



North Dakota Health and Human Services | Rural Health Transformation Program

Competitive Funding Opportunity Application Guidance

Funding Opportunity Name: Rural Ambulance Modernization

Funding Opportunity Solicitation Number: 210-342

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Funding Overview:

1) Background

As part of Public Law 119-21, Congress established the \$50 billion [Rural Health Transformation Program \(RHTP\)](#) to help rural communities reimagine their health care delivery systems and improve health outcomes. This program administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), aims to address longstanding healthcare challenges facing rural communities, which may include rural tribal communities.

North Dakota is taking bold, practical steps to restore health, stability and prosperity to America's heartland. North Dakota Health and Human Services (ND HHS) developed its RHTP to focus on creating new access points, modernizing care delivery and empowering local providers to meet the needs of their communities through sustainable investments. North Dakota's plan, as indicated in the [RHTP application and supporting documents](#), includes four initiatives:

- Initiative 1: Make North Dakota Healthy Again
- Initiative 2: Strengthen and Stabilize Rural Health Workforce
- Initiative 3: Bring High-Quality Healthcare Closer to Home
- Initiative 4: Connect Tech, Data and Providers for a Stronger North Dakota

Following approval from CMS, HHS is launching multiple funding opportunities as part of North Dakota's five-year RHTP effort. These opportunities are designed to support practical, locally driven solutions that help rural communities, including rural tribal communities, stay healthy and strong. Funding opportunities will be released in phases, with individual applications announced over time. Eligible applicants may apply for more than one funding opportunity; there is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted.

2) Funding Opportunity Description

The Rural Ambulance Modernization funding opportunity aims to strengthen rural emergency medical services and bring high-quality care closer to home by modernizing rural ambulance systems through strategic investments in updated medical equipment, telehealth technology, electronic medical record (EMR) connectivity, communications infrastructure and other technologies that enhance emergency medical response. This funding opportunity supports Initiative 3: Bring High-Quality Healthcare Closer to Home of North Dakota's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).

Proposed projects eligible for this funding opportunity include the purchase, installation, configuration and implementation of equipment and technology that modernize licensed rural ambulance services and improve the delivery of emergency medical care. Eligible projects support ambulance modernization through equipment retrofits, telehealth capabilities, interoperability with existing EMR and electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) systems, communications technologies and other solutions that enhance patient care, care coordination, operational efficiency and secure exchange of patient information.

Applicants should describe how the proposed equipment or technology will be incorporated into existing clinical workflows and communication processes to support coordination among emergency medical services (EMS) agencies, hospitals, clinics and other healthcare partners, as applicable.

Eligible projects must utilize FirstNet or other department-approved network compatible data, video, voice and audio functionality. Eligible projects are:

- Standardized telemedicine-enabled ambulance retrofit packages that extend the useful life of existing ambulance vehicles while improving patient care and connectivity
- Must utilize FirstNet or other department-approved network compatible data, video, voice and audio functionality
- Costs for installation of approved equipment
- Rugged telehealth tablets and mounts with FDA-approved interoperability
- Dual-carrier long term evolution (LTE) routers utilizing a department-approved network
- SIRN radio systems
- Telemedicine equipment utilizing a department-approved network:
- Telemedicine-capable monitor/defibrillators
- Ventilators
- Point-of-care ultrasound
- High-definition cameras
- Digital stethoscopes
- Digital otoscopes
- Video laryngoscopes
- Powered stair chairs
- Power cots
- Power loads
- Vehicle tracking hardware utilizing a department-approved network
- Medical/pharmaceutical refrigeration equipment
- Intravenous (IV) Pumps

- Mechanical CPR devices

Projects focusing on purchase of new equipment not yet utilized by applicants will be prioritized.

Per federal guidance in CMS's RHTP Notice of Funding Opportunity and Service Commitment Fact Sheet, training and certification costs paid on behalf of an individual may be considered an individual financial incentive when the funding supports an individual certification or credential. Individual financial incentives are tied to a minimum five-year service commitment. Routine equipment training, vendor-provided training and other training activities that do not result in an individual certification or credential are not considered individual financial incentives. As part of the application review, HHS will determine whether any proposed training or certification activities are subject to the federal five-year service commitment requirement and will notify the applicant accordingly.

