

Notice of Funding Opportunity  
**Application due 07/08/2026**

# HRSA

## Health Resources & Services Administration

Office for the Advancement of Telehealth  
Telehealth Centers of Excellence  
Opportunity number: HRSA-26-056



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## Before You Begin

Health Resources and Services Administration

Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

Opportunity name: Telehealth Centers of Excellence

Opportunity number: HRSA-26-056

All activities proposed in your application and budget narrative must align with applicable law, including but not limited to statutes, executive orders, federal regulations and applicable judicial holdings. Accordingly, discretionary awards shall not be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate: racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation; denial by the recipient of the sex binary in humans, or the belief that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic; illegal immigration; or any other initiatives that compromise public safety. If an application does not align, the application will not receive funding to the extent permitted by law and applicable court orders.

## Step 1: Review the Opportunity

### Basic information

Tagline: Advancing innovative telehealth solutions to improve health outcomes in rural populations and populations with limited access to services.

### Summary

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is accepting FY2026 applications for the Telehealth Centers of Excellence (HRSA-26-056).

This funding opportunity will support academic medical centers. These centers will implement and evaluate innovative telehealth solutions in rural populations and populations with limited access to services. The centers will serve as national models. They will test concepts and create proven approaches that expand access to care and improve health outcomes. These approaches will be replicable across the country.

**Have questions?** Go to [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name:

Telehealth Centers of Excellence

Opportunity number:

HRSA-26-056

Announcement version:

initial

Federal assistance listing:

93.467

Key dates

NOFO issue date:

06/05/2026

Informational webinar:

Application deadline:

07/08/2026

Expected award date is by:

09/01/2026

Expected start date:

09/01/2026

See [other submissions](#) for other time frames that may apply to this NOFO.

**Funding details**

Application Types:

Limited competition

Expected total available funding in FY:

2026: \$8,500,000

Expected number and type of awards:

2 CA (Cooperative Agreement)

Funding range per award:

\$4,250,000 - \$4,250,000

We plan to fund awards in five 12-month budget periods for a total five year period of performance from 09/01/2026 to 08/31/2031.

**Eligibility**

You can apply if you are a domestic\* public academic medical center that is an incumbent Telehealth Center of Excellence award recipient.

\* "Domestic" means the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

**Types of eligible organizations**

These types of domestic organizations may apply:

Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

### **Additional information on eligibility**

Eligibility is limited to the two current Telehealth Centers of Excellence award recipients.

### **Individuals are not eligible applicants under this NOFO.**

Other eligibility criteria

You can apply only if you currently receive a Telehealth Center of Excellence award and operate a successful telehealth program in a public medical center.

### **Completeness and responsiveness criteria**

We will review your application to make sure it meets these basic requirements to move forward in the competition.

We will not consider an application that:

- Is from an organization that does not meet all [eligibility criteria](#).
- Requests funding above the award ceiling shown in the [funding range](#).
- Is submitted after the [deadline](#).

### **Application limits**

You may not submit more than one application. If you submit more than one application, we will only accept the last on-time submission.

### **Cost sharing**

This program has no cost-sharing requirement. If you choose to share in the costs of the project, we will not consider it during merit review. Recipients agree that once committed, cost sharing amounts are enforceable and subject to reporting and auditing requirements under 2 CFR 200.

### **Post-award requirements**

Before you apply, make sure you understand the requirements that come with an award.

See [Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award](#) for information on regulations that apply, reporting, and more.

## **Program description**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Telehealth Centers of Excellence (COE) Program is to advance innovative telehealth solutions to improve health outcomes.

The Telehealth COEs identify and test best practices in telehealth and share effective models and lessons learned. They use their clinical and telehealth expertise to test new applications and approaches. They evaluate how well these approaches work and determine what can be used and expanded in other communities. The Telehealth COEs will test programs to improve care, such as virtual care for chronic conditions, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in telehealth platforms, and the use of remote monitoring technologies in health care settings.

These Telehealth COEs serve as national training resources. They develop practical, evidence-based tools and provide guidance for providers, health systems, policymakers, and the public. They provide technical assistance to the public, manage a public website with resources, and build partnerships to test programs in different settings. Their work will expand access to care,

strengthen rural health systems and health systems for populations with limited access to services, and inform telehealth policy nationwide.

Award recipients will collect and report data on telehealth outcomes and effectiveness. In addition, the Telehealth COEs will work closely with HRSA and other HRSA-funded programs. These include the National and Regional Telehealth Resource Centers, Telehealth Research Centers and Telehealth Rapid Response Center. The goal is to align efforts, avoid duplication, and increase overall impact.

