

## Request for Applications

### Modification of Existing Clinical Facilities for Mental Health Crisis

#### Purpose

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) is issuing this Request for Applications (RFA) for the purposes of entering into a grant agreement and awarding federal funds through the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) 5.3, to provide funding for equipment and enhancements to hospitals and behavioral health providers to expand crisis response, stabilization, and substance use withdrawal services in rural areas. Through this RFA, eligible and qualified rural<sup>1</sup> entities will receive funding for **equipment and minor building alterations and renovation projects** in an existing building or facility. More details on allowable and unallowable costs will be described in the [Use of Funds](#) section.

| RFA #                                      | TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE   | Release Date   |
|--|---|--|
| RHTP 5.3                                   | \$5,500,000.00  | April 20, 2026   |
| APPLICATION DUE DATE                       | PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE   | APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND QUESTIONS   |
| August 31, 2026                            | 12/29/2025-10/30/2026   | <a href="mailto:DHHS.DBHPrevention@nebraska.gov">DHHS.DBHPrevention@nebraska.gov</a> |
| INFORMATIONAL/QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS |   |  |
| <b>Date:</b><br>May 13, 2026               | <b>Time:</b><br>1:00pm – 2:00pm   | <b>Meeting number:</b> 2487 339 7469<br><b>Meeting password:</b> 5mCiJmh48U7         |
| <b>Join by Link:</b>                       | <a href="https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=m14a55ae46afd084bbe57366d838f7580">https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=m14a55ae46afd084bbe57366d838f7580</a> |  |
| <b>Join by Phone:</b>                      | <a href="tel:+14084189388">+1-408-418-9388</a> .,24873397469##  |  |

#### Overview

The resulting grant(s) from this RFA are subject to and shall follow federal and state regulation, as set forth herein grant recipient(s) may only be paid up to the actual and allowable costs (as defined herein) stated in the [Objective](#) of the RFA and in compliance with any terms at the result of the grant agreement. No grants resulting from this RFA will be fee-for-service contracts, regardless of the method of payment, and no grantee may keep a profit from its grant. More details about the terms of this funding will be set in the grant agreement. Until final grants are signed, all other information pertinent to this RFA, including but not limited to any amendments or addenda, will be posted on the DHHS website <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Grant-Opportunities.aspx>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/about-us/what-is-rural>

## Background

Legislation **H.R. 1, An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14**<sup>2</sup> passed in 2025. The passage of the legislation created the RHTP. The program focuses on supporting rural communities by “promoting innovation, strategic partnerships, infrastructure development, and workforce investment.”<sup>3</sup> More information on this federal grant opportunity is available on RHTP CMS.Gov<sup>4</sup> website.

Nebraska has been selected as a recipient of the RHTP funds and DHHS has identified rural emergency behavioral health providers and services as a state priority. The RHTP Nebraska Behavioral Health initiatives are intended to increase access to behavioral health crisis services, enhance the quality of care received, and provide an effective continuum of care.

## Objective

DHHS is seeking interested providers who can support the RHTP Nebraska Behavioral Health initiative through creating a sustainable, community-based emergency behavioral health system that improves outcomes, reduces costs, and strengthens the State’s behavioral health continuum of care. Potential grantees would look to increase crisis stabilization, crisis response and substance use withdrawal management capacity by retrofitting existing areas or purchasing needed equipment in rural hospitals, community health centers, rural emergency hospitals (REHs), and tribal health facilities.

Through minor facility modifications and equipment enhancements, existing clinical spaces will be adapted to serve individuals experiencing behavioral health or substance use crises.

DHHS is making the full amount of \$5,500,000 available for grants under this RFA. A total award of funds requested by the applicant is not guaranteed but is subject to the number of applications received, the actual money appropriated to DHHS, and at DHHS’ discretion.