Funding Opportunity Metrics

Additionally, this funding opportunity aims to support improvement in the metrics identified for Initiative 3: Bring High-Quality Healthcare Closer to Home, found on pages 55–56 of the [project narrative](#) and pages 21-22 of the project [appendices](#). Please note, not all metrics apply to the Rural Ambulance Equipment and Upgrades funding opportunity. The metrics for this and related projects are:

- Increase telehealth remote patient monitoring (RPM) encounters
- Reduce avoidable emergency department (ED) visits
- Improve coordination of care
- Improve getting care quickly

Priority

The Rural Ambulance Modernization funding opportunity aligns with the priorities identified in North Dakota's RHTP application under Initiative 3: Bring High-Quality Healthcare Closer to Home, Theme: Ensuring Safety Net Service Delivery. These priorities were established through the statewide RHTP planning process to strengthen rural emergency medical services by expanding access to technology, improving coordination of care, and enhancing emergency response capabilities.

Projects focusing on purchase of new equipment not yet utilized by applicants will be prioritized. CMS guidelines for Category J Funding for Capital Expenditures limits overall Rural Health Transformation limits overall total state grant funding for upgrading existing, repairing, or replacing like-for-like equipment.

Preference may also be given to projects serving medically underserved, frontier, and tribal communities where these investments will have the greatest impact on access to care, care coordination, and long-term sustainability of rural EMS services.

3) Eligibility

Eligible applicants serving rural North Dakota residents include:

- North Dakota-located ambulance districts
- Licensed North Dakota-located ground ambulance service providers not required to be a district as indicated in North Dakota Century Code Section 23-27-07, including non-federally operated tribal services.

Applicants must:

- Be licensed to provide ground ambulance services in North Dakota and remain in good standing with all applicable state licensing requirements
- Serve North Dakota rural residents, including rural tribal residents
- Provide services to North Dakota Medicaid members

For RHTP funding opportunities, the entities in and the cities of Grand Forks, Fargo, West Fargo and Bismarck are considered urban and do not qualify for RHTP funding opportunities unless the population served by the grant applicant is at least 50% ND rural citizen or the focus of the grant funding will be used for North Dakota rural citizens. RHTP funding must be used to support North Dakota rural citizens.

4) Available Funds and Timeline

This is a competitive funding opportunity application process for Year 1 RHTP funding. An additional application process for the Rural Ambulance Modernization funding opportunity is expected to be offered in future years of the RHTP.

The operating period will start upon execution of the agreement, with all required approvals and signatures. The operating period will end on August 31, 2027, and all funds must be expended by this date. All goods purchased under this award must be fully delivered by the end of the operating period. Approximately \$22,000,000 in total federal funds are available for this Rural Ambulance Modernization funding opportunity, with an estimated 110 awards of approximately \$200,000 expected to be funded. Funding will support the purchase and distribution of standardized ambulance modernization equipment to eligible rural ambulance services. Final funding allocations will depend on the number of eligible applications received, vehicle eligibility, equipment needs and available funding.

For this funding opportunity, one application per organization should be submitted. If an applicant has multiple strategies pertaining to this funding opportunity, these should be

numbered in order of priority in the narrative and budget. The first strategy must be within a reasonable amount of the estimated award value of \$200,000 and noted on a separate tab in the budget template.

Applicants may request funds for additional strategies within a reasonable amount of the total dollar value for this funding opportunity, which must be noted on separate additional tabs in the budget template. If an applicant has multiple strategies and requests additional funds, the proposal must align with the scope of the funding opportunity. Applicants are also encouraged to consider the feasibility of completing the proposed work within the operating period.

Organizations composed of more than one business entity and submitting an application on behalf of multiple business entities will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The project structure must ensure the organization submitting the application does not function as a passthrough entity or issue subawards to individual facility locations. Projects of this nature should follow a hub-and-spoke care model, which requires coordinated submissions in which each individual organization applies separately. The objective is to create proposals that are collaborative in design but financially independent. This approach is necessary to maintain appropriate reporting and compliance with grant requirements. Applications must detail how reporting requirements will be met collaboratively.

HHS reserves the right to negotiate the applicant's budget based on the number of applications received, the content of the proposed project work plan and total budget of the Rural Ambulance Equipment and Upgrades funding opportunity prior to issuing the award.

Refer to the [Budget section](#) for details on allowable and unallowable costs.