### **Funding Opportunity Goals**

- Develop, test, and evaluate telehealth models that contribute to the evidence base and expand access to high-quality health care through telehealth, both nationwide and in rural populations.
- Expand access to care and strengthen rural health systems, and health systems in populations with limited access to services, by producing actionable data and sharing evidence-based resources, practical tools, peer-reviewed publications, and policy-relevant findings. These efforts will support telehealth implementation and inform national policy decisions.
- Each Telehealth COE must demonstrate national impact by demonstrating how tested telehealth programs improve access to care in rural populations as well as populations with limited access to services.

### **Background**

HRSA's Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT) supports the use of telehealth to improve access to quality health care. It does this by promoting innovative telehealth solutions and advancing the evidence-base.

The Telehealth Centers of Excellence Program builds on HRSA's experience supporting telehealth innovations, models, and evidence-based efforts. This program supports the expansion of telehealth by testing new telehealth solutions using evidence-based approaches to address chronic diseases and health conditions.

Chronic disease continues to be a leading driver of health care use and costs in the United States. [Nearly 90 percent](#) of the nation's annual health care spending is for people living with chronic and mental health conditions. Approximately [three out of four adults](#) have at least one chronic disease, and more than half have multiple chronic conditions.

Telehealth is an effective tool that can help address chronic disease and improve health outcomes. It can improve access to care, address provider shortages, and strengthen health services in rural populations and populations with limited access to services. As telehealth continues to grow, more evidence is needed to show which models work best and can be expanded to reach more people.

The Telehealth COEs are well positioned to develop, test, and evaluate telehealth models. These models can improve chronic disease management, expand access to specialty and behavioral health services, and reduce avoidable costs. This is especially important in rural populations where chronic disease rates are higher.

The Telehealth COEs will test new telehealth approaches, measure results, and share what works. Through this work, the program will strengthen the national evidence base for telehealth, support informed policy decisions, and help integrate telehealth more fully into rural health care systems and health care systems for populations with limited access to services. This may also include working with organizations that have telehealth accreditation to support high-quality care for patients using telehealth. The Telehealth COEs will share evidence-based best practices and lessons learned.

Activities for this program should advance one or more of the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) priorities. Strategies to consider include:

- Address root causes of poor health.
- Improve access to primary care, behavioral health, preventive care, or developmental services.
- Expand nutrition programs or chronic disease prevention.
- Support early childhood development or autism services.
- Prepare systems for value-based care.
- Partner with tribal health systems.

HRSA will support two national Telehealth COEs that will engage in local, regional, and national partnerships while disseminating best practices and lessons learned nationwide.

### **Program requirements and expectations**

#### **Program Requirements**

You will be required to:

- Implement at least 20 high-quality telehealth projects each year. Projects must be evidence-based and address public health needs. Each project must last one year. Projects must have a regional or national focus. Projects must focus on populations with limited access to services, including rural populations. Projects should address one or more of these areas:
  - Chronic conditions.
  - Nutrition.
  - Primary care.
  - Mental or behavioral health.
  - Maternal and child health, including pediatric populations.
  - Emerging topics or technologies, such as artificial intelligence.
- Staff a Telehealth Center of Excellence team with strong experience in managing complex grant programs.
- Summarize results from each project. Share results in reports or other products for both technical and non-technical audiences.
- Promote the use of telehealth programs across the country. Do this by testing technology, creating training protocols, and giving states templates to add telehealth into their health systems.
- Share information and research findings with the public. This includes health care providers, policymakers at all levels, and safety-net providers. Use formats such as

journal articles, policy briefs, conference presentations, webinars, responses to questions, content for Telehealth.HHS.gov, and others that provide practical, evidence-based information.

- Work closely with the Telehealth Centers of Excellence, HRSA’s Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT), and other HRSA- and OAT- funded programs.
- Share access to data sources used for final deliverables with your OAT project officer.

### **Administrative Requirements**

You must report data requested by OAT. This includes data in HRSA’s Data Collection Platform (DCP). This data will track project outcomes and monitor progress. Examples include the number of telehealth visits and the number of patients served. OAT will provide more details about this requirement during the project period.

If you provide direct patient services within projects, you must bill all services covered by third-party payers. You must try to collect payment during the five-year period of performance. If your services may be reimbursed by Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Programs (CHIP), Medicare, or private insurance, you must build a sustainable network within your state’s reimbursement system. See the Center for Connected Health Policy’s [Compare State Policies](#) page for more information.

OAT may request more information about proposals, work plans and human subjects research (see Post-award requirements).

See the Program Income section for requirements.

