **Q11. Are “Mental Health Professionals” considered only licensed mental health professionals (LICSW, LPCC, LMFT, etc.)?**

A11. Please note that this grant program serves health care professionals broadly, not only mental health professionals. Grant funding may be used to cover costs related to programs and resources for the health care professionals listed on pages 7-8 of the RFP.

**Q12. Do grant funds need to be used within the one-year grant period? Or can the project duration span a longer timeframe?**

A12. Yes, grant funds must be spent within the grant period, which is approximately one year. In some cases an extension of the grant period may be possible if the grantee needs more time to complete the project.

**Q13. Can one entity submit multiple applications?**

A13. Yes, an entity may submit separate applications for separate projects. Please note that due to the volume of applications and limited funding, an entity is unlikely to receive more than one grant award in a cycle.

**Q14. Where and when can I access the RFP webinar that was held on 2/1/24?**

A14. Unfortunately a recording of the webinar is not yet available, but all of the information provided in the webinar is available in the RFP and this Questions and Answers document.

**Q15. Would an association of clinics or other health care entities be eligible to apply?**

A15. Yes, an association or consortium of clinics or other health care entities is eligible to apply. See section 1.4 of the RFP for a list of eligible applicants. Also note that grant funding may be used to cover costs related to programs and resources for the health care professionals listed on pages 7-8 of the RFP.

**Q16. Are EMTs and ambulance personnel included in the list of approved direct care professionals?**

A16. Yes, EMTs and ambulance personnel would be considered health care professionals eligible for this grant.

**Q17. Is a higher education institution considered an eligible institution through its sponsorship of graduate medical education?**

A17. Please see page 4 of the RFP for a list of eligible health care entities. A health care entity from that list affiliated with a higher education institution would be eligible for this grant.

### **Q18. Would a federal grant salary cap apply to this grant?**

A18. A federal salary cap does not apply to this state-funded grant. Please keep in mind, however, that the review committee will evaluate the reasonableness of the proposed budget, including salaries.

### **Q19. Are nurse managers eligible?**

A19. Grant funding may be used to cover costs related to programs and resources for the health care professionals listed on pages 7-8 of the RFP. Nurse managers are health care professionals and thus are eligible. Administrative staff who are not health care professionals are not eligible, as noted on page 8 of the RFP.

### **Q20. Does this grant apply to health care professionals who are staff of nonprofits that provide direct care in home and community-based settings?**

A20. Please see page 4 of the RFP for a list of eligible health care entities. If a nonprofit organization is one of those types of entities, it would be eligible to apply for the grant. Grant funding may be used to cover costs related to programs and resources for the health care professionals listed on pages 7-8 of the RFP.

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