Additional funding opportunities will be available for other RHTP activities and initiatives. Eligible applicants may apply for more than one funding opportunity. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted across all RHTP funding opportunities; however, for this funding opportunity, only one application per organization should be submitted.

5) Reporting Requirements

The successful applicant(s) will be required to submit reimbursement requests and supporting information, progress reports and impact stories to HHS. Templates will be provided for reporting requirements. Due dates and additional information will be provided in the agreement.

Successful applicants may be required to report for up to five years or as otherwise required by CMS.

Additional reporting requirements may be required based upon updated federal guidance.

6) Application Submission

Applications for this funding opportunity are due by Aug. 9, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CT. Applications must be submitted to ND HHS through [Qualtrics](#).

For this funding opportunity, one application per organization should be submitted. If an applicant has multiple strategies pertaining to this funding opportunity, these should be numbered in order of priority in the narrative and budget.

Applications not received by the submission date and time will be considered non-responsive and not reviewed.

A complete application must include responses to all questions and a completed budget using the “Itemized Subrecipient Budget Template.” Applicants are required to upload the completed budget template in Excel format to Qualtrics.

The application questions, along with full details, are provided in the Application Requirements section of this document. This section is meant to serve as a companion resource while completing the Qualtrics survey. Applicants are welcome to copy the questions into any format to draft their responses. However, final answers must be submitted through the Qualtrics survey.

7) Technical Assistance

A technical assistance conference call has been scheduled for the following date and time:

Monday, July 27th, 2026, 12-12:45 p.m. CT

[Registration Link](#)

The technical assistance call will be recorded and posted on the RHTP webpage for later viewing. Additional resources related to this funding announcement, including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), will also be published on the RHTP webpage after the call.

We strongly encourage applicants to submit questions for this funding opportunity to [RHTP FAQ Survey](#) prior to 7 days of the submission deadline. As time allows, questions submitted prior to the technical assistance call will be addressed during the session and added to a FAQ resource. Questions submitted following the call will be answered and added to the published FAQ resource on the webpage. Questions submitted within 7 days of the submission deadline may not be addressed due to the volume of questions and staff members working on other RHTP funding opportunities.

Questions and application support requests may be directed to the [Regional Development Councils \(RDCs\)](#).

Application Requirements

Interested entities are required to submit an application to be considered for the Rural Ambulance Equipment and Upgrades funding opportunity. Do not include any proprietary or confidential information in application materials as the application will become an open record.

Below are the outline and related details for the application. ND HHS has provided an “Itemized Subrecipient Budget Template.” All application components will be submitted through [Qualtrics](#).

- 1.) Background Information
- 2.) Project Narrative
 - a. Identified Need
 - b. Proposed Project
- 3.) Budget

The application questions, along with full details, are provided in this document, which is meant to serve as a companion resource while completing the Qualtrics survey. Applicants are welcome to copy the questions from the Application Requirements Section into any format to draft their responses. However, final answers and a completed Itemized Subrecipient Budget Template must be submitted through the Qualtrics survey.

1) Background Information

Provide the following organizational information:

- Organization Name and Background – Provide the organization name, Unique Entity ID (UEI) number from SAM.gov (if known), location, additional facilities and the estimated population served and service area. Describe how

the applicant aligns with the eligibility criteria and the role the organization serves in delivering rural emergency medical services.

- State your project title, if applicable.
- Describe the overarching goal and the high-level change the organization aims to achieve through modernization of its ambulance services, including improvements to telehealth, electronic medical record (EMR) connectivity, communications or other eligible technologies, as applicable.
- Key Personnel.
 - Identify the project lead who will serve as the primary point of contact to receive communications about the project. Provide first and last name, title, phone number, email, relevant credentials and experience managing funds or special projects and role in the project.
 - To expedite the agreement process, please identify the key personnel who will sign the agreement. Provide first and last name, title, phone number, email, relevant credentials and experience managing funds or special projects and indicate if they will have additional roles in the project.
 - Identify who will be responsible for managing grant funds, including submitting invoices, if known. Provide the first and last name, title, phone number, email, relevant credentials and experience managing funds or special projects and indicate if they will have additional roles in the project.
 - Will there be additional internal key personnel? If yes, identify their first and last name, title, phone number, relevant credentials and experience managing funds or special projects, and role in the project. Up to two additional, internal key personnel can be identified.
 - Will an external source (consultant, vendor, partner organization or other) be supporting the project? If yes, provide the organization name, relevant credentials and experience, and role in the project. Please note, a paid external consultant, vendor or other will need to be identified in the budget with appropriate justification. If a partner organization is indicated, provide a letter of support from the partnering organization indicating their involvement in the project.