### **Statutory authority**

42 U.S.C. § 254c -14 (§ 330I of the Public Health Service Act) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75).

## **Award information**

### **Cooperative agreement terms**

Our responsibilities

Aside from monitoring and technical assistance, we also get involved in these ways:

- Provide experienced HRSA Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT) staff to offer guidance and support in planning, developing, and carrying out project activities and materials.
- Make sure project activities build on past work by sharing relevant materials, tools, and lessons learned from earlier efforts.
- Help connect and coordinate communication with other federally funded programs, HRSA offices, and federal agencies when needed.
- Regularly review and monitor project activities, including plans, evaluation methods, and quality improvement efforts, to ensure the program stays on track and meets its goals.
- Review and provide guidance on materials and activities.
- Assess how projects are planned and carried out, including how results are measured, and how findings improve future work.
- Provide guidance and support for project activities, progress, results, and results sharing. This may include presentations to internal and external stakeholders, conference

presentations, webinars, policy briefs, research summaries, and other ways to share clear, practical research findings.

- Offer input on planning and developing the project portfolio.
- Review and provide feedback on project plans and methods.
- Review project products before they are shared publicly, including the study methods, analysis, results, policy implications, and overall format.
- Take part, as appropriate, in meetings, training sessions, or workgroups during the project period, including activities related to the website redesign.
- Host regular calls with all of the key staff on the project.

#### Your responsibilities

You must follow all relevant laws and policies. Your other responsibilities will include:

- Follow HRSA guidelines on acknowledgment of and disclaimer on all products produced by HRSA award funds, per Section 5.1 of the [HRSA Application Guide](#) (Acknowledgement of Federal Funding).
- Provide a conflict-of-interest (COI) statement that discloses any potential conflicts related to federal funding and explain how those conflicts will be addressed. Review [HRSA's COI policy](#).
- Build and maintain strong working relationships with other HRSA-funded programs and telehealth partners.
- Take part in planning and developing the annual project portfolio, including meetings as needed.
- Submit project proposals, including timelines and milestones, to the OAT Program Coordinator for review.
- Synthesize results of each project into reports or other work products for both technical and non-technical audiences.
- Send all products to OAT for review before they are published or shared. This includes presentations, manuscripts, abstracts, policy briefs, technical assistance materials, reports, and other documents. Submit materials within the timeframe requested by OAT.
- In collaboration with other Telehealth COE award recipients, redesign and manage a modern Telehealth COE website that clearly explains and shows the purpose of the Telehealth COEs. The website should serve as a centralized hub for sharing project information, data, resources, tools, and findings. The website must also allow individuals to submit requests for technical assistance.
- Discuss and request approval from HRSA for any significant changes to projects, including any proposed cancelation of projects prior to cancelation. Prior approval may be required and additional documentation may be requested by OAT, such as an explanation of proposed changes, reason for changes, what has been done to address challenges, plans to address the challenges, and funds expended to date.
- Participate in regular conference calls with OAT staff and other stakeholders as needed.

#### **Funding policies and limitations**

Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS has adopted [2 CFR Part 200](#), with some modifications included in 2 CFR Part 300. These regulations replace those in 45 CFR Part 75.

## Policies

- To make an award, funding must be available and allocated for this program and purpose, at which point we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Have clear policies and good financial practices to avoid spending HRSA funds on unallowable activities. Like other award rules, we may audit your policies, procedures, and controls.
- Support beyond the first budget year will depend on:
  - Appropriation of funds.
  - Your satisfactory progress in meeting the project's objectives.
  - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.
- If we receive more funding for this program, we may:
  - Extend the period of performance.
  - Award supplemental funding.

## General limitations

- For guidance on some types of costs we do not allow or restrict, see
  - Project Budget Information in the [Application Guide](#).
  - [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E](#) - General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost.
  - Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities in the [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#).
- All costs must be [reasonable](#), necessary, [allocable](#) to the award, and adequately documented ([2 CFR 200.403](#)).
- You cannot earn profit from the federal award. See [2 CFR § 200.400\(g\)](#).
- Current appropriations law includes a salary limit of \$228,000 as of January 2026 that applies to this program. You may pay salaries at a higher rate if the rate beyond the salary rate limit (Executive Level II) is paid with non-HHS funds.

## Indirect costs

Indirect costs are costs you charge across more than one project that cannot be easily separated by project. For example, this could include utilities for a building that supports multiple projects.

To incur indirect costs, you can select one of two methods:

**Method 1 – Approved rate.** You currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your cognizant federal agency at the time of award.

**Method 2 – *De minimis* rate.** Per [2 CFR § 200.414\(f\)](#), if you do not have a current negotiated indirect cost rate, you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate. If you choose this method, costs included in the indirect cost pool must not be charged as direct costs.

This rate is up to 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See [2 CFR § 200.1](#) for the definition of MTDC. You can use this rate indefinitely for all your federal awards or until you choose to receive a negotiated rate.

Consider your indirect costs when developing your [budget](#).

## Program income

Program income is money earned as a result of your award-supported project activities. You must use any program income you generate from awarded funds for approved project-related activities. Find more about program income at [2 CFR 200.307](#).

