



Rural Health Assessment Extension Grant

GRANT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Minnesota Department of Health
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10/14/23

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3855.

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RFP Part 1: Overview

1.1 General Information

- **Announcement Title:** Rural Health Assessment Extension Grant
- **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Program Website:**
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/funding/grants/index.html#rha>
- **Application Deadline:** 11/20/23

1.2 Program Description

The Rural Health Assessment Extension Grant provides funding to previous recipients of the Rural Health Assessment Grants to continue work on the project that was originally funded. The goal of the funding is to support collaboration in rural Minnesota between hospitals, community health boards, tribal health, and/or community stakeholders working on community level health assessments and implementation planning. Funds will support collaborative efforts to improve health equity, reduce health disparities, and address social determinants of health through community level health assessments and implementation planning.

The Rural Health Assessment Grant Program is being administered by the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care within the Minnesota Department of Health. This program uses federal funds from a grant from the Centers for Disease Control, CDC-RFA-OT21-2103: National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities. 100% of the costs are funded with federal money, and 0% of the costs are funded by non-governmental sources.

1.3 Funding and Project Dates

Funding

Funding will be allocated through a competitive process. If selected, you may only incur eligible expenditures when the grant agreement is fully executed, and the grant has reached its effective date.

Funding	Estimate
Estimated Amount to Grant	\$23,000
Estimated Number of Awards	4
Estimated Award Maximum	\$8,000
Estimated Award Minimum	\$2,000

Match Requirement

This grant has no match requirement.

Project Dates

Funding will be provided from February 1st through March 31st, 2023.

1.4 Eligible Applicants

This grant is open to recipients of the 2022 Rural Health Assessment grant only.

Collaboration

Collaboration with other organizations is encouraged.

1.5 Questions and Answers

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted by email or phone to laura.sutter@state.mn.us or 651-201-3855. All answers will be posted within five business days at:

Please submit questions no later than 4:30 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST), on Monday, November 13th.

To ensure the proper and fair evaluation of all applications, other communications regarding this RFP including verbal, telephone, written or internet initiated by or on behalf of any applicant to any employee of the Department, other than questions submitted to as outlined above, are prohibited. **Any violation of this prohibition may result in the disqualification of the applicant.**

RFP Part 2: Program Details

2.1 Priorities

Health Equity Priorities

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to ensure fairness, precision, equity and consistency in competitive grant awards. This includes implementing diversity and inclusion in grant-making. [The Policy on Rating Criteria for Competitive Grant Review](#) establishes the expectation that grant programs intentionally identify how the grant serves diverse populations, especially populations experiencing inequities and/or disparities.

The intent of this program is to support rural communities as they collaborate on health assessments with the goal of improving health equity, reducing health disparities, and addressing social determinants of health. This grant will serve:

- Populations in greater Minnesota

Grant outcomes will include:

- Collaboration on health assessments and implementation plans
- Partnerships with community organizations and stakeholders
- Understanding of how to collaborate to reduce health disparities in the future

2.2 Eligible Projects

Applicants must have received a Rural Health Assessment grant in 2022 to support collaboration between rural hospitals, community health boards, tribal health, and/or community stakeholders on health assessment and/or implementation plans. Eligible projects are extensions of the original project that was funded, or health assessments and/or implementation plans that build on those original projects. Eligible projects include:

- Community Needs Health Assessment (CHNA) required of nonprofit hospitals under the Affordable Care Act
- Community Health Assessment (CHA) required of community health boards under Minn. Stat. 145A
- Joint assessment submitted as both the CHNA and CHA
- CHNA implementation plan
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- Joint implementation plan addressing needs identified by the CHNA, CHA, or joint assessment

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- Projects that are not an extension of the original Rural Health Assessment grant funded project
- Fundraising
- Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services
- Lobbyists, political contributions
- Bad debts, late payment fees, finance charges, or contingency funds
- Existing program expenses
- Food for community meetings

2.3 Grant Management Responsibilities

Grant Agreement

Each grantee must formally enter into a grant agreement. The grant agreement will address the conditions of the award, including implementation for the project. Grantee should read the grant agreement, sign, and once signed, comply with all conditions of the grant agreement.

No work on grant activities can begin until a fully executed grant agreement is in place and the State's Authorized Representative has notified the Grantee that work may start.

The funded applicant will be legally responsible for assuring implementation of the work plan and compliance with all applicable state requirements including worker's compensation insurance, nondiscrimination, data privacy, budget compliance, and reporting.