2) Project Narrative

The project narrative must address the identified need and planned strategies. Be as specific and concise as possible. Keep the narrative clear and focused on how it will make a difference for rural health, which may also include rural tribal health.

As a friendly reminder, for this funding opportunity, one application per organization should be submitted. Applicants should describe their proposed Rural Ambulance Modernization project, including the equipment, technology and implementation activities for which funding is requested. If an applicant is requesting funding for multiple eligible equipment categories or modernization activities, these should be clearly identified and prioritized within the narrative and corresponding budget. The primary funding request should be within a reasonable amount of the estimated award value of \$200,000 and identified on a separate tab in the budget template.

Applicants may request funding for additional eligible equipment categories or modernization activities within a reasonable amount of the total funding available for this opportunity, which must be identified on separate additional tabs in the budget template. All requested activities must align with the scope of the Rural Ambulance Modernization funding opportunity. Applicants are encouraged to consider the feasibility of completing all proposed activities within the operating period.

a) Identified Need

Identify the need for the proposed project. When available, include relevant local data to demonstrate the scope and urgency of the need.

a.1. Describe your organization's current ambulance equipment, technology, communications systems and emergency medical services capabilities.

Your response should include:

- The current condition and age of ambulance equipment or technology
- Current telehealth capabilities and how they are used during emergency response or patient transport
- Current electronic medical record (EMR) connectivity
- Current communications infrastructure, network connectivity, wireless connectivity or broadband availability
- Existing interoperability with hospitals, clinics, specialists or other healthcare partners
- How current technology supports—or limits—real-time communication, information sharing and care coordination with receiving healthcare facilities during emergency response and patient transport

a.2. Describe the challenges or needs your organization is experiencing.

Explain the primary challenges your organization currently faces that affect emergency medical services.

Your response should include:

- Limitations related to ambulance equipment or technology
- Telehealth, EMR, broadband, wireless or communications challenges
- How these challenges impact:
 - Patient care
 - Care coordination
 - Response times
 - Operational efficiency
- Access to emergency medical services for rural North Dakota residents

a.3. Describe the proposed project.

Describe the equipment, technology or modernization activities for which funding is being requested.

Your response should include:

- The equipment or technology being requested
- Why these improvements were selected
- How the proposed improvements address the identified needs
- How the project aligns with your organization's long-term EMS modernization goals

a.4. Describe the anticipated impact of the proposed project.

Explain how the proposed project will improve emergency medical services within your service area.

Your response should address:

- Improvements to patient care
- Coordination with hospitals and other healthcare providers
- Delivery of high-quality care closer to home
- Benefits to rural residents
- Benefits to North Dakota Medicaid members and other populations served

Supporting Data:

- Service area demographics
- Annual call volume
- Equipment age

- Connectivity limitations
- Response times
- Geographic coverage
- Other relevant data demonstrating the need for the proposed project

a.5. RHTP funds cannot be used to duplicate or replace existing funding (supplanting). Funds can be used to expand or enhance an existing project (see Budget section for details). Is the proposed project, or any portion of the proposed equipment or technology upgrades, currently in progress, supported by other funding sources or already being implemented within the organization or community?

a.6. Please describe the organization's current emergency medical services capabilities, including existing ambulance equipment, telehealth capabilities, electronic medical record (EMR) connectivity, communications infrastructure and any ongoing modernization efforts related to the proposed project.

a.7. Explain why new efforts, expansion or enhancement are needed for this project. Describe how the proposed project represents a new, expanded or improved initiative rather than a duplication of existing work. Include how your organization will coordinate with healthcare partners, EMS agencies and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to ensure efforts are aligned and duplication is avoided.

b) Proposed Project

The applicant must provide detailed information about the proposed project, including the outcomes, strategy, service and tasks. Each outcome, strategy, service and task must include sufficient detail to ensure the scope is aligned with the eligible projects and requirements identified in this guidance. When applicable, strategies, services and tasks should be evidence-based, evidence-informed or a promising practice.