- If we receive more funding for this program, we may:
  - Extend the period of performance.
  - Award supplemental funding.

## Step 2: Get Ready to Apply

### Get registered

#### SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the [financial assistance general certifications and representations](#) specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

If you need additional information about user roles in SAM.gov, see “Get registered: SAM.gov user roles” in the [Application Guide](#).

#### Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#) and [How to Apply for Grants](#).

### Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it online. Go to [Grants Search at Grants.gov](#) and search for opportunity number HRSA-26-056.

After you select the opportunity, we recommend that you click the Subscribe button to get updates.

### Application writing help

Visit [HHS Tips for Preparing Grant Proposals](#).

Visit [HRSA’s How to Prepare Your Application](#) page for more guidance.

See [Apply for a Grant](#) for other help and resources.

### Join the webinar

For more information about this opportunity, join the webinar. More information on the HRSA-26-056 webinar will be posted at a later date to the [documents tab](#) in Grants.gov.

We recommend that you “Subscribe” to the NOFO on Grants.gov to receive updates when we post documents.

We will record the webinar.

**Have questions?** Go to [Contacts and Support](#).

## Step 3: Build Your Application

### Application checklist

There are two types of forms in Grants.gov.

- Some forms allow you to upload components of your application to the form. These include components like your project narrative, budget and budget narrative, and attachments, as applicable.
- Other forms are more typical, fill-in-the-blank forms.

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply.

#### Narratives

Form	Included in page limit*?
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Narrative	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget Narrative	Yes

#### Attachments

Insert each in the Attachments Form in this order.

Form	Included in page limit*?
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Work plan	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Staffing plan and job descriptions	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Biographical sketches	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Agreements with other entities	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Multi-year budgets, fifth year budget	No
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Project organizational chart	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Tables and charts	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Other relevant document	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 9. Other relevant document	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Other relevant document	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Other relevant document	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 12. Other relevant document	Yes

<input type="checkbox"/> 13. Other relevant document	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 14. Other relevant document	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 15. Other relevant document	Yes

**Other required forms**

Upload using each required form in Grants.gov.

<b>Forms</b>	<b>Submission requirement</b>
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With application.
Project Abstract Summary Form	With application.
Grants.gov Lobbying Form	With application.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL), optional	With application.
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	With application.
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF 424A)	With application.
Key Contacts	With application.

\*Only what you attach in these forms counts toward the page limit. The forms themselves do not count.

**Application contents and format**

This section includes guidance on each component found in the application checklist.

**Application page limit:** 60 pages.

Submit your information in English and express whole number budget figures using U.S. dollars.

**Required format**

Required format for project summary, project narrative, budget narrative, and attachments.

**Font:** A readable font like Arial, Courier, CG Times, or Times New Roman

**File format:** We only accept the following document formats:

- .PDF - Adobe Portable Document Format
- .DOC/.DOCX - Microsoft Word
- .RTF - Rich Text Format o .TXT - Text
- .WPD - Word Perfect Document
- .XLS/.XLSX - Microsoft Excel
- .VSD - Microsoft Visio

**Size:** 12-point font

Footnotes, charts, graphics, and budget tables may be 10-point or higher.

**Ink color:** Black

**Spacing:** Single-spaced, including all text and tables

**Alignment:** Left

**Headings:** Bold all headings and align left.

**Size:** 8.5 x 11 (Make sure the print area is set and allows printing to 8.5 x 11.)

**Margins:** 1-inch on all sides

**Footer:** On each page as the footer, include your organization's name and page numbers. If a competing continuation or competing supplement, also include your 10-digit award number.

**Page numbering:**

- Do not number the standard OMB-approved forms.
- Number each attachment page sequentially (that is, 1, 2, 3).
- Reset the numbering for each attachment.
- Treat each attachment as a separate section.

**File names:** You can find guidance for naming your files in the [Application Guide](#).

**Project narrative**

Introduction

**See merit review criterion 1:** [Need](#)

This section describes the purpose and overview of your proposed project. Applicants should:

- Include the vision and purpose of your Telehealth Center of Excellence.
- Explain your experience in telehealth and in operating a Telehealth Center of Excellence. Include how this will help you succeed.
- Provide a short summary of the proposed projects, who they will serve, how partners across the country will work together, and the main areas of focus.
- Describe how the proposed projects will help develop, implement, and evaluate innovative telehealth programs, and how they will strengthen the evidence base for telehealth and related technologies.

Need

**See merit review criterion 1:** [Need](#)

This section details the needs of the populations and areas you will serve. Use and cite demographic data for rural populations and populations with limited access to services with public health reports, and peer-reviewed literature to support the information presented.