Accountability and Reporting Requirements

The reporting schedule will be:

- April 15th for the period February 1st through March 31st

Grant Monitoring

"Minn. Stat. § 16B.97 and Policy on Grant Monitoring require the following:

- One monitoring visit during the grant period on all state grants over \$50,000
- Annual monitoring visits during the grant period on all grants over \$250,000
- Conducting a financial reconciliation of grantee's expenditures at least once during the grant period on grants over \$50,000

Grant Payments

Per State Policy on Grant Payments, reimbursement is the method for making grant payments. All grantee requests for reimbursement must correspond to the approved grant budget. The State shall review each request for reimbursement against the approved grant budget, grant

expenditures to-date and the latest grant progress report before approving payment. Grant payments shall not be made on grants with past due progress reports unless MDH has given the grantee a written extension.

The invoicing and payment schedule will be:

- April 15th for the period January 1st through March 31st

2.4 Grant Provisions

Contracting and Bidding Requirements

(a) Municipalities A grantee that is a municipality, defined as a county, town, city, school district or other municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state authorized by law to enter into contracts is subject to the contracting requirements set forth under [Minn. Stat. § 471.345](#). Projects that involve construction work are subject to the applicable prevailing wage laws, including those under [Minn. Stat. § 177.41](#), et. seq.

(b) Non-municipalities Grantees that are not municipalities must adhere to the following standards in the event that duties assigned to the Grantee are to be subcontracted out to a third party:

- i. Any services or materials that are expected to cost \$100,000 or more must undergo a formal notice and bidding process consistent with the standards set forth under Minnesota Statutes 16B.
- ii. Services or materials that are expected to cost between \$25,000 and \$99,999 must be competitively awarded based on a minimum of three (3) verbal quotes or bids.
- iii. Services or materials that are expected to cost between \$10,000 and \$24,999 must be competitively awarded based on a minimum of two (2) verbal quotes or bids or awarded to a targeted vendor.
- iv. The grantee must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that targeted vendors from businesses with active certifications through these entities are used when possible:
 - Minnesota Department of Administration's Certified Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged and Veteran-Owned Vendor List (<https://mn.gov/admin/osp/government/professionatechnicalcontracts/targeted-group-preferences/>);
 - Metropolitan Council's Targeted Vendor list: Minnesota Unified Certification Program (<https://mnuccp.metc.state.mn.us/>) or
 - Small Business Certification Program through Hennepin County, Ramsey County, and City of St. Paul: Central Certification Program

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<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/human-rights-equal-economic-opportunity/contract-compliance-business-development-9>).

- v. The grantee must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts.
- vi. The grantee must maintain support documentation of the purchasing or bidding process utilized to contract services in their financial records, including support documentation justifying a single/sole source bid, if applicable.
- vii. Notwithstanding (i) - (iv) above, State may waive bidding process requirements when:
 - Vendors included in response to competitive grant request for proposal process were approved and incorporated as an approved work plan for the grant or
 - There is only one legitimate or practical source for such materials or services and that grantee has established a fair and reasonable price.
- viii. Projects that include construction work of \$25,000 or more, are subject to applicable prevailing wage laws, including those under Minnesota Statutes 177.41 through 177.44.
- ix. Grantee must not contract with vendors who are suspended or debarred in MN: The list of debarred vendors is available at:
<https://mn.gov/admin/osp/government/suspended-debarred/>.

Conflicts of Interest

MDH will take steps to prevent individual and organizational conflicts of interest, both in reference to applicants and reviewers per [Minn. Stat. § 16B.98](#) and the [Office of Grants Management's Policy 08-01, "Conflict of Interest Policy for State Grant-Making."](#)

Applicants must complete the Applicant Conflict of Disclosure form (completed online) and submit it as part of the completed application. Failure to complete and submit this form will result in disqualification from the review process.

Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

- a grantee or applicant is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice
- a grantee's or applicant's objectivity in performing the grant work is or might be otherwise impaired
- a grantee or applicant has an unfair competitive advantage

Individual conflicts of interest occur when:

- an applicant, or any of its employees, uses their position to obtain special advantage, benefit, or access to MDH's time, services, facilities, equipment, supplies, prestige, or influence
- An applicant, or any of its employees, receives or accepts money, or anything else of value, from another state grantee or grant applicant with respect to the specific project covered by this RFP/project.
- An applicant, or any of its employees, has equity or a financial interest in, or partial or whole ownership of, a competing grant applicant organization.
- An applicant, or any of its employees, is an employee of MDH or is a relative of an employee of MDH.

