

2024 Community Clinic Grant Program

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Updated March 18, 2024

Q1. Can an entity that is organized as an S-Corporation be eligible for the Community Clinic Grant?

A1. No. S-Corporations are not eligible as they are a for-profit entity. The only entities eligible for the Community Clinic Grants are:

- Nonprofit clinics established to provide preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services to low-income or rural population groups.
- A government entity operating a clinic which provides preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services.
- An Indian Health Services unit or Indian tribal government operating a clinic which provides preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services; or,
- A consortium of these entities.

Q2. Is a school district that is offering integrated services for students at the school under a federal Full Service Community Schools grant eligible to apply? If so, could the school district be eligible under any of the three options for the grant (mental health, oral health, or clinical services)?

A2. A school district would not be an eligible entity unless it also meets one of the eligibility criteria listed below, which is required by the authorizing legislation. However, a school district could encourage their clinical partner who meets the eligibility criteria to apply and write the project to support the school-based setting. The school district would provide a letter of support outlining the collaboration with the clinic. The partner clinic could apply under any of the three categories.

Eligible entities include:

- Nonprofit clinics established to provide preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services to low-income or rural population groups.
- Your An Indian Health Services unit or Indian tribal government operating a clinic which provides preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services; or,
- A consortium of these entities.

All applicant organizations must also have a policy to ensure no person will be denied services due to inability to pay (e.g., sliding-fee scale).

For purposes of the Community Clinic Grant Program, the term clinic means an outpatient or ambulatory setting for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or the maintenance of health. Clinics may be stationary or mobile and must not be solely for the purpose of urgent nor

emergent care. Eligible health services include preventative, medical, dental and mental health. Clinics may provide one or more of these services and are not required to provide all.

Q3. May an organization apply in multiple categories?

A3. Yes, but the total award maximum per organization is \$45,000. Due to the amount of funding, it is advised that projects should be limited to one of the categories. Projects that are too broad tend to not review well.

Updated answer on 2/29/24: Yes, an organization may apply with a project in two separate categories. However, reviewers are unlikely to grant two awards to one organization because programs are tasked with trying to distribute awards equitably across the state. There is no maximum award per organization.

Q4. Does the applicant agency have to take insurance, specifically Medicare or Medicaid? We are a low fee agency that take cash only and is entirely volunteer staffed.

A4. The only program that requires the acceptance of Medicaid-eligible patients is Option A: Mental Health Clinics serving adolescents and young adults ages 12-25. Mental health projects require the billing of Medicaid as well. If you do not accept Medicaid patients and bill Medicaid for services to those patients, your entity would not be eligible.

Oral Health (Option B) and Clinical Services for At-Risk You ages 12-25 (Option C) are not required to accept Medicare or Medicaid. All sites must have in place a policy that ensures no person will be denied services due to inability to pay (e.g., sliding fee scale).

Q5. Our organization runs health care clinics twice per month. Recently, we separated from our funding institution and have applied for 501(c)(3) status. I'm wondering if we can apply for this grant using a fiscal sponsor.

A5. The answer depends. Is your organization a nonprofit clinic or do you contract with a health care provider for your clinic services? If you are a clinic, will you receive your 501(C)(3) status before the grant start date of 6/1/24?

If you are a clinic and you will receive your 501(c)(3) status before the grant start date, you would be eligible. If the answer to either of those questions is no, then your organization would not be eligible.

If you partner with a clinic to provide services and they meet the grant eligibility criteria then they could apply as the applicant and include you as a supporting organization to fund the project.

Q6. We will be starting a Partial Hospitalization and Day Treatment Adolescent Mental Health Program. The program will provide intensive outpatient mental health with the goal of helping adolescents ages 13-18 stay out of the hospital and get support they need to heal. The program averages two to four weeks in length and typically meet Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please let me know if this type of program would be eligible for the Community Clinic Grant.

A6. Your organization would be eligible for this grant as long as your organization is nonprofit clinic, provides outpatient services, and serves youth ages 12-17 at a minimum. Please note that there are some additional eligibility criteria for projects under the mental health service option. They are that you must:

- Serve young people, minimally ages 12-17 but preferably ages 12-25.
- Provide directly or partner with a local clinic that provides Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) or preventative health visits for adolescents and young adults.
- Accept Medicaid-eligible patients.

All applicants must also have a policy to ensure no person will be denied services due to inability to pay (e.g., sliding-fee scale).

The intensive outpatient mental health program would be eligible, but the partial hospitalization would not, as it would not count as an outpatient clinic service. Your current ages served are 13-18, which would not be eligible. You would need to include individuals aged 12 as well to be eligible.

Q7. If our clinic is owned under a hospital licensure but would be operating the program under ‘B’ (Business Occupancy) within the clinic site, does the hospital licensure make us ineligible?

