

Rural Hospital Planning & Transition Grant Program FY26 Questions and Answers

NOVEMBER 7, 2025

A Community Health Needs Assessment is identified as a priority in our current strategic plan. Is this considered an eligible project for the Planning & Transition Grant Program?

No, please note that although a community health needs assessment is a required component of strategic planning, the needs assessment will not be funded by this grant program. See RFP section 2.2.

When is the deadline to apply?

The deadline to apply is Friday, December 12, 2025 at 4:30 pm Central Time.

Will the Planning & Transition Grant Program RFP information webinar be recorded?

No, but materials from the webinar, including presentation slides and a questions and answers document, will be posted on [Rural Hospital Planning and Transition Grant - ORHPC Grants and Funding \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/funding/grants/index.html#rhpt\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ruralhealth/funding/grants/index.html#rhpt).

What is expected of our community health board?

A key component of this grant program is the requirement of a 30-day period for the local Community Health Board (CHB) to review the proposal and submit comments to MDH. It is the responsibility of the applicant hospital to send a copy of the application to any relevant CHB and CC health.ruralhospitalgrants@state.mn.us in the correspondence. When sending your proposal to the CHB, request that the CHB submit their comments to health.ruralhospitalgrants@state.mn.us no later than January 12, 2026. This requirement is described in RFP section 2.2.

Do we need to submit a new Due Diligence form with our application if we already submitted one this year?

Yes, please submit a new Due Diligence form each time you apply for a grant, to ensure that any new information is captured.

Can this funding be used for community clinics or involve community clinics?

No. As stated in RFP section 1.4, eligible applicants are hospitals that meet the other criteria detailed in that section.

Can this grant award support an implementation project if the project is also being funded by another grant project?

All applicants must certify that at least 50% of the grant request amount will be matched from non-state sources. A non-state grant program could be one of those sources. Applicants will need to be clear about which components of their project are covered by each funding source, and track expenses carefully if awarded grant funding, to ensure that there is no overlap.

Are hospitals designated as "Hospital District" eligible for this grant?

An eligible applicant for the Rural Hospital Planning and Transition Grant is a non-federal, general acute care hospital in Minnesota that:

- Is located in a rural area, as defined in federal Medicare regulations, or in a community with a population of less than 15,000 according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics, outside the seven-county metropolitan area,
- Has 50 or fewer beds, and
- Is not for profit.

This can include Hospitals that are designated as hospital districts as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

Are network applications allowed, and if so, what is the best approach? Have each of them apply or have us apply on their behalf?

A network or consortium of hospitals may submit a single application on behalf of one or more eligible hospitals. All hospitals included in the grant project must be eligible.

Is specialty equipment an eligible expense for the Rural Hospital Planning and Transition grant if expanding specialty surgeries was identified as a priority in our strategic plan?

Capital purchases, especially for specialized equipment, are unlikely to be approved. See RFP Section 2Part 2.

We recently completed our 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment; however, it does not include interviews with or surveys of local health professionals or local community leaders. Are there any alternatives we can provide to fulfill the requirements of the Needs Assessment portion of the RFP or should we abandon our plans to request funding?

Per Minnesota State Statute 144.147 that authorizes the Rural Hospital Planning and Transition Grant Program, a Strategic Plan must consist of a needs assessment to determine what health services are needed and desired by the community. The assessment must include interviews with or surveys of area health professionals, local community leaders, and public hearings.

Applications for strategic planning projects must meet the requirements of a strategic plan outlined in the RFP. See RFP Section 2 Part 2.

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11/07/25

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3838.