In cases where a conflict of interest is perceived, disclosed, or discovered, the applicants or grantees will be notified and actions may be pursued, including but not limited to disqualification from eligibility for the grant award or termination of the grant agreement.

Public Data and Trade Secret Materials

All applications submitted in response to this RFP will become property of the State. In accordance with [Minn. Stat. § 13.599](#), all applications and their contents are private or nonpublic until the applications are opened.

Once the applications are opened, the name and address of each applicant and the amount requested is public. All other data in an application is private or nonpublic data until completion of the evaluation process, which is defined by statute as when MDH has completed negotiating the grant agreement with the selected applicant.

After MDH has completed the evaluation process, all remaining data in the applications is public with the exception of trade secret data as defined and classified in [Minn. Stat. § 13.37](#), subd. 1(b). A statement by an applicant that the application is copyrighted or otherwise protected does not prevent public access to the application or its contents. ([Minn. Stat. § 13.599](#), subd. 3(a)).

If an applicant submits any information in an application that it believes to be trade secret information, as defined by [Minn. Stat. § 13.37](#), the applicant must:

- Clearly mark all trade secret materials in its application at the time it is submitted,
- Include a statement attached to its application justifying the trade secret designation for each item, and
- Defend any action seeking release of the materials it believes to be trade secret, and indemnify and hold harmless MDH and the State of Minnesota, its agents and employees, from any judgments or damages awarded against the State in favor of the party requesting the materials, and any and all costs connected with that defense.
- This indemnification survives MDH's award of a grant agreement. In submitting an application in response to this RFP, the applicant agrees that this indemnification survives as long as the trade secret materials are in possession of MDH. The State will not consider the prices submitted by the responder to be proprietary or trade secret materials.

MDH reserves the right to reject a claim that any particular information in an application is trade secret information if it determines the applicant has not met the burden of establishing that the information constitutes a trade secret. MDH will not consider the budgets submitted by applicants to be proprietary or trade secret materials. Use of generic trade secret language encompassing substantial portions of the application or simple assertions of trade secret without substantial explanation of the basis for that designation will be insufficient to warrant a trade secret designation.

If a grant is awarded to an applicant, MDH may use or disclose the trade secret data to the extent provided by law. Any decision by the State to disclose information determined to be trade secret information will be made consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act ([Ch. 13 MN Statutes](#)) and other relevant laws and regulations.

If certain information is found to constitute trade secret information, the remainder of the application will become public; in the event a data request is received for application information, only the trade secret data will be removed and remain nonpublic.

Audits

Per [Minn. Stat. § 16B.98](#), subd. 8, the grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the grantee or other party that are relevant to the grant or transaction are subject to examination by the granting agency and either the legislative auditor or the state auditor, as appropriate. This requirement will last for a minimum of six years from the grant agreement end date, receipt, and approval of all final reports, or the required period of time to satisfy all state and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

Affirmative Action and Non-Discrimination Requirements for all Grantees

The grantee agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status in regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. [Minn. Stat. § 363A.02](#). The grantee agrees to take affirmative steps to employ, advance in employment, upgrade, train, and recruit minority persons, women, and persons with disabilities.

The grantee must not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental disability in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The grantee agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment, and otherwise treat qualified disabled persons without discrimination based upon their physical or mental disability in all employment practices such as the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. Minn. Rules, part [5000.3550](#).

The grantee agrees to comply with the rules and relevant orders of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights issued pursuant to the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

2.5 Review and Selection Process

Review Process

Funding will be allocated through a competitive process with review by a committee representing content experts with knowledge of rural health systems and/or health assessment processes. The review committee will evaluate all eligible and complete applications received by the deadline.

MDH will review all committee recommendations and is responsible for award decisions. **The award decisions of MDH are final and not subject to appeal.** Additionally:

- MDH reserves the right to withhold the distribution of funds in cases where proposals submitted do not meet the necessary criteria.
- The RFP does not obligate MDH to award a grant agreement or complete the project, and MDH reserves the right to cancel this RFP if it is considered to be in its best interest.
- MDH reserves the right to waive minor irregularities or request additional information to further clarify or validate information submitted in the application, provided the application, as submitted, substantially complies with the requirements of this RFP. There is, however, no guarantee MDH will look for information or clarification outside of the submitted written application. Therefore, it is important that all applicants ensure that all sections of their application are complete to avoid the possibility of failing an evaluation phase or having their score reduced for lack of information.

