

Frequently Asked Questions

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General

1. Who can apply?

- a. A public or private health care provider who will provide clinical health care services in rural area(s) as designated by the Center of Rural and Primary Healthcare (CRPH) and/or will provide clinical health care services in medically underserved area(s) as designated by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) may apply.

2. Can community programs that partner with health care providers apply for this grant?

- a. No. Only facilities that will provide clinical health services for rural and/or medically underserved residents and meet the eligibility requirements (see question 1) can apply.

3. Who is considered an applicant?

- a. An applicant is considered a public or private health care provider who meets the eligibility requirements (see question 1) and who has applied, or intends to apply, for the grant.

4. The grant states that the facility will be required to operate for a minimum of five years.

When does the five years start?

- a. The five years will start when the construction and/or renovation of the facility, or specific unit funded by this grant, is completed and actively providing services to patients.

5. Will applicants be required to have formal signed agreements with community partners as part of the application?

- a. No. While the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) encourages partnerships between the applicant and community, it does not require

formal agreements. If an applicant already has a formal agreement in place, they are encouraged to include it in their application submission.

6. What is the maximum award amount for one application?

- a. The maximum award amount for any single application is \$3 million. Grant awards will be one-time infrastructure funds.

7. How long will the grant term be?

- a. The grant term will vary based on individual applications and the subsequent awards. After the construction and/or renovation of the facility is complete, the applicant will then be required to operate the unit for a minimum of five years, during which deidentified client-level data must be reported to SCDHHS.

8. For successful applicants, how will grant funds be released? As a single lump-sum or based on milestones?

- a. Funding will be released through a contractual agreement between SCDHHS and the applicant. SCDHHS will work with the grant awardees on the distribution of funds to include the amount and payment method.

9. Is a single organization permitted to submit multiple applications for multiple projects or is there a limit of one application per organization?

- a. A single organization can submit multiple applications for different projects. SCDHHS maintains the discretion to determine if more than one award will be granted to a single organization.

10. If a facility has received funding for the Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Services Grant from SCDHHS, is it eligible to apply for this new grant as well?

- a. Yes. An organization may apply for this grant opportunity if it has received previous grant funding from SCDHHS. Past grant funding does not affect eligibility for this grant opportunity.

Services

11. What type of services must be provided in new and/or renovated facilities funded by this grant?

- a. Services provided in new and/or renovated facilities funded by this grant must include clinical health care services. Applicants may focus on, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Primary care;
 - Maternal & infant care;
 - Pediatric care; and
 - Behavioral health care.

Other services could include specialized treatment programs such as eating disorder clinics or opioid use disorder treatment centers.

Unit Construction

12. Can you specify the required components of the conceptual site plan?

- a. There are no specific requirements for the conceptual site plan. The purpose of this plan is to give SCDHHS an understanding of how the new or renovated facility will be laid out. Applicants may consider adding to the conceptual site plan details including:
 - General building uses and their locations, such as bathrooms, common spaces, etc.;
 - Present zoning on the property, zoning within 300 feet adjacent to the property and any proposed zoning changes;
 - The site boundary depicted as a solid, bold line;
 - Pedestrian and vehicular ingress and egress;
 - Internal circulation, trails and connections and pedestrian areas; and
 - All areas proposed for the purposes of this grant.

Funding

13. What are allowable uses of the grant funds?

- a. Grant funds must only be used for infrastructure and building-related expenses.

Examples of unallowable expenses include, but are not limited to, staffing, recruitment, provision of services and marketing.

14. Can funding be used to purchase a mobile unit that would provide advanced imaging or other specialty care needs in rural communities?

- a. SCDHHS is looking for more permanent, sustainable solutions for rural and medically underserved areas. However, the agency will entertain varying models that it believes will provide the best, most appropriate, care for the community being served, which could include the use of mobile units.

15. Can funds received from this grant be used to fund an electronic medical record (EMR) system?

- a. No. EMR systems are considered operational costs and are not an allowable use of grant funds.

16. Can funds received from this grant be used to purchase land or a facility?

- a. Yes. Funds received from this grant can be used to purchase land or a facility to provide health care services. However, the application must be clear on the land that is going to be purchased; and, prior to fund distribution, the awardee must submit supporting documentation. Any land and/or facility purchased for the purpose of this grant must be used to create sustainable healthcare services that are provided to rural and/or medically underserved areas.

Note: Priority will be given to applicants who have already acquired the land and/or facility.

17. Are architect/construction bid amounts for the budget required or are estimated costs appropriate for renovations?

- a. Estimated costs may be used in the application. However, if awarded, SCDHHS will require the project to be completed based on the costs submitted or negotiated by the organization prior to the award.

18. Is there a date by which all the dollars awarded must be expended?

- a. Yes. All funds awarded must be expended by the date established in the awarded contract. This date is determined based on the individual organization's application.

Application Components & Submission

19. How many letters of support are needed? Who can write the letters of support?

- a. Applicants need to submit at least two letters of support.

These letters must be submitted by each of the following:

1. Chief executive officer

OR

Internal hospital advisory board or entity

AND

2. A professional/community partner

This can include, but is not limited to, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), non-profit organizations and state and local governments.

20. What should be included in applicants' continuous quality improvement plan?

- a. The submitted continuous quality improvement plan must include:
 - Specific, quantifiable measures that can be tracked to assess the facility's success; and
 - A description of how the applicant will collect, monitor and analyze the data for success.

Applicants are encouraged to use the [Quality Strategy Toolkit](#) and [Center for Medicaid and Chip Services' Quality Improvement Program resources](#) when completing their continuous quality improvement plan.

21. How do I submit my application?

- a. Completed applications need to be submitted to grants@scdhhs.gov by Dec. 4, 2023.

22. How will grant awardee(s) be announced?

- a. The anticipated grant award date is Feb. 2, 2024. If awarded, the organization will be notified via the email provided on the application. After all awardees are [notified](#), SCDHHS will issue a press release that includes the list of awardees. The press release will be posted to [SCDHHS' website](#). A link to the press release announcing the awardees will also be posted [here](#).