Additionally, applicants must propose outcomes, strategies, services and tasks that align with the RHTP evaluation plan and metrics. The Initiative 3: Bring High-Quality Healthcare Closer to Home evaluation plan and metrics are identified in the funding opportunity description section of this guidance. Projects should support some or all of the identified metrics.

For the purposes of this guidance, use the following definitions:

- Outcomes: Outcomes should describe what will be different because of the project. Outcomes should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound (SMART) and directly linked to the strategies, services and tasks described.

- **Strategy:** Strategies explain how the applicant intends to create the desired change. They are the high-level approaches or methods the project will use to achieve the outcomes.
- **Services:** Services describe what is being offered or provided to accomplish the strategy and outcomes. They are the direct supports or interventions delivered to the target population.
- **Tasks:** Tasks are the specific activities and actions to carry out the strategies and deliver on an outcome. Tasks break down strategies into action steps.

b.1. How many proposed modernization strategies (up to 3) are included in the applicant's proposal? Modernization strategies may include eligible equipment, technology or implementation activities that support the Rural Ambulance Modernization funding opportunity. Please note, the number indicated here should correspond with the number of budget tabs on the completed Itemized Subrecipient Budget Template.

b.2. Describe, in outcome-focused terms, the strategy the project will implement to address the identified needs. Identify the specific services and tasks that will be implemented to carry out the stated strategy. Describe how the proposed strategy will improve emergency medical response, patient care, telehealth capability, communications, electronic medical record (EMR) connectivity or other eligible modernization activities. Only describe one strategy at a time; an opportunity to detail the indicated number of strategies will be provided.

For each piece of equipment requested, clearly identify whether the equipment is requested to replace existing equipment or to add new equipment.

b.3. For the identified strategy, identify the top three to five project-specific metrics that will be used to measure progress and success. Metrics should align with the Rural Ambulance Modernization funding opportunity and may include improvements in telehealth capability, EMR connectivity, communications infrastructure, interoperability, emergency medical response or other measurable project outcomes. Describe how progress on each metric will be tracked and reported to meet program requirements. As a reminder, reporting templates will be provided. Due dates and additional reporting requirements will be included in the agreement.

b.4. The applicant must sustain successful projects after funding ends. Explain how the identified strategy will be sustained and address how effective practices will be integrated into ongoing operations. Applicants may consider the following questions when assessing sustainability:

- Does the proposed strategy generate revenue or improve reimbursement opportunities, including through telehealth or other eligible services?

- Does the proposed strategy improve operational efficiency or reduce costs that support long-term sustainability?
- Has the organization identified ongoing funding sources to support equipment maintenance, software licensing, connectivity, subscriptions or replacement costs after grant funding ends?
- Does the organization have a long-term plan for maintaining and replacing equipment and technology purchased through this funding opportunity?
- Does the organization have a business, capital improvement or sustainability plan that supports continued operation of the proposed project?

b.5. Does the identified strategy include purchasing equipment or technology? If yes, outline the plan for maintenance, software licensing (if applicable), connectivity costs, replacement planning and continued use after funding ends. Funding for equipment and technology maintenance costs during the five-year RHTP period may be considered.

b.6. [CMS's Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) identified elements to be addressed by RHTP projects. As it relates to the identified strategy, identify which elements apply to the proposed project. The identified elements should be clearly indicated in the outcome, strategy, service or task described in the proposed project description.

- **Improving access:**
By selecting this element, the applicant indicates the strategy increases rural residents' ability to obtain timely, appropriate health care services or items. This includes access to hospitals, primary care, specialty care, behavioral health, other services or healthcare items.
- **Improving outcomes:**
By selecting this element, the applicant indicates the strategy was developed to target improvement in specific healthcare outcomes of rural residents.
- **Technology use:**
By selecting this element, the applicant indicates the strategy includes the adoption or integration of new or emerging technologies that emphasize and chronic disease management. The strategy should include an assessment of whether technologies are suitable and sustainable for rural providers and patients.
- **Partnerships:**
By selecting this element, the applicant indicates the strategy leverages collaboration with local and regional strategic partnerships between healthcare providers and other key stakeholders that promote measurable quality improvement, increase financial stability, maximize economies of scale and share best practices in rural healthcare delivery. Strategies should

include the network that will be created or strengthened, including the governance structure.

- **Workforce:**

By selecting this element, the applicant indicates the strategy will support recruiting, training and retention of clinicians and other healthcare professionals in rural areas.

