

Rural Health Transformation Program Frequently Asked Questions

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Question 1. How can I receive more information?

Answer: The best way to receive information and stay up to date on Rural Health Transformation Program news is to [Subscribe to the listserv.](#)

Question 2. How can my organization apply for funds?

Answer: The best way to receive information and stay up-to-date on any future Rural Health Transformation Program funding opportunities is to [Subscribe to the listserv.](#)

Question 3. Can I read the application?

Answer: For a high-level summary, review the [Minnesota Rural Health Transformation Program Application Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#). For detailed information, read the full [Minnesota Rural Health Transformation Program Project Narrative \(PDF\)](#).

Question 4. What are the proposed grant activities for Minnesota's Rural Health Transformation Program?

Answer: The Minnesota Rural Health Transformation Program proposed 5 initiatives (or categories) to CMS. These are 1. Community-based preventive care and chronic disease management; 2. Recruiting and retaining talent in rural communities; 3. Sustaining access to services to keep care closer to home; 4. Creating regional care models to improve whole-person health; 5. Investing in technology, infrastructure, and collaboration for financial viability. Under each initiative category, the application details allowable grant expenses, proposed programs and technical assistance.

Question 5. Are these activities final?

Answer: The application includes the initiatives and activities that Minnesota proposed to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS will make their final decision by December 31, 2025. It is possible that states will be asked to scale or modify their proposed plans. Information about changes to the application will be shared. [Subscribe to the listserv](#) to stay up to date on news.

Question 6. My organization type is defined as an eligible facility in the application. How do we receive our funds?

Answer: Information on funding opportunities will be shared with eligible applicants directly. Organizations may apply for funding through an allocation and/or through a competitive process, depending on eligibility. Once awards are determined, funds will be disbursed to grantees on a reimbursement basis after they have submitted required progress reports, invoices, and supporting documentation of eligible expenses to MDH.

Question 7. My organization wants to do an activity listed in the application but would like to make tailored modifications that are different from how the activity is proposed. Is this allowed?

Answer: Organizations should refer to the application instructions, which will be forthcoming once Minnesota's federal award is determined, for each respective grant program to determine flexibility within the program guidance.

Question 8. Are administrative expenses allowed?

Answer: CMS has limited administrative expenses to 10% of a state's overall award. This cap includes administrative expenses for all subrecipients as well as the State.

Question 9. Will small hospitals affiliated with a large health system receive funds directly or will funds go to the corporate entity?

Answer: Organizations will apply for funding at their discretion. If a corporate entity houses the organization's grants division, they may complete the grant application, but grant funds are only allowed to be used for eligible recipients and eligible expenses.

Question 10. When will MDH publish competitive grant guidelines?

Answer: MDH will develop and post competitive grant guidelines in the coming months after the State receives the Notice of Award from CMS.

Question 11. How is money allocated to activities?

Answer: Funding was budgeted across activities based on the anticipated uptake or expense to carry out each activity.

Question 12. What are the allowable expense categories and indirect cost rules?

Answer: MDH will provide detailed, upfront, written guidance related to allowable expense categories, indirect cost rules, and other grant requirements. MDH will also provide an orientation and ongoing TA to ensure that grantees fully understand grant requirements.

Question 13. What are the reimbursement timelines?

Answer: Grantees will submit invoices and be reimbursed at least quarterly. For some grants, invoicing and reimbursement will be monthly. If a grantee requests more frequent invoicing and reimbursement, such as biweekly, due to their organization's limited financial capacity, MDH will strive to accommodate that request.

Question 14. What data elements will organizations be required to report as part of their grant monitoring plan?

Answer: MDH will provide detailed, upfront, written guidance on all data elements that MDH will request from grantees as part of the grant monitoring plan. MDH will also provide an orientation and ongoing TA to ensure that grantees fully understand reporting requirements.

Question 15. Where can an organization locate templates, dashboards, and submission calendars?

Answer: Grantees will submit progress reports, financial reports, supporting documentation, and required data elements through the ORHPC grants portal. Templates will be provided, and reporting forms will be as simple as possible to minimize burden on grantees. Grantees will be provided a guide to the portal and submission timelines.

Question 16. What is the eligibility of existing programs or using RHTP funds to integrate or expand current work?

Answer: The program guidance from CMS explicitly states that funds may not be used to duplicate or supplant existing sources of funding. Activities funded by RHTP must be new. Expansions of existing programs may be eligible in some cases if other funding sources are not available for the expanded activities.

Question 17. Why has MDH requested so many FTEs to work on RHTP?

Answer: More than 97% of the requested funds will be granted or contracted out to other organizations, and MDH anticipates needing to manage well over 100 separate grants and contracts. MDH requested just over 2% of the funds to administer those grants and contracts, as well as the required reporting and compliance activities. Adequate MDH staffing allows grant staff to work closely with grantees; understand their existing work, partnerships, strengths, and needs; provide tailored assistance and create resources to support grantees' success and compliance; and problem-solve to address any concerns from grantees, as well as ensuring that

all state and federal requirements related to reporting, documentation and program integrity are followed.

Question 18. Will MDH provide guidance on structures for regional initiatives? How will MDH score, compare and reconcile competing proposals across regions?

Answer: MDH will provide guidance on structures for regional initiatives and details on evaluation criteria in materials such as Notice of Grant Opportunity and Request for Proposal documents.

Question 19. Will multi-year funding commitments be made to grantees? What are the expectations for continued RHTP funding after the five years?

Answer: States granted an RHTP award must meet program requirements and demonstrate satisfactory progress in order to receive continued funding from CMS for years 2-5. MDH may issue multi-year grants using RHTP funds, but funding for each year will be contingent on continued federal funding, compliance with all program requirements, and satisfactory progress. At this time there is no expectation that RHTP funding will be available after the five-year program ends.

Link References

- [Subscribe to the listserv - https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDH/subscriber/new?topic_id=MNMDH876](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDH/subscriber/new?topic_id=MNMDH876)
- [Minnesota Rural Health Transformation Program Application Fact Sheet \(PDF\) - https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/ruraltrans/docs/rhtpfacts.pdf](https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/ruraltrans/docs/rhtpfacts.pdf)
- [Minnesota Rural Health Transformation Program Project Narrative \(PDF\) - https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/ruraltrans/docs/rhtpnarrative.pdf](https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/ruraltrans/docs/rhtpnarrative.pdf)

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