

## Targeted Request for Applications

### 2.5 – Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) to Rural Emergency Hospitals (REH) Conversion

#### Purpose

This Request for Application (RFA) under the Nebraska Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) grant initiative 2.5 is intended to assist Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) and Rural Emergency Hospitals (REH) with infrastructure, technology, and equipment improvements that would aid in service line expansion and improvement that will result in financial stabilization.

#### Eligibility Information

Critical Access Hospitals or Rural Emergency Hospitals who have identified through financial analysis that infrastructure, technology, and/or equipment improvements would improve access to care, service line expansion, and/or improvement of the quality of care within their facilities. The proposal must show how the changes will help the facility financially.

Interested Critical Access Hospitals or Rural Emergency Hospitals must provide the following:

- An application cover sheet
- A work plan with activities, and timelines using the template provided with this Request for Applications.
- A budget using the Financial Workbook
- A one-page summary of the proposal.
- A strategic financial plan developed within the past three years, that outlines the facility's current financial position and future financial projections. The plan must show how the funds would be used to improve access to care, service line expansion, or the improvement of quality of care within their facilities. An analysis of return on this investment must be presented in the plan.

#### Use of Funds

These funds are to be used by Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Emergency Hospitals to build infrastructure, enhance technology, and purchase equipment that will aid in service line expansion and improvement that will result in financial stabilization.

Expenditure of these funds must be for necessary, allowable, and reasonable costs incurred during the Period of Performance. The dates and allowable uses of funds may be subject to change.

#### Funding Restrictions

Awards issued under the RHTP operate on a cost reimbursement basis. Allowable costs follow 2 CFR 200, and do not include major construction. However, minor renovations are allowed.

Administrative costs, including but not limited to indirect costs, must not exceed 7.5%.

Administrative costs include such categories as:

- Staff costs related to program administration and/or financial management and audit;

- Costs related to procurement and contracting; and
- Administrative IT systems.

This effort is not intended for major construction efforts or for the payment of hospital operating costs or payroll.

## Period of Performance

The period of performance is from the issuance of the intent to award notice through July 31, 2027. Additional funding may occur in future years of the Rural Health Transformation Program.

## Award of Funding

The amount of funding each Applicant is eligible for is determined by the proposal submitted and available funds. The proposal must clearly demonstrate how the proposal will improve access to care, expand service lines, or enhance the quality of care within the facility. Additionally, the proposal must demonstrate a return-on-investment analysis that is realistic and well-supported.

## Reporting Requirements

Applicants must have a financial system in place to monitor their expenditures. Grantees may be audited at any time. Reimbursement requests can be made as frequently as needed but no later than July 31, 2027.

Grantees must submit the following with each reimbursement request:

- An updated workplan showing progress.
- An updated financial workbook showing expenditures.
- Receipts for purchases.
- General ledger showing expenses.

Grantees must submit a final report with the last reimbursement request that demonstrates the progress made to improve access to care, expand services, or enhance quality of care, and a return-on-investment analysis.

## Question & Answer Opportunity

An optional Question and Answer opportunity is scheduled for **May 8, 2026, 12:00-1:00pm CST**

- Please join this information session with the [link](#).
- We'll be taking questions in the chat and will ensure a quick response to any inquiries we don't cover during the live session.

## Timeframe For Application Review

This Request for Applications has an ongoing application period. DHHS will review applications as they are received. The last date applications will be received depends on the content of the proposal in regard to having sufficient time to expend funds and implement activities by July 31, 2027. If a proposal is received late in the period of performance, it may be considered for next year's funding if funding is available.

## Application Instructions

To apply, a hospital must fully complete the following and submit it electronically to [DHHS.CAHSupport@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.CAHSupport@nebraska.gov).

- Form 1: RHTP 2.5 Application Cover Sheet
- Form 2: RHTP 2.5 Work Plan
- Form 3: RHTP 2.5 Financial Workbook
- A one-page summary of the proposal.
- A strategic financial plan developed within the past three years, that outlines the facility's current financial position and future financial projections.

Applications that do not contain the required information may be rejected. DHHS reserves the right to evaluate Applicants and award funds in a manner utilizing criteria selected at DHHS' discretion and in the best interest of meeting the objectives of the funding involved.

## Evaluation of Applications

DHHS will evaluate all Applications to determine whether the Applicant is an eligible entity; whether the Application meets the minimum requirements of this RFA; and whether the Applicant poses risk of noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Grant, such that DHHS should not award funding.

DHHS will award to Applicants based on the how the workplan and budget coincide with the financial assessment report, how it achieves improving access to care and financial stability, and as funding allows.

Questions regarding this project and application process can also be sent to: [DHHS.CAHSupport@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.CAHSupport@nebraska.gov)

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