

Rural Hospital Planning & Transition Grant Program FY25 Questions and Answers

DECEMBER 6, 2024

A Community Health Needs Assessment is identified as a priority in our current strategic plan. Is this considered an eligible project for the Planning & Transition Grant Program?

No, please note that although a community health needs assessment is a required component of strategic planning, the needs assessment will not be funded by this grant program. See RFP section 2.2.

When is the deadline to apply?

The deadline to apply is Friday, December 20, 2024 at 4:30 pm Central Time.

Will the Planning & Transition Grant Program RFP information webinar be recorded?

No, but materials from the webinar, including presentation slides and a questions and answers document, will be posted on the [ORHPC webpage](#).

What is expected of our community health board?

A key component of this grant program is the requirement of a 30-day period for the local Community Health Board (CHB) to review the proposal and submit comments to MDH. It is the responsibility of the applicant hospital to send a copy of the application to any relevant CHB. Upon sending your proposal to the CHB, request that the CHB submit their comments to health.ruralhospitalgrants@state.mn.us no later than January 20, 2025. See RFP section 2.2.

Is the Governing Board Resolution still required in the application?

No, the Governing Board Resolution is no longer a required attachment for the FY25 Rural Hospital Planning & Transition grant application.

Can you provide some more detail regarding the application section Health Equity and Social Drivers of Health?

This question asks applicants to describe how their project will advance health equity and address social drivers of health. MDH is interested in hearing how applicants have considered equity and social drivers of health in conceptualizing their projects, and how they expect their

project to have an impact in these areas. As a starting point, your response may include, for example, how your organization identifies health inequities in the community and measures social drivers of health. See RFP Part 4: Application Guidance for a complete list of application questions.

Is the purchase of an electronic health records systems an eligible project if it was identified in the strategic plan?

Yes, as noted in RFP section 2.2, establishing an electronic health records system is an eligible transition project, if it is a priority in the hospital's strategic plan.

Are projects that have a large budget still considered for this grant?

Projects that have a large budget are eligible but will not receive more than the maximum grant award of \$45,000 (see RFP section 1.3). All applicants must certify that at least 50% of the grant request amount will be matched from non-state sources, and applications will be evaluated on whether their budget is clear and reasonable and aligns with the goals of this grant program.

Do we need to submit a new Due Diligence form with our application if we already submitted one this year?

Yes, please submit a new Due Diligence form each time you apply for a grant, to ensure that any new information is captured.

Can you provide examples of community support?

Applicants are asked to provide evidence of support for their hospital and proposed project from other local health service providers and local community and government leaders. Evidence of community support may include past commitments of financial support from local individuals, organizations, or government entities, and commitment of financial support, in-kind services, or cash for this project. Letters of support from local health service providers and local community and government leaders may also be submitted.

Can this funding be used for community clinics or involve community clinics?

No. As stated in RFP section 1.4, eligible applicants are hospitals that meet the other criteria detailed in that section.

Can this grant award support an implementation project if the project is also being funded by another grant project?

All applicants must certify that at least 50% of the grant request amount will be matched from non-state sources. A non-state grant program could be one of those sources. Applicants will need to be clear about which components of their project are covered by each funding source, and track expenses carefully if awarded grant funding, to ensure that there is no overlap.

Is specialty equipment an eligible expense for the Rural Hospital Planning and Transition grant if expanding specialty surgeries was identified as a priority in our strategic plan?

If your transition project to purchase specialty equipment and expand specialty surgeries meets identified community needs reflected in your strategic plan, it is considered an eligible expense for the Rural Hospital Planning and Transition grant program.

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12/6/2024

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3838.