- Describe the target populations with limited access to services of the existing Telehealth Center of Excellence and explain the needs that are currently being met by your telehealth services.
- Identify the target population and the health needs that are not being met, both nationally and in the specific areas the Telehealth Center of Excellence will focus on.
- Detail gaps in accessing care and telehealth services in the target populations.
- Discuss barriers to effective high-quality health care and telehealth in rural populations as well as populations with limited access to services. This may include health workforce shortages, limited access to specialty care, transportation challenges, and broadband or technology limitations. Then describe why telehealth is an important solution and how it can help overcome these challenges.

- Explain gaps in the telehealth research, including related to chronic disease prevention in rural populations and populations with limited access to services. Describe why we need more data to identify care models that are effective and can be expanded to reach more people.
- Describe national telehealth resources and technical assistance you or others provide. Identify any gaps.
- Discuss the key health challenges in your local area and state. Explain how addressing these issues can provide lessons or solutions that apply nationally. Include data to support your statements.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will use its experience addressing the need in your service area (local and state) to address needs on a national level.

#### Approach

See merit review criterion 2: [Response](#)

This section describes how you will address your stated needs and meet the program requirements and expectations described in this funding opportunity. Applicants should:

- Describe the proposed projects for the first budget year. You should propose projects that would produce findings that will advance telehealth nationally.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will conduct at least 20 telehealth projects each year, focusing on rural populations and populations with limited access to services. See the [Program requirements and expectations](#) section for the focus areas.
- Identify how the proposed projects and the Telehealth Center of Excellence will meet the needs identified. See the [Needs](#) section.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence identifies projects each year, assesses feasibility, determines milestones, dates, measures and products, and accurately forecasts costs.
- Discuss how projects will improve outcomes, reduce costs, increase access to care, and promote best practices and innovative approaches.
- Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will advance the use of telehealth on a national scale to improve health care in rural communities and populations with limited access to services.
- Identify what types of innovative telehealth technology will be used across the projects.
- Discuss what gaps the projects will address in the telehealth evidence base.
- Describe plans for ongoing staff training, teamwork, and internal information sharing.
- Identify how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will communicate and collaborate with other telehealth groups or organizations, including other HRSA-funded entities.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will share what it learns, both locally and across the country, so rural populations and populations with limited access to services can start or improve their own similar telehealth program. Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will share the results and products created through its projects.
- Detail how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will provide proactive technical assistance, outreach and education to health care providers, institutions, and stakeholders across the United States.

- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will create and maintain a redesigned website for projects where it will post completed projects, evaluation results, and other project materials.
- Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will use its experience addressing the need in your service area (local and state) to inform addressing need on a national level as a Telehealth Center of Excellence.
- Human subjects research: Are human subjects involved in the Telehealth Center of Excellence's proposed research project(s)? If the Telehealth Center of Excellence is planning research activities involving human subjects at any time during the five-year project period, indicate yes, even if the proposed project is exempt from the Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects at 45 CFR Part 46.
  - Indicate no if the Telehealth Center of Excellence is not planning any research activities involving human subjects.
  - If the answer is yes, indicate if the Institutional Review Board (IRB) review is pending. Provide the approval date if you received IRB approval.

#### High-level work plan

#### See merit review criteria 2: [Response](#) and 4: [Impact](#)

Share how you will achieve each of the objectives during the five-year period of performance. You must also include a detailed work plan in a table format in [Attachment 1](#): Work plan that aligns with the work plan you describe in this section.

- Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will implement innovative, evidence-based telehealth approaches over the five-year project period. Include activities that strengthen the health workforce, expand access to technology-enabled care, and support collaboration to improve outcomes in rural populations and populations with limited access to services.
- Include goals, objectives and key milestones for the full five-year period of performance. Show that your timelines are realistic and that the Telehealth Center of Excellence has the capacity to complete the work. Explain how you will meet the Telehealth Center of Excellence's proposed objectives.
- Identify key stakeholders and explain how they will help plan, design, and carry out project activities.
- Describe the results you expect from the Telehealth Center of Excellence's activities. Focus on how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will improve access to care, strengthen service quality, and support sustainable telehealth approaches.
- Provide plans to develop materials in the first year. These may include clinically informed manuscripts, policy briefs, reports, technical assistance documents, and other products.
- Describe the Telehealth Center of Excellence's project timeline and key steps. This includes forming partnerships, completing curriculum or protocol development, onboarding providers, and starting implementation.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will share reports, tools, and project results with the public and target audiences, such as health care providers, policymakers, and other partners. The Telehealth Center of Excellence must work with HRSA's OAT to

determine how this information is shared, including on platforms such as Telehealth.HHS.gov.

- Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will refine and improve project activities and products so they can be used widely and replicated in other settings beyond the original sites.
- For the first budget year, provide a short description of each of the 20 project proposals using the following outline:
  - **Project Title**
  - **Project Principal Investigator Information (name and degree)**
    - HRSA also strongly encourages each project to have a co-principal investigator as this information will be required as a post-award requirement.
  - **Health Focus Area:** Identify the health focus area or chronic condition that each project will focus on. Multiple conditions may be listed, if applicable.
  - **Project Description (2-3 sentences)**
  - **Geographic Coverage (1-2 sentences):** Describe the areas the project will serve, such as the specific states, counties, cities, or towns, and any specific groups of people within those areas.
  - **Organization Partners:** Identify specific partners, whether they have committed to the project and the number and names of each site that will be included. See [Attachment 4: Agreements with other entities](#).
  - **Data Sources (1 sentence):** Please clarify if this project will use primary or secondary data. Additional information will be required after the award. It is your responsibility to obtain reliable and accurate data. HRSA will not provide data.
  - **Human subjects research (1 sentence):** Are human subjects involved?
- Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will create and manage the public website for OAT-funded projects. The site should clearly present project materials. These include summaries, findings, reports, playbooks, toolkit, technical assistance documents, and other resources the public can use to carry out similar projects.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence projects will comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. This ensures that all electronic and information products are accessible.

Applicants must plan for the time needed to collect data, complete Institutional Review Board (IRB) review or approval (if required), and finish other regulatory or administrative steps. Include these timelines in your work plan schedule and deadlines. OAT may request more information for proposals, work plans and human subjects research (see [Post-award requirements](#) and [Administrative Requirements](#)).

Make sure this section aligns with the [Approach](#) section. Applicants must include a detailed work plan under [Attachment 1](#): Work plan that is consistent with the [Project Narrative](#).

You will also include a more detailed work plan in your attachments.

Resolving challenges

See merit review criterion 2: [Response](#)

Explain how you will address anticipated challenges or barriers that may arise during the project period. You should:

- Discuss current or expected challenges in the Telehealth Center of Excellence work plan. These may include issues with partnerships, staffing, technology, community challenges, or sustainability.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will identify challenges early in each project. Include how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will determine when project leads or principal investigators need support, and how you will provide that support.
  - Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will address these challenges. This may include technical support, changes in approach, or strategy adjustments.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will use ongoing feedback and monitoring to identify issues early and make needed changes.

Performance management

See merit review criteria 3: [Performance reporting and evaluation](#) and 5: [Resources and capabilities](#)

Describe how you will effectively collect, monitor, and evaluate project results

### **Evaluation**

- Demonstrate that the Telehealth Center of Excellence staff, organization, and partners have the ability to collect and report data on project outcomes and impact.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will choose evaluation measures and how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will use data to evaluate and measure each project.
- Describe the Telehealth Center of Excellence's data collection methods to measure outcomes and impact. Identify possible challenges and how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will address them.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will gather input from the service area and target population to inform data collection.

### **Performance Management**

- Demonstrate the ability of the Telehealth Center of Excellence staff, organization, and partners to collect and report data on progress and performance.
- Describe your project management plans for the Telehealth Center of Excellence. Identify who is responsible, and how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will ensure it is on target to meet its goals and deliverables.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will collect and use data to track and evaluate progress toward its goals. Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will regularly review performance, identify challenges, and make improvements when needed.
- Identify how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will assess the success of the products produced.
- Explain who is responsible for tracking product use. Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will track who uses your products, how widely they are shared, how effective they are, and whether other organizations can use or repeat them.

- Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will monitor use by health care providers, health systems, community partners, policymakers, and researchers.
- Explain the Telehealth Center of Excellence's quality control process. Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will ensure data is accurate, reliable, thorough, clear, and consistent. Also, explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will ensure final products are accurate, error-free, and easy to understand.
- Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will manage and store data securely. Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will protect data from cybersecurity threats, breaches, or other loss of data integrity.

See [Reporting](#) for more information.

Sustainability

**See merit review criterion 4: [Impact](#)**

You will be expected to sustain project elements that improve services, practices, and outcomes for the target population after federal funding ends. Discuss your plan to maintain the activities and services after federal funding ends.

- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will continue successful telehealth programs after federal funding ends. Describe how organizations, health systems, or communities will support these efforts.
- Discuss past HRSA-funded Telehealth Center of Excellence projects that continued or expanded, or are planned to continue or expand, after funding ended. Explain what factors supported their success.
- Identify key elements of the Telehealth Center of Excellence projects and explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will sustain successful telehealth programs.
- Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence's partnerships with health care providers, universities, community organizations, and state and local agencies will help continue and expand telehealth services over time.
- Explain how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will improve, adapt, and expand project activities and materials based on results. Describe how project results and lessons learned will help others use these approaches in different settings or with different populations.
- Describe how the Telehealth Center of Excellence will continue to share project products and evidence. Explain how providers, health systems, community partners, and policymakers will be able to use these resources to improve health outcomes, especially in rural populations and populations with limited access to services.
- Identify possible sources of support to sustain the program after the five-year period of performance.
- Describe challenges or risks to sustaining the projects and explain how you will address them.