- **Data-driven solutions:**

By selecting this element, the applicant indicates the strategy uses data, analytics and technology to plan, deliver and evaluate high-quality healthcare services as close to the patient's rural home as possible.

- **Financial solvency strategies:**

By selecting this element, the applicant indicates the strategy includes reforms or innovations that strengthens the financial stability of rural hospitals and providers.

- **Cause identification:**

By selecting this element, the applicant indicates the strategy addresses why rural health and healthcare is at risk.

b.7. North Dakota's RHTP application identified an evaluation plan and metrics, detailed in the Funding Opportunity section of this guidance and applicants are encouraged to present strategies to support the identified metrics. As it relates to the identified strategy, indicate which ND RHTP outcomes the applicant anticipates impacting:

- Increase telehealth and remote patient monitoring (RPM) encounters for Medicaid members
- Reduce avoidable ED visits for Medicaid members
- Improve Coordination of Care for Medicaid members
- Improve Getting Care Quickly for Medicaid members

b.8. Being as concise as possible, complete a comprehensive timeline for the identified strategy. The timeline must identify key milestones and dates to detail how the applicant will carry out the proposed outcomes, strategy, services and tasks. Milestones may include procurement, equipment acquisition, installation, configuration, training, implementation, testing and project completion, as applicable. Please include an estimated completion date for the strategy.

As a reminder, the operating period will start upon execution of the agreement, with all required approvals and signatures. The operating period will end on August 31, 2027 and all funds must be expended by this date.

3) Budget Submission and Details

Using the HHS provided “Itemized Subrecipient Budget Template”, develop and submit an itemized budget with appropriate justification for each cost category. The template can be found in the required documents section of the [funding opportunity webpage](#).

- Please upload a completed budget in Excel format, using the “Itemized Subrecipient Budget Template.”
- Each budget item must include detailed justification. Justifications must be clear and should include information on how the applicant determined the cost. For example, identify what information was used to determine salary or fringe benefit rates.
- If there are multiple strategies, please make a copy of the “Budget” tab within the “Itemized Subrecipient Budget Template” for each. Clearly name the tabs with the corresponding priority numbers from the project narrative. Complete a separate budget tab for each strategy. For example, if the application narrative indicates there are three strategies, there should be three budget tabs.
- As a reminder, if there are multiple strategies, the first strategy must be within a reasonable amount of the estimated award value of \$200,000. Applicants may request funds for additional strategies within a reasonable amount of the total dollar value for this funding opportunity. If an applicant has multiple strategies and requests additional funds, the proposal must align with the scope of the funding opportunity and applicants are encouraged to consider the feasibility of completing the proposed work within the operating period.
- Each funding opportunity is unique in its scope and intent. These are the cost categories that may apply to this funding opportunity:
 - Supplies (medical/laboratory, office, educational)
 - Information Technology (including software, electronic medical record interoperability, system interfaces, secure connectivity, telecommunications services, cellular service, subscription-based network access and other operational technology necessary to support the proposed project. *Funding may not be used for broadband infrastructure, including construction or installation of fiber, cell towers, or other telecommunications infrastructure*)
 - Equipment
 - Professional services/consultants (including system design, engineering, implementation, configuration, integration, training and other technical consulting services directly related to the proposed project)
 - Travel (if applicable)

- Training and educational costs (including registration fees, educational materials, consultant-led training, and travel directly related to implementation of the proposed project)
- Other (if approved by ND HHS and directly related to the proposed project)

Applicants are encouraged to submit vendor sales quote(s) for the proposed equipment to support cost accuracy; however, quote(s) are not required for the application to be considered complete.

RHTP funds are governed by applicable provisions of [2 CFR Part 200](#) and [2 CFR Part 300](#), with guidance from the federal RHTP [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) and CMS's [Frequently Asked Questions documents](#) (found under "Helpful Resources"). The limits and unallowable costs detailed in this section come from federal guidance and are non-negotiable.

