

Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Grant FY 2024 Frequently Asked Questions

JANUARY 24, 2024

Can you confirm the deadline for the application?

The deadline is 11:59 pm on January 31, 2024.

Does our organization need to have a 501(c)(3) designation to be eligible for this grant?

State Statute requires that organizations for this award need to be not-for-profit and have a 501(c)(3) designation or be a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) and be operated by a city or county.

Are hospitals who are licensed for over 50 beds but staff under 50 beds eligible for this grant?

No, eligible hospitals must have 50 or fewer licensed beds for this grant.

Where is the Conflict of Interest disclosure form located?

Instructions regarding the conflict of interest disclosure is located in the Rural Capital Improvement Program RFP packet. The actual form for disclosing conflicts of interest is located within the application prior to the signature section.

For the required census, does that include the clinic as well as the hospital?

Hospital census only.

What is required for competitive bid documentation?

Documentation for competitive bids should either from the bidding firms with letterhead or signed by an authorized individual from the bidding firm.

Is a project estimate okay to submit instead of official bids from an architect?

At the time of application, if you do not have official bids, it is okay to submit estimates, providing description of the estimates and how they were produced as well as the plan to obtain bids during the project.

Can this award be used towards a Rural Health Clinic associated with the Hospital?

No, this award is intended to be for hospital projects only, not rural health clinics even if they are associated with or connected to an eligible rural hospital.

What are some examples of match sources?

Hospital foundations, community foundations, or other in-kind donations are some examples.

Can hospitals use general revenue as a match source?

Yes.

Are hospitals able to use the award to carry out previously generated plans?

Yes, proposed projects can include previously generated plans so long as the expenses for those plans are not included in the budget.

Can we place an order for a capital item ahead of the contract execution date?

Grantees cannot receive invoices, make payments, or receive capital or services ahead of the contract execution date. Grantees may order capital items ahead of the contract execution date but assume the risk of being out of grant compliance if items are received or invoiced ahead of the execution date.

Should we include references in our proposal?

References are not required for the grant application. If a grantee wants to include a reference, sources those should be placed directly next to the reference within the narrative section.

What is the grant timeline for RHCI

The contract period is June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2028.

Are Critical Access Hospitals given priority for this grant?

Critical Access Hospitals (CAHS) are not given priority for this grant award above other rural hospitals not designated as a CAH. All proposals will be evaluated with the same criteria outlined in the RFP.

If our total budget is more than the maximum award amount will that affect our application score?

No- as long as the application demonstrates a reasonable plan to provide the matching and any additional funds for the project.

Can we apply for an additional award for our current RHCI project if we already have an award?

No- you must first spend down your existing award if the project if it is the same one outlined in the original Capital Improvement project.

How do we submit competitive bids?

Minnesota Statutes, Section 144.148 requires applicants to submit evidence that competitive bidding was used to select contractors for the proposed project. Complete the competitive bid form, select the scenario that best meets your organization's policies and procedures, attaching the relevant policies and procedures for review.

The application only allows one attachment for competitive bids. If you plan to submit multiple documents, they must be combined into one attachment.

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1/24/2024

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