Organizational information

**See merit review criterion 5: [Resources and capabilities](#)**

Describe your organizational structure, your telehealth center, and your proposed partners. Explain their ability to implement activities in the work plan.

- Describe your organization’s mission, structure, current activities, and telehealth experience. Include experience with chronic diseases and work across multiple states or at the national level. Explain how your experience, including work with populations with limited access to services, prepares you to meet program requirements.
- Explain the strengths of your telehealth program. Include how long it has existed, how it has grown, and any changes in the number of patients served or types of services offered.
- Describe the staff, systems, and resources that will support the Telehealth Center of Excellence projects. This includes administrative support, clinical expertise, research and evaluation capacity, data support, and information technology. Clearly define each person’s role, responsibilities, and reporting structure. Complete [Attachment 3](#): Biographical sketches.
- Describe your organizational and staffing capacity to implement and sustain the Telehealth Centers of Excellence projects. Complete [Attachment 6](#): Project organizational chart.

Your staffing should include roles and FTEs as included below:

- Project Director (Overall COE Project Director)
- Deputy Project Director (Overall COE Project Deputy Director)
- COE Project Manager (Overall COE Project Manager)
- Core project implementation team
- Core data analysis team
- Core research team
- Technical Writer/Editor
- Communications Specialist

Except for the project director and deputy project director, multiple staff roles may be filled by the same individual. For example, a member of the core research staff can also serve as the project manager. The individual should have the appropriate qualifications and time to fulfill all assigned responsibilities

Describe the following for the **project director**:

- Evidence of successfully managing a Telehealth Center of Excellence team leading and sharing telehealth-related work. The project director should have at least eight years of experience working in telehealth-focused health services research, or similar experience.
- Experience informing and educating national, state, and community decision-makers about health and access issues for rural populations and populations with limited access to services.

HRSA recommends that the project director devote at least 25 percent of their time to the Telehealth Center of Excellence. The project director must not duplicate FTE and responsibilities across other OAT funded programs.

The project director will lead the development and realization of the Telehealth Center of Excellence projects portfolio. They will serve as the lead investigator on at least five of your proposed projects. They are also responsible for the administrative oversight of the Telehealth Center and Excellence and for reviewing all draft products.

HRSA strongly suggests that the project director have a strong record of telehealth publications that focus on populations with limited access to services. The project director should also have at least eight years of relevant experience, including work with populations with limited access to services and telehealth-focused health services research, and a medical or doctoral degree

Describe the following for the **deputy project director**:

- Experience, including roles and responsibilities in organizational lines of authority, conducting telehealth-focused research.
- Experience informing and educating national, state, and community decision-makers about health and access issues in rural populations and populations with limited access to services.
- Process to assume the project director's duties during short-term or extended leave, such as vacation or sabbatical.

HRSA recommends that the deputy director devote at least 20 percent of his or her time to the Telehealth Center of Excellence. The deputy program director must not duplicate FTE and responsibilities across other OAT funded programs.

- The core data analysis staff should be multi-disciplinary. They must have the education and professional experience needed to conduct data analysis to meet program goals. This includes collecting data from a variety of resources, cleaning and preparing data, using statistical tools and analytical methods, identifying trends and relationships, validating data, interpreting results, and creating data visualizations.
- The core research staff should also be multi-disciplinary. They must have education and professional experience needed to conduct the proposed research. This may include staff with social science backgrounds (such as sociology, epidemiology, demography, economics, organizational behavior, statistics, public health, political science, or geography) as well as clinical experience.
- An editor or technical writer must also be included on staff. This person should review study drafts before submission to OAT for review to ensure high quality. Identify this individual in the line-item budget.
- Describe the following for the Communications Specialist:
  - Experience managing and sharing health information to different audiences across multiple platforms. These may include briefing documents, newsletters, social media, websites, and other public-facing avenues.
  - Proven ability to produce clear, accurate, and high-quality communications that are carefully reviewed and free of errors. This ensures Telehealth Center of Excellence findings and resources are shared effectively.
- Describe your experience managing partnerships. Include how you manage contracts and subawards in a timely and effective way, including across multiple states and organizations. Include additional information in [Attachment 4](#): Agreements with other entities.
  - Explain how you structure your partnerships.
  - Describe how you communicate and coordinate with partners to meet project objectives.

- If you will issue subawards or contracts, explain how you will ensure proper documentation of funds.
- Describe your organization and team’s experience managing federal grants or cooperative agreements. Include how you manage projects, accurately and precisely oversee budgets, and meet HRSA requirements. Demonstrate that you have a high-functioning team with experience managing large grants.
- Explain how you will follow the approved plan, track and report federal funds by funding year, record costs accurately, and use clear policies and internal controls to ensure accountability, quality, and audit readiness.
- Provide evidence of your organization’s commitment to the project.