Details on Unallowable and Limited Costs

- Capital expenditures are allowable with this funding opportunity. Please see the Capital Expenditures section below for details and limitations.
- RHTP funding is designed to support expansion and scale to better serve rural communities, not to replace or duplicate existing funding sources. When using funds to expand an existing pilot program or initiative or to develop a new training program with existing partners, the funds may only be applied to the costs associated with the new population, new activities, new program milestones or expansion.
- Pre-award costs
- Meeting matching requirements for any other federal funds or for local entities
- Services, equipment or supports that are the legal responsibility of another party under federal, state, tribal or civil rights law
- Supplanting existing state, local, tribal or private funding of infrastructure or services (ex. staff salaries)
- The cost of independent research and development
- Funds related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action or executive order
- Financial assistance to households for installation and monthly broadband internet costs
- Meals, unless in limited circumstances such as:
 - Subjects and patients under study
 - Where specifically approved as part of the project or program activity, such as in programs providing children's services

- As part of a per diem or subsistence allowance provided in conjunction with allowable travel in accordance with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) established rates
- Replacing payment(s) for clinical services that could be reimbursed by insurance
 - Direct healthcare services may be funded if not currently reimbursable, will fill a gap in care coverage and/or may transform current care delivery model
 - Provider payments cannot exceed 15% of total funding in a budget period*
- No more than 5% of total funding in a budget period can support funding the replacement of an electronic medical record (EMR) system if a previous Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act-certified EMR is in place as of Sept. 1, 2025.* Upgrades, enhancements, added modules, interfaces or functionality to existing EMR systems are allowable and not subject to the 5% limitation.
- Funding toward projects similar to the “Rural Tech Catalyst Fund Initiative” cannot exceed the lesser of 10% of total funding or \$20 million of total funding awarded in a budget period*
- Clinician salaries/wages for facilities that subject clinicians to non-compete clauses.
- Demolition of aged buildings.

*Limits apply to HHS’s spending of RHTP funds. Individual agreements may be considered for costs exceeding the budget limitations.

Capital Expenditures and Remodeling

Capital expenditures are allowable with this funding opportunity.

Capital expenditures are expenditures to acquire capital assets or expenditures to make additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life. Capital expenditures are limited by the federal guidance identified above.

Unallowable capital expenditures for RHTP include:

- New construction
- Building expansion
- Purchasing of buildings
- Supplanting funding for in-process or planned construction projects
- Significant retrofitting of buildings
- Cosmetic updates
- Any other cost that materially (significantly or substantially) increases the value of the capital

- Minor building alterations or renovations
- Vehicle purchases

Allowable capital expenditures include equipment upgrades.

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Compliance

This project may be subject to the [Davis-Bacon and Related Acts](#) (40 U.S.C. § 3141 et seq.). If applicable, the applicant must comply fully with all federal and state prevailing wage requirements. This includes incorporation of the federal contract clause at [FAR 52.222-6](#), Davis-Bacon Act, into all capital improvement expenditures contracts and subcontracts in excess of \$2,000, as required by [48 CFR § 22.403-1](#).

The applicant must ensure that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors on covered work are paid wages at rates not less than those determined by the U.S. Department of Labor for the corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics. The [Wage Determination page](#) from the General Services Administration can be used to support this. If awarded, the applicant will require submission and retention of certified payroll records and will ensure compliance with all applicable reporting, recordkeeping and enforcement requirements. [Online tools for simplifying Davis-Bacon certified payroll reporting](#) are offered from the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division.

4) Application Review and Selection

Applications will be reviewed and scored solely on what is presented within the application materials. The committee will score applications based on criteria in the Scoring Tool found in the required documents section of the [funding opportunity webpage](#).

ND HHS aims to notify applicants about their award in a timely manner. ND HHS reserves the right to support applicants with changes to their project proposals to ensure ND HHS's RHTP commitments are upheld; additionally, ND HHS may require applicants to supplement responses. ND HHS is in a cooperative agreement with CMS for RHTP and is subject to substantial CMS project involvement. This may delay funding timelines.

The awarded applicant(s) will be sent an agreement to sign and return to ND HHS. The awarded applicant(s) shall comply with the agreement provisions set out in the sample documents. Due to the limited timeframe associated with the funding source for this funding opportunity, ND HHS will not entertain any changes to the agreement Terms and Conditions.

Additional Information

Information may change based upon updated federal guidance or upon further consideration by ND HHS.

Learn More: [Rural Health Transformation | Health and Human Services North Dakota](#)

If you have feedback on the application process, please complete the [Funding Opportunity Feedback Survey](#).

This RHTP funding opportunity is supported by CMS of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$198,936,969.55 with 100 percent funded by CMS/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents are those of ND HHS and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or the U.S. Government.