Selection Criteria and Weight

The review committee will be reviewing each applicant on a 10 point scale. A standardized scoring system will be used to determine the extent to which the applicant meets the selection criteria.

The scoring factors and weight that applications will be judged are based on:

- Connection to the applicant's Rural Health Assessment grant project – 3 points
 - Is this an extension of the original project funded by the Rural Health Assessment grant? How does it build on that project?
- Collaborations and partnerships – 3 points
 - Are the applicant's partners from the original project included? Are there new partners involved in this project?
- Health equity – 3 points
 - How will the applicant identify health disparities within the community?
 - How will grant funding be used to improve health equity and reduce health disparities?
- Reasonableness of the budget – 1 points
 - Is the budget reasonable?

Grantee Past Performance and Due Diligence Review Process

- It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to consider a grant applicant's past performance before awarding subsequent grants to them.
- State policy requires states to conduct a financial review prior to a grant award made of \$25,000 and higher to a nonprofit organization, in order to comply with [Policy on the Financial Review of Nongovernmental Organizations](#).

Notification

MDH anticipates notifying all applicants via email of funding decisions by 12/1/23.

RFP Part 3: Application and Submission Instructions

3.1 Application Submission Instructions

Applications must be submitted electronically through the ORHPC online grant portal [Grants Portal](#).

- Existing users: If your organization has a grant with the ORHPC, and you already have a user account, please enter your credentials and log-in. If you forgot your passwords, please use the “Forgot your Password?” link to reset your password.
- New users: If your organization does not already have a profile in the system, you will need to create an account. Please click on “Create New Account” to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.
- Not sure? If you think that you or someone at your organization has already registered your organization in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact laura.sutter@state.mn.us receive a username and password.

Once in the system, click on the link “apply” located on the upper tool bar on the home page. You will be redirected to a list of open applications in the system; select the Rural Health Assessment program. Read RFP Part 4: Application Guidance within the request for proposal for further instructions on how to address application questions outlined in the online portal.

If you have any questions, please contact us at: laura.sutter@state.mn.us

3.2 Application Instructions

You must submit the following in order for the application to be considered complete:

- Online form:
 - Organization and Application Information
 - Project Information
 - Project Narrative
 - Work Plan
 - Budget Narrative and Detail
- Required Attachments
 1. [Due Diligence form](#)
 2. Audited Financial Statements

Incomplete applications will be rejected and not evaluated.

Applications must include all required application materials, including required attachments. **MDH reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet these requirements.**

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By submitting an application, each applicant warrants that the information provided is true, correct, and reliable for purposes of evaluation for potential grant award. The submission of inaccurate or misleading information may be grounds for disqualification from the award, as well as subject the applicant to suspension or debarment proceedings and other remedies available by law.

All application documents submitted to MDH become public information once awards are announced.

All costs incurred in responding to this RFP will be borne by the applicant.

RFP Part 4: Application Guidance

Section 1. Organization and Applicant Information

Basic information about the applicant entity is requested including legal and business name, address and tax identification information for contracting purposes.

Section 2. Project Information

This section requests summary information about the project including the name of the program the grant funds are being requested and contact information.

Section 3. Project Narrative

The online application provides open fields for grant applications to respond to narrative questions about the project. Please provide concise and thorough responses to the questions outlined below.

Proposed Project

Please describe the proposed health assessment and/or implementation plan that you will be supporting with this grant funding. Explain how it builds upon the project originally funded by the Rural Health Assessment Grant. Reference the type of health assessment or implementation plan using the list of eligible projects in section 2.2 of the RFP.

Collaboration and Partnerships

Describe any new or expanded partnerships that will be part of this project, and how collaborating will improve or build on the health assessment and/or implementation plan.

Health Equity

Share how this project will improve health equity, reduce health disparities, and address the social determinants of health.

Section 4: Work Plan

Grant applicants will describe each activity involved in the proposed project described in Section 3. For each activity they will state the title of the position or party responsible for completing the activity, a description of the activity, start date, and end date.

Example:

- Title of position responsible for completing the activity: Local public health agency Z

- Activity: Contract with a facilitator to support development of a joint implementation plan between X Hospital and Y Community Health Board
- Start date: January 15, 2023
- End date: March 1, 2023

Section 5: Budget Narrative and Detail

Budget Narrative

Provide a detailed justification of the estimated project expenses to successfully meet the goals of the proposed project. The budget explanation should be broken down by **each** budget category. The narrative should provide information on the need for specific expenditures and how they will address the problem statement.