A7. Your clinic would still be eligible even if owned by a hospital system as long as it was a nonprofit hospital and your facility is a clinic that provides outpatient services and meets any other option-specific criteria.

Q8. Would our community college-run dental clinic be eligible for the Community Clinic grant?

A8. Yes, your organization would be eligible under the “government entity operating a clinic which provides preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services” category.

Q9. Our clinic provides sexual/reproductive health services like STI testing/treatment, birth control, etc. and gender affirming

hormone care for trans, non-binary, and gender expansive patients. Would hormone care (including puberty suppression medications for young patients of appropriate age) be covered under sexual/reproductive health services for this grant?

A9. Yes, these would be covered serviced under the medical component of clinic services under the grant. There is no restriction on the type of medical services provided.

Q10. Is it an allowable expense to use grant funds to pay for individuals' copays or high deductibles for their appointments?

A10. Yes, this is possible but we would need further information to understand how this would work to fully answer this question.

Q11. Does the sliding scale fee policy submitted have to cover all of the services you will provide under the grant? For example, we offer medical services and have a sliding scale fee policy for that, but we want to include dental services on our application.

A11. Yes, we would need a policy that would address the services you intend to provide. So as an example, if you're branching out to include dental services, you'd want a policy that would include how you would be not turning anyone away for those dental services.

Q12. Do you anticipate the 13 or so grants being distributed somewhat evenly over the three options?

A12. Not necessarily. We look at the scores of the applications across all of the options and we also look at geographical representation across the state.

Q13. Is there a limit or maximum for equipment?

A13. There is not a limit other than the overall \$45,000 maximum that allowed for the total grant award.

Q14. Can we apply via a fiscal sponsor?

A14. If you don't have your own nonprofit designation, we aren't able to accept applications through a fiscal sponsor. However, if the organization that would be your fiscal sponsor meets the eligibility criteria for the grant, they could apply for the project and include your organization as a collaborator.

Q15. Can collaborators from the same organization apply for the sections separately?

A15. Yes, you may have several people within your organization work on different components of the application. For example, you can write the project abstract section and someone else can complete the budget narrative section.

Q16. We are a mental health organization, so we would apply for option A, but we are collaborating with a clinic who would apply for C.

A16. I would have both of you submit your own applications and then you can document how you're supporting one another unless you're really coming together with just one application trying to hit both of those components.

Q17. How strong of a collaboration is required for mental health? If they act as a referral source, is that enough?

A17. There needs to be evidence that you are collaborating with other organizations. This is assessed by the application reviewers. There is not a specific bar for collaboration, it depends on the project you have and how that collaboration will add value and help to meet goals. Also reminder that you must either provide yourself or partner with an organization that provides child and teen checkups or preventive health visits for adolescents. Having an organization be a referral source is a valid type of collaboration.

Q18. Can organizations request funding for existing services being offered to sustain mental health services to rural low income individuals or expanding services for the same groups?

A18. Yes, these grants may be used to support existing services. It does not have to support new services.

Q19. Could these funds be used to support activities with the nursing homes or in personal homes?

A19. It depends. You need to ensure you are still an eligible entity – that you are a nonprofit clinic, or government entity, Indian Health Services unit or Indian tribal government that is operating a clinic which provides preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services.

Q20. What does the \$5,000 for equipment mean?

A20. This refers to what is equipment, and equipment is anything that costs \$5,000 or more and has a usable life of more than 1 year. Anything that costs below \$5,000 would be a supply. It gets at where you would put each request in the budget line items.

Q21. Can one organization submit separate requests for multiple programs providing mental health services for different types or areas?

A21. Yes, you may submit multiple applications for different areas or types of services, but it is unlikely you will be awarded multiple awards based on reviewer feedback and legislative intent to spread the awards across the state.

Q22. Can two organizations submit a joint application where each requests \$45,000 for a total of \$90,000?

A22. No. In terms of having a co-application, we cannot grant funds directly to two organizations via one grant. However, the applicant themselves (the one who receives the funds) can make that happen via how they structure their budget. If they are working with another organization to provide the services, one organization be the lead applicant, and then include contracted services to the other organization in their budget.

Regarding the amount your organizations can request, \$45,000 is the estimated award maximum, so if an organization would like to submit an application for more funding they can do so. However, please know that reviewers will be evaluating applications with the \$45,000 maximum in mind, so it is unlikely you will get a full ask funded if it is significantly greater than that guideline.

Q23. Our organization doesn't require board authority to accept the amount of funds within our proposal. We have this identified in our year end authority. If I provide that Resolution in place of the Governing Board Resolution Document would that meet the requirement?

A23. Yes, the resolution will suffice in place of the governing board resolution form.

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