

# Questions and Answers: 2025 Preventive Services in Long-term Care Grant Program: Non-Emergency Medical Transportation in Long-term Care.

UPDATED NOVEMBER 14, 2024

## **Q1. We provide non-emergency medical transportation for our residents only. Can this grant program be used to purchase a new wheelchair-accessible van for our long-term care (LTC) in-house use only?**

A1. Recognizing the challenges faced by LTC communities in Minnesota when identifying safe and reliable transportation services for residents, MDH is seeking alternative and novel approaches to address these challenges. It is unlikely that a proposal to purchase a vehicle would be awarded grant funding.

## **Q2. The RFP states that transportation providers who receive funding from Medical Assistance (MA) are ineligible. Would an organization receiving MA for other areas such as a hospital clinic or day program be ineligible?**

A2. Applicants are ineligible if they or their collaborators receive MA for transportation services for LTC residents. Applicants may receive MA for payment in other areas of their operations, such as adult day programming or clinical services.

## **Q3. Can applicants use the same Due Diligence form from the 2025 Preventive Services in Long-term Care Grant Program: Infection Prevention and Control Capacity Building in Long-term Care RFP?**

A3. Please complete a Due Diligence form for each grant proposal submitted. If the information is the same, you may submit the same Due Diligence form for each application.

## **Q4. In our grant application we will propose launching a transportation program for our long-term care facility. Can we charge a fee for the transportation?**

A4. Programs charging residents for transportation services must adhere to the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) for administering non-emergency medical transportation, as outlined here: [Transportation Services - State Administered NEMT](#), as well as Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) guidance on Special Transportation Services, found here: [MnDOT Special Transportation Services \(STS\)](#).

### **Q5. Is staff time to hire a transportation coordinator for the duration of this grant an eligible expense?**

A5. Yes. Grant funds may be used for costs associated with establishing transportation coordination programs. Applicants are asked to describe their plan for maintaining their project after the grant period ends. Applications with strong sustainability plans will receive competitive priority.

### **Q6. Are vehicle maintenance costs an eligible expense?**

A6. Routine vehicle maintenance costs are not eligible expenses. Modifications to vehicles to increase accessibility or otherwise improve transportation services for LTC residents are an eligible expense (see RFP section 2.2).

### **Q7. My facility is creating a transportation program that will serve not only our long-term care (LTC) residents, but also our community elders as well. Is this an eligible expense?**

A7. The primary beneficiaries of any grant project must be LTC residents. MDH recognizes that some LTC communities may serve multiple populations and that other segments of the population may benefit from activities associated with this grant program. When submitting proposals, applicants must demonstrate how project activities will benefit LTC residents and be sustainable in serving LTC residents. If your proposed transportation program will also serve clients who are not LTC residents, please provide details about the secondary beneficiaries and address overall sustainability plans.

### **Q8. This program has the potential to put local Non-Emergency Medical Transport (NEMT) companies out of business. How would this grant program be able to assist existing NEMT programs?**

A8. The goal of this grant program is to develop systems and strategies to address the non-emergency transportation issues facing LTC community residents in Greater Minnesota. MDH seeks innovative solutions and unexplored approaches to fulfill this goal in areas where gaps exist. Applicants may propose to modify existing transportation programs or resources to operate more effectively for LTC communities. Existing NEMT providers seeking to expand

services to increase transportation access for LTC residents would also be eligible for grant funds.

**Q9. Can an organization collaborate with a transportation company that receives payment from Medical Assistance (MA)?**

A9. Applicants are ineligible if they or their collaborators receive MA for transportation services for LTC residents.

**Q10. Would a health care technology company from outside of Minnesota need to partner with a Minnesota long-term care facility in order to apply with a multi-organization project proposal?**

A10. Applicants must be located in Minnesota. Projects must focus on expanding or improving non-emergency medical transportation services for residents of LTC communities in Greater Minnesota (outside of the seven-county metro area).

**Q11. We provide home care for dementia patients. Can we apply for funding to transport home care patients?**

A11. Please note, this grant program is not designed to provide per-ride funding. Grants will support systems and strategies that improve non-emergency medical transportation services for LTC communities (skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and assisted living facilities) located outside of the seven-county metro area. The primary beneficiaries of any grant project must be LTC residents. When submitting proposals, applicants must demonstrate how project activities will benefit LTC residents and be sustainable in serving LTC residents. If your proposed transportation program will also serve clients who are not LTC residents, please provide details about the secondary beneficiaries and address overall sustainability plans.

**Q12. Has the state considered using funding to help empower our rural NEMT companies to build the already established relationships rather having LTC reinvent the wheel? The high cost of insurance, low reimbursements, and ability to find local and timely training is difficult to attain already. The majority of our business is based out of the local LTC facilities.**

A12. Existing NEMT providers are eligible to apply for funding to improve NEMT services for LTC residents outside of the seven-county metro area. Applicants may propose to modify existing transportation programs or resources to operate more effectively for LTC communities. Expanding services provided by existing NEMT providers to increase transportation access for LTC residents would also be an eligible use of grant funds.

NEMT provider proposals must adhere to the guidelines outlined by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) for administering non-emergency medical transportation, found here: [Transportation Services - State Administered NEMT](#), as well as Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) guidance on Special Transportation Services, found here: [MnDOT Special Transportation Services \(STS\)](#).

**Q13. After grant term ends, how are the facilities to continue these programs? Should they contract with insurance companies to ensure funding to continue services?**

A13. Sustainability is a priority of this grant program. Applicants are asked to describe their plan for maintaining their project after the grant period ends. Applicants will need to explore and identify sustainability strategies suitable to their project.

**Q14. Can a long-term care (LTC) facility use grant funds to establish a volunteer service?**

A14. Yes, these funds may be used to establish a volunteer transportation or transportation coordination service. All applicants must describe their plan for sustaining project activities beyond the grant period.

**Q15. Can I use funding from this grant program to expand my non-emergency medical transport company's business into long-term care facility transportation?**

A15. Existing NEMT providers are eligible to apply for funding to improve NEMT services for LTC residents in Greater Minnesota (outside of the seven-county metro area). When submitting proposals, applicants must demonstrate how project activities will benefit LTC residents and be sustainable in serving LTC residents. If your proposed activities will also serve clients who are not LTC residents, please provide details about the secondary beneficiaries and address overall sustainability plans.

NEMT provider proposals must adhere to the guidelines outlined by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) for administering non-emergency medical transportation, found here: [Transportation Services - State Administered NEMT](#), as well as Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) guidance on Special Transportation Services, found here: [MnDOT Special Transportation Services \(STS\)](#).

**Q16. I understand that MDH may respond with partial funding offers and may work with selected applicants during the award process to adjust project scope and budgets to align with available funding. I want clarification that our application won't be automatically disregarded for requesting a more significant amount. Does MDH expect to make multiple awards of varying sizes?**

A17. As noted in the RFP, MDH anticipates making multiple grant awards of varying amounts. Your request should not exceed \$2M for the Non-emergency Medical Transportation in Long-term Care RFP or \$3M for the Infection Prevention and Control Capacity Building in Long-term Care RFP. Eligible applicants may request up to the full maximum award specified if they are proposing a large-scale, regional, or statewide solution.

**Q17. In Section 1.4 of the RFP, “Eligible Applicants,” one of the criteria listed is, “Applicant is located in Minnesota.” If the primary applicant is from Minnesota but the collaborative partner is from outside of the State, will the application be eligible?**

A17. The applicant must be located in Minnesota. Collaborators may be located outside of the state; however, the work must benefit residents in LTC communities in Greater Minnesota (outside of the seven-county metro area).

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