## Who Is Eligible

Eligible entities include local governments, Native American tribes, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit entities. Individuals and for-profit organizations may not apply for this grant funding. Applicants must be located in Nebraska, provide services in Nebraska, and must serve a rural area. Applicants must meet specific eligibility criteria.

This RFA is only intended for applicants with an existing building space with the need for **minor building alterations and renovation projects** to expand/or provide identified crisis behavioral health services or is an entity who is in need of **equipment** to support the identified crisis services.

Providers of the following Behavioral Health Services are eligible to receive funding for this grant opportunity:

- Acute/sub-acute psychiatric services, crisis stabilization services, substance use withdrawal management services, social detoxification services, or crisis response services.

Further priorities and eligibility are detailed in the [Evaluation of Applications](#) section of the RFA.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1/text>

<sup>3</sup> <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/360442>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/rural-health-transformation-rht-program/overview>

## Use of Funds

Funds must be used to address the expansion and sustainability of the behavioral health crisis system, through **equipment and minor alterations and renovation projects** to support crisis services. Minor alterations and renovation projects include small modifications aimed at enhancing the functionality of the facility where the project will take place.

The following list includes allowable costs for this funding opportunity:

### Allowable costs

- Minor alterations and renovations to an existing building footprint, existing infrastructure, and existing rooms within a facility. This includes **interior modifications** such as:
  - Painting.
  - Lighting and electrical upgrades and fixtures (excluding full electrical panel and switch gear replacement). Example: upgrading light fixtures to more energy-efficient systems.
  - HVAC and plumbing (replacing vents and thermostats for climate control).
  - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility improvements. This includes assistive technological devices and services compliant with Assistive Technology Act of 2004<sup>5</sup> (wheelchairs, canes, scooters, automatic doors, lifts, etc.).
  - Security and safety (upgrading security cameras and camera systems, fire doors, etc.).
  - Workspace reconfiguration (creating open-office layouts or converting private offices to better suit needs).
  - Patient space configuration.
- New Electronic Medical Records (EMR) functionality required for crisis services.
- Supplies compliant with 2 CFR 200.1.<sup>6</sup>
- Equipment compliant with 2 CFR 200.1.<sup>7</sup> and has a useful life of over 1 year. Examples include:
  - Generators to support lifesaving equipment. .
  - ADA accessibility requirements for a building or facility (accessibility slopes, grab bars, etc.).
  - Appliances (washer, dryer, refrigerator, etc.).
  - Mobile crisis response vehicles (cars, vans, trucks, trailers).
  - Commercial-rated furniture.
  - Medical equipment and supplies.
  - Emergency medical equipment and supplies.
  - Hygiene supplies.
  - Emergency care kits.
  - Diagnostic tools (assessments, screeners, etc.).
  - Therapeutic equipment (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation [TENS] unit, mobility machines, psychometric testing supplies, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing [EMDR] light bar, etc.).
  - Medical carts.
  - DEA approved medical lockbox(s).
  - Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).
  - Electronic tablet(s).
- Single item purchase requests exceeding \$10,000 may require authorization from Nebraska DHHS before funding is awarded. Please consult with 2 CFR 200.1<sup>8</sup> to understand what

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/4278/text>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-A/subject-group-ECFR2a6a0087862fd2c/section-200.1>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-A/subject-group-ECFR2a6a0087862fd2c/section-200.1>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>

constitutes as equipment and supplies and how it pertains to the purchases made with these funds and correctly categorize the items in the provided budget template **RFA RHTP 5.3 Form 3**.

- *Equipment* means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the recipient or subrecipient for financial statement purposes, or \$10,000. See the definitions of *capital assets*, *computing devices*, *general purpose equipment*, *information technology systems*, *special purpose equipment*, and *supplies* in this section.<sup>9</sup>
- *Supplies* means all tangible personal property other than those described in the *equipment* definition. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is below the lesser of the capitalization level established by the recipient or subrecipient for financial statement purposes or \$10,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. See this section's definitions of *computing devices* and *equipment*.<sup>10</sup>
- Other costs may be approved if allowed by federal codes and guidelines with subawards.
- Other costs may be approved by DHHS on a case-by-case basis.