Budget Categories

- Salaries: Salaries should include the costs of personnel who work directly for the applicant and are paid a salary or wage directly from the applicant organization. This should not include administrative staff included in the indirect rate. Salaries can be calculated and described in the Budget Narrative as an hourly wage with total hours estimated to be spent on the project, or an annual salary with the estimated percentage of the total FTE.
- Fringe: This category includes share of pay roll tax, health insurance costs, Medicare/Medicaid, etc. for employees billed to this grant under the "salaries" category. If the applicant has expenses in this category they should explain how they were calculated in the Budget Narrative. This is often calculated at a percentage of salary. Example, \$50,000 x .25% fringe = \$12,500
- Travel: This category includes travel expenses necessary to complete the grant project.
- Supplies: This category includes supplies needed specifically for the grant project. It cannot include existing program expenses.
- Contracted: This category includes expenses for individuals or organizations the applicant contracts with to complete the project, including facilitators and trainers.
- Equipment/Capital: This category includes funding used to purchase equipment or to make capital improvements necessary to complete the grant project.
- Other expenses: Use the "other" categories to enter expenses that do not fit in the rest of the budget categories, for examples stipends intended for community members attending planning meetings.
- Indirect: An indirect cost rate is a percentage used to distribute indirect costs to all of an organization's programs that benefit from them. Grantees cannot claim indirect costs in excess of the indirect cost rate that applies to their organization. Grantees must submit and retain on-file, the corresponding documentation of that indirect cost rate as outlined below:

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1. Grantees with a federally negotiated indirect cost rate can use grant funds for indirect costs in an amount up to but not exceeding that rate. Grantees must submit proof of the federally negotiated indirect cost rate as an attachment to this application. Grantees are responsible for ensuring that the rate is not applied to direct costs that are excluded from the indirect rate.
2. Grantees without a federally negotiated indirect cost rate can use grant funds for indirect costs in an amount up to but not exceeding 10% of total direct costs.

Section 6: Required Attachments

Audited Financial Statements

Please provide one copy of the most recent independent audit. If the audit encompasses multiple facilities within a system/umbrella organization, please provide additional financial information, such as income statement specific to the applicant facility.

Due Diligence

Please complete the [Due Diligence form](#) and attach to the online application form.

Conflict of Interest

Please complete the Conflict of Interest form in the online application.

Attachment A: Applicant Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Applicants will complete this form in the online application.

(This form is considered public data under [Minn. Stat. § 13.599](#))

The purpose of this form is to provide grant applicants a mechanism to disclose any actual, perceived or potential individual or organizational conflicts of interest that exist, as required by [Minn. Stat. § 16B.98, subd 2-3](#); Minnesota Office of Grants Management (OGM) [Policy 08-01, “Conflict of Interest Policy for State Grant-Making”](#); and federal regulation [2 Code of Federal Regulation \(CFR\) § 200.112, “Conflict of Interest.”](#) It is helpful if the applicant explains the reason for the conflict, but it is not required.

A disclosure will not automatically result in removal of the applicant, or grant application, from the review process.

Instructions

Read the descriptions below, mark the appropriate box(es) that pertain to you and your organization as it relates to this specific Request for Proposal (RFP), obtain applicant signature (applicant to determine appropriate signer).

Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of interest may be actual, potential, or perceived. An actual conflict of interest occurs when a person uses or attempts to use their official position to secure benefits, privileges, exemptions or advantages for self, relatives, or organization with which the person is associated which are different from those available to the general public ([Minn. Stat. § 43A.38, subd. 5](#)). A potential conflict of interest may exist if an applicant has relationships, affiliations, or other interests that could create an inappropriate influence if the person is called on to make a decision or recommendation that would affect one or more of those relationships, affiliations, or interests. A perceived conflict of interest is any situation in which a reasonable person would conclude that conflicting duties or loyalties exists. A conflict of interest may exist even if no unethical, improper or illegal act results from it.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recognizes that applicants must maintain relationships with other public and private sector entities in order to continue as a viable organization. MDH will take this into account as it evaluates the appropriateness of proposed measures to mitigate actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest. It is not MDH’s intent to disqualify applicants based merely on the existence of a relationships with another entity, but rather only when such relationships cause a conflict that cannot be mitigated. Nevertheless, MDH and its partners must follow federal regulation and statutory guidance on conflicts of interest.

