



**Request for Applications**

**Initiative 3.2 Rural Virtual Reality (VR) and Skills Acceleration Network**

**Purpose**

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health (DHHS) is issuing this Request for Applications (RFA) for the purposes of entering into a Grant agreement and awarding Federal funds to multiple eligible and qualified agencies to provide training to EMS and other healthcare professionals.

RFA #	Total Funding Available	Release Date
RHTP 3.2	\$3,000,000.00	05/29/2026
Application Due Date	Period of Performance	Application Submission and Questions
07/24/2026, or until funds are exhausted	(agreement execution) - July 31, 2027	<a href="mailto:dhhs.emstraumaprogram@nebraska.gov">dhhs.emstraumaprogram@nebraska.gov</a>

**Overview**

Project Overview

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is investing in initial education and continuing competency healthcare training. Training will target Emergency Medical Services (EMS), EMS providers (volunteer and paid), EMS instructors, critical access hospitals, and other healthcare providers.

Objective

Provide training to EMS and other healthcare professionals in Nebraska using Virtual Reality (VR) and high-fidelity training equipment and other innovative solutions.

Who Is Eligible

Eligible applicants include Nebraska licensed EMS training agencies, institutions of higher learning, nonprofit entities with a demonstrated focus on EMS or health care provider training, Native American tribes, Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), for-profit EMS training organizations, and other health care training entities approved by DHHS. EMS training agencies who only provide training for internal candidates and students are not eligible for this funding. Nebraska licensed EMS training agencies must have a primary office in Nebraska and focus on training Nebraska EMS Providers.

Use Of Funds

Funds must be used to deliver healthcare training. Training will deliver education for high-acuity, low-occurrence situations, bring education to rural Nebraska, advance licensure levels in rural Nebraska, and bring innovative and transformative changes to healthcare education in Nebraska. DHHS will partner with Nebraska training agencies to roll out this initiative utilizing Virtual Reality (VR) and high-fidelity training equipment. Grantees may coordinate with DHHS for the use of VR and high-fidelity training equipment. Funds awarded under this RFA are intended to support training delivery, staffing, curriculum development, travel, coordination, outreach, and implementation of approved training activities. Funds may not be used to purchase VR, simulation, or high-fidelity training equipment unless specifically authorized in writing by

DHHS and included in the executed agreement. Grantees may coordinate with DHHS for access to available VR and high-fidelity training equipment for approved training activities. EMS training must include initial, continuing education, and perinatal and obstetrics. EMS training may include programs such as community paramedicine, critical care paramedic, and other specialty programs.

Expenditure of these funds must be for necessary, allowable, and reasonable costs incurred during the Period of Performance which will be from the date of agreement signature to July 31, 2027. 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. Purchase of VR, simulation, or high-fidelity training equipment is not allowable under this RFA unless specifically authorized in writing by DHHS and included in the executed agreement.

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.

Participating entities will be expected to adhere to requirements around data collection, reporting, and federal fund management, which will be more fully described in a subsequent agreement.

### 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 provide innovative solutions to providing training, types of educational programs being implemented, outreach and provision of education in rural Nebraska, collaborations with stakeholders, and sustainability. If applications exceed available funding, DHHS reserves the right to decrease requested funding to maximize the available funding to best serve Nebraska and the requirements of the RHTP Initiative 3.2 purposes. Additionally, the proposal must show how it will impact and improve EMS and healthcare education.

Funds will be awarded through a Grant. No promise for funds is binding on DHHS, and no funds will be paid to any Applicant until a Grant has been executed by both the Applicant and DHHS. All agreements issued under this RFA will operate on a cost reimbursement basis. Grantees will be reimbursed for allowable and approved expenses incurred during the period of performance in accordance with the executed grant agreement and applicable federal and state requirements

### Reporting Requirements

Applicants must have a financial system in place to monitor their expenditures. Grantees may be audited at any time. All receipts must be made available upon request. Grantees will be required to submit a minimum of quarterly reports with the final report submitted no later than July 31, 2027.

Grantees must submit the following with each report:

- General ledger showing all expenditures
- Courses taught
- New Courses developed, if applicable
- Total student enrollment, drop rates, and completion metrics
- County of residence (EMS participants only)
- Activity logs
- Certifications earned
- Other details regarding the provision of services
- Any other reporting requirements

For profit subrecipients may be subject to additional monitoring requirements. Agreements may require detailed reporting of disbursements, disclosure of related-party transactions, expanded access to records, and audit rights consistent with state and federal requirements.

### Attachments

The following documents are incorporated as attachments to this RFA:

- Cover Sheet
- Workplan
- Financial Workbook

## Timeframe For Applications and Programs

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until July 24, 2026, or until available funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first. DHHS does not anticipate issuing new awards under this RFA after July 31, 2026. DHHS may decline to fund an otherwise eligible application if there is not sufficient time to execute an agreement and complete approved activities by July 31, 2027. The period of performance must not begin before agreements are signed by both parties. All funds will need to be spent by July 31, 2027.

## Application Instructions

To apply, an entity must fully complete: Cover Sheet, Work Plan, Financial Workbook and a proposal narrative suggested not to be no more than two pages and submit it electronically to [dhhs.emstraumaprogram@nebraska.gov](mailto:dhhs.emstraumaprogram@nebraska.gov). 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 has the capacity to comply with applicable federal statutes, regulations, grant terms and conditions, reporting requirements, and financial management expectations.

DHHS may decline to award funding to an applicant that does not meet eligibility or application requirements, does not demonstrate sufficient capacity, or presents a risk of noncompliance that DHHS determines cannot be adequately managed.

Applications will be reviewed based on the extent to which the proposal, work plan, and financial workbook align with the objective and allowable uses of funds described in this RFA. DHHS will consider the applicant's ability to deliver high-quality EMS or health care workforce training, expand access to training in rural Nebraska, support high-acuity and low-occurrence clinical skills, advance licensure or continuing competency, demonstrate meaningful partnerships, and collect and report required performance and financial information.

Awards will be made based on application quality, alignment with Initiative 3.2 priorities, demonstrated rural impact, budget reasonableness and allowability, applicant capacity, and the availability of funds.

Questions regarding the program and applications should be sent to:

[DHHS.EMSTraumaProgram@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.EMSTraumaProgram@nebraska.gov)

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