Unallowable costs include the following:

#### Unallowable costs

- New construction.
- Food.
- Salaries.
- Hourly pay.
- Fringe benefits.
- Indirect costs.
- Payment for rendering of behavioral health services.
- Lobbying.
- Complete replacement of a HITECH<sup>11</sup> certified EMR system already in place as of September 1, 2025.
- Certain telecommunications (see 2 CFR 200.216<sup>12</sup>) and video surveillance equipment.
- Construction or building expansion, purchasing or significant retrofitting of buildings, cosmetic upgrades, or any other costs that materially increases the value of the capital or useful life as a direct cost.
- Supplanting, or replacing, funding for in-process or planned construction projects or already obligated funding towards new construction buildings. This includes any construction funded by opioid settlement funds.
- Other costs which may be unallowable determined by federal codes and guidelines with subawards.
- Other costs to be evaluated by DHHS on a case-by-case basis. Costs determined unallowable by DHHS must be removed from final budgets for grant award.

Expenditure of these funds must be for necessary, allowable, and reasonable costs incurred during the Period of Performance from **December 29, 2025 – October 30, 2026**. The dates and allowable use of funds may be subject to change at DHHS' discretion.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/hitech-act-enforcement-interim-final-rule/index.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.216>

## Award Of Funding

The amount of funding each applicant is eligible for will be evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis, depending on available funding, and at the discretion of DHHS and the chosen evaluation procedure decided for applications. Funds will be awarded through a grant award agreement. Applicants must complete an application for each project planned.

No promise of funds is binding on DHHS, and no funds will be paid to any applicant until a grant award agreement has been executed by both the applicant and DHHS. This grant opportunity is an open RFA and will represent the requirements for a grant application for eligible recipients until funds are exhausted.

## 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 monthly report on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month and annual report at the end of the period of performance. The following are identified reporting requirements for this funding opportunity:

- All itemized expenditures.
- Invoices.
- An image of the product.
- A narrative detailing how funds have supported the RHTP Nebraska Behavioral Health initiative.
- 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.
- Any other reporting requirement requested by DHHS in the grant agreement.

## **Timeframe For Applications and Period of Performance**

DHHS will review applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants will be notified of a potential funding award within sixty (60) days of submission. The last day applications will be received for this grant cycle will be August 31, 2026. A total award of funds is not guaranteed and may not be awarded. This is subject to the number of applications received, and money appropriated, at the discretion of DHHS.

The period of performance must not begin before December 29, 2025. All purchases must be made by October 30, 2026. If an applicant believes it cannot meet these deadlines, it should not apply for funding under this RFA.

## **Application Instruction and Methods of Submission**

To apply, an entity must complete the forms attached to this application on the DHHS Grant Opportunity website <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Grant-Opportunities.aspx>.

The applicant must complete the [Subrecipient Pre-Award Questionnaire](#) form within this RFA. The applicant must also complete a cover sheet, **RFA RHTP 5.3 FORM 1**, and a Work Plan excel sheet, labeled **RFA RHTP 5.3 FORM 2**. Both forms require information pertaining to the project the

applicant is looking to complete with the funds provided. Please describe in full detail what the project is and the reason the project pertains to the main purpose and intent of the RFA.

The applicant must also complete a **preliminary** budget form labeled **RFA RHTP 5.3 FORM 3** during the application process. The applicant will correctly complete the preliminary budget form in their application process. During the awarding process, a more comprehensive budget form will be provided for final review before the agreement is finalized.

All descriptions in the required **Forms 1, 2, and 3** must be detailed, clear, and concise.

Please submit all documents electronically to [DHHS.DBHPrevention@Nebraska.Gov](mailto:DHHS.DBHPrevention@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:

1. The applicant is an eligible entity;
2. The application meets the minimum requirements of this RFA; and
3. The applicant poses risk of noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the grant.