I. Organizational Conflict of Interest:

An [organizational conflict](#) of interest exists when, because of other activities or relationships with other persons, a person is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice, or a person’s objectivity in performing the grant work is or might be otherwise impaired, or a person has an unfair competitive advantage.

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An example of organizational conflict of interest includes, but is not limited to:

- Unequal Access to Information. Access to information that is classified as nonpublic data or is otherwise unavailable to the public could provide a vendor a competitive advantage in a later competition for another grant. For example, a nonprofit entity, in the course of conducting grant work for the State, may be given access to information that is not available to the public such as government plans, opinions, interpretations or positions. This nonprofit entity cannot use this information to its advantage in securing a subsequent grant, and measures must be put into place to assure this. Such an advantage could be perceived as unfair by a competing vendor who is not given similar access to the relevant information.

II. Individual Conflict of Interest:

An **individual conflict** of interest occurs when any of the following conditions is present:

- a. An applicant, or any of its employees, uses their position to obtain special advantage, benefit, or access to MDH's time, services, facilities, equipment, supplies, prestige, or influence.
- b. An applicant, or any of its employees, receives or accepts money, or anything else of value, from another state grantee or grant applicant with respect to the specific project covered by this RFP/project.
- c. An applicant, or any of its employees, has equity or a financial interest in, or partial or whole ownership of, a competing grant applicant organization.
- d. An applicant, or any of its employees, is an employee of MDH or is a relative of an employee of MDH.

Examples of individual conflict of interest include, but are not limited to:

- An individual owns Entity C and also sits on the board of Entity D, and both entities are applying to the same RFP.
- An employee or volunteer of the applicant has previously worked with MDH to create the "ground rules" for this solicitation by performing work such as, but not limited to: writing this RFP, preparing evaluation criteria, or evaluation guides for this RFP.
- An employee or volunteer of the applicant is compensated for serving on the board of a non-profit that may benefit from this work.

Instances in which an individual or applicant worked in a volunteer capacity with MDH should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Volunteer status has the potential to, but does not necessarily create a conflict of interest, depending on the nature of the relationship between the two parties. Volunteer is defined as "[a]n individual who performs hours of service for a public agency for civic, charitable, or humanitarian reasons, without promise, expectation or receipt of compensation for services rendered, is considered to be a volunteer during such hours" ([29 CFR § 553.101\(a\)](#)).

Certification and signature required on next page.

III. Certification:

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Applicant Name:	
RFP Title:	
MDH Grant Program Name: <i>(Ex. Family Planning Grant)</i>	

By signing in the space provided below, Applicant certifies the following:

A. To the best of Applicant’s knowledge and belief, and except as otherwise disclosed, there are no relevant facts or circumstances that could give rise to individual or organizational conflicts of interest.

B. Applicant, or employees of applicant, have an actual, potential, or perceived conflict(s) of interest which are listed below.

To the best of your knowledge, write the names of entities/individuals with which you have an actual, potential, or perceived conflict:

<i>Name of entity/individual</i>	<i>Relationship (e.g., Volunteer, Employee, Contractor, Family Relation)</i>	<i>Description of conflict (optional)</i>

C. If a conflict of interest is discovered at any time after submission of this form, Applicant will immediately provide full disclosure in writing to MDH. If a conflict of interest is determined to exist, MDH may, at its discretion, take action.

D. Applicant will obtain, and keep record of, conflict of interest disclosure forms from any subgrantees or subcontractors and keep them on file.

Applicant’s Signature

Printed Name	Title
Signature	Date

MDH Program Use Only

This section to be completed by appropriate Grant Program Staff.

- Applicant has no conflict(s) of interest.
- Applicant has disclosed conflict(s) of interest and appropriate MDH Program staff have reviewed the conflict(s) in accordance with [ST510.01](#). MDH Program has determined the conflict(s) can be mitigated in the following way(s):

Describe how conflict(s) will be eliminated. Example: *Applicant’s application will not be reviewed by External Partners with which they have a conflict.*

- Applicant has disclosed conflict(s) of interest and appropriate MDH Program staff have reviewed the conflict(s) in accordance with ST510.01. MDH Program has determined the conflict(s) cannot be mitigated. As such Applicant will not move forward in the RFP/grant process. MDH will communicate back to the Applicant and keep documentation of communication in RFP/grant files.

I certify that the conflict(s) has/have been discussed with this Applicant and the actions above have been taken.

MDH Program’s Signature

Printed Name	Title
Signature	Date