Priority will be given based on the level of rurality and strategic value of the project to entities who provide the following behavioral health services: acute psychiatric services, crisis stabilization services, substance use withdrawal management services, social detoxification services, and/or crisis response services. Entities who are located within a rural county and serve rural individuals are eligible applicants for funding.

DHHS will award applicants based on compliance with federal guidelines on the RHTP capital expenditures and infrastructure listed in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) <sup>13</sup>, as DHHS determines, and as funding allows.

## Subrecipient Pre-Award Questionnaire

### Instructions

In adherence to federal guidelines (as outlined in [2 CFR 200.332\(b\)](#)), Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as a pass-through entity must evaluate each subrecipient's risk of noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward. To facilitate this evaluation, DHHS employs this Pre-Award Questionnaire to gather essential information that informs our decisions regarding subrecipient monitoring.

Please answer each question as completely and accurately as possible. If you are unable to answer or the question is nonapplicable, please provide a brief explanation.

**NOTE:** This Questionnaire has no bearing on whether you receive an award; it is merely used for tailoring our support effectively.

<sup>13</sup> <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/360442>

## General Information

What is the legal name of your organization?

*Provide the full legal name of the organization as registered with the appropriate government authorities.*

When was your organization founded?

*Provide the month and year the organization was legally established.*

## Operational Risk

Does your organization have written human resource (HR) policies and procedures? If so, please attach a copy of the Employee Handbook.

*Indicate whether your organization has a formal HR policy. Attach relevant documents if applicable.*

Are employees trained on these policies and procedures? How often are the policies reviewed or updated?

*Indicate whether employees are trained, and how often the policies are reviewed or updated.*

How many employees are there within your organization?

*Provide the total number of employees, including full-time and part-time staff.*

How many years of experience do the key staff members have in managing federal or state-funded programs?"

*State the total years of experience your organization has managing state or federal grants.*

How new (in years) is the program to be funded?

*Indicate how long the specific program you are seeking funding for has been in operation.*

How experienced with the program are the staff assigned to the program?

*Provide details on how familiar and experienced the staff working on the program are.*

## Financial Risk

Does your organization have written accounting policies and procedures? If possible, please attach a copy of these policies and procedures.

*Indicate if your organization follows written accounting procedures, and provide copies if possible.*

How do your organization's accounting records separate the receipts and payments of a federal or state grant from the receipts and payments of your organization's other activities? If possible, attach a sample report.

*Describe how your accounting system distinguishes between grant-related transactions and general organizational transactions.*

Does your organization have systems, policies, and procedures for tracking and approving hours worked by employees, contractors, and volunteers? If possible, please attach a copy of these policies and procedures.

*Indicate whether your organization tracks hours worked and how this is done for employees, contractors, and volunteers.*

**How large (in USD) is the proposed subaward?**

*Provide the total amount of the subaward you are requesting or receiving.*

**What percent of your organization's capital is from federal funding? (percentage = total federal funding in previous FY/ organization's annual gross revenue in previous FY)**

*Calculate and provide the percentage of your organization's revenue that comes from federal funding.*

### Compliance Risk

**What was the date of the most recent audit?**

*Provide the month and year of your most recent financial or compliance audit.*

**Were there any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified in the audit findings?**

*Indicate whether any weaknesses or deficiencies were reported in your last audit and briefly describe them.*

**How has your organization addressed previous audit findings and recommendations?**

*Describe the steps your organization has taken to resolve issues highlighted in the previous audit report.*

### Commentary/Additional Notes

If needed, provide further explanation, details, or clarifications.

*Use this section to elaborate on any responses provided in earlier sections, offering additional details, clarifications, or context*

### Appendices

| Type of Document     | Reason for Inclusion/Description               |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>Document type</i> | <i>Explain why this document was included.</i> |
|                      |  |
|                      |  |

Questions regarding the program and applications should be sent to:

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

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