**Budget and budget narrative**

**See merit review criterion 6: [Support requested](#)**

Your **budget** should follow the instructions in budget narrative: detailed instructions section of the Application Guide and the instructions listed in this section. Your budget should show a well-organized plan.

HHS now uses the definitions for [equipment](#) and [supply](#) in 2 CFR 200.1. The new definitions change the threshold for equipment to the lesser of the recipient’s capitalization level or \$10,000 and the threshold for supplies to below that amount.

The total project or program costs are all allowable (direct and indirect) costs used for the HRSA award activity or project. This includes costs charged to the award and non-federal funds used to satisfy a matching or cost-sharing requirement (which may include maintenance of effort, if applicable).

The **budget narrative** supports the information you provide in Standard Form 424-A. It includes an itemized breakdown and a clear justification of the costs you request. The merit review committee reviews both.

As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are reasonable, allowable and allocable, and consistent with your project’s purpose and activities.
- The restrictions on spending funds. See [funding policies and limitations](#).
- Travel funds for at least two staff members to attend at least one annual recipient meeting must be included as a budget line-item.
- Recipients are encouraged to disseminate learnings broadly, but this award does not support conference sponsorships.

To create your budget narrative, see budget narrative detailed instructions in the Application Guide.

**Attachments**

**Place your attachments in this order in the Attachments Form.** See [application checklist](#) to determine if they count toward the page limit.

Unless the instructions below require it, do not submit organizational brochures or other promotional materials (for example, slides, films, clips).

#### Attachment 1: Work Plan

Your work plan must contain all required elements for the project and include a matrix or table. Provide a timeline for all five years of the award and activities or steps to achieve each of the proposed projects during the period of performance.

**It must include everything required in the [Project narrative](#) and the [Work Plan](#) sections.**

Work plans should also include:

- Proposed Project Funding Amount.
- Whether it is a continued project or new.
- Type of Technology that will be used.
- Project Maturity: Identify the proposed project stage using the terms and definitions below.
  - Exploratory/Pilot: The service or program is tested on a small scale and improved over time based on real world use. Workflows are in place, and the sustainable pilot is ready to grow.
  - Intermediate/Established: Standard operating procedures are in place. The service or program is maintaining expected volumes and is expected to endure.
  - Mature: The service or program is fully scaled and is sustainable.
- Specific activities, actions, or milestones. Include clear timelines for each.
- Specified outcome measures, such as improved patient or provider satisfaction, increased efficiency, etc.
- Individuals and organizations responsible for each activity.
- Proposed deliverables and their timelines. All projects must include at least two deliverables per year, such as a manuscript, technical assistance document, presentation, etc.
  - Include the time needed for data collection, IRB review or approval (if required), and other regulatory or administrative steps.

#### Attachment 2: Staffing plan and job descriptions

See Section 3.1.7 of the Application Guide.

Provide a staffing plan identifying project roles, qualifications, and time commitments. Justify staffing choices based on education, experience, and level of effort. Explain your reasons for the amount of time you request for each staff position.

For each key staff member, attach a one-page job description. It must include their role, responsibilities, FTE, and qualifications. If the project director also serves as a project director for other federal awards, list the federal awards and the percent FTE for each federal award. See note above in [Organizational Information](#) section.

#### Attachment 3: Biographical sketches

Include biographical sketches for people who will hold the key positions you describe in [Attachment 2](#), with one or fewer pages per person.

Do not include non-public, [personally identifiable information](#). If you include someone you have not hired yet, provide a letter of commitment from that person along with the biographical sketch.

**Attachment 4: Agreements with other entities**

Include a list or table with each project. For each project, include the names of proposed partners and collaborators. Indicate whether each partner has confirmed their role or if it is still pending. Describe each partner's commitment including their role, function, and any materials they will provide. Identify the type of partnership, such as a contract, subaward, Memorandum of Understanding, or other agreement. Provide contact information for each partner’s point of contact. HRSA may request additional information.

**Attachment 5: For multi-year budgets, fifth year budget**

For the fifth budget year, submit a copy of Section B of the SF-424A as an attachment. We do not count this in the page limit, however, any related budget narrative does count. See Section 3.1.4 of the [Application Guide](#).

**Attachment 6: Project organizational chart**

Provide a one-page diagram that shows the full project’s organizational structure.

**Attachment 7: Tables and charts**

Provide tables or charts that give more detail about the proposal. These might be Gantt, PERT, or flow charts.

**Attachment 8-15: Other relevant documents**

You may use attachments 8 through 15 to add other relevant documents.

**Other required forms**

You will need to complete some other forms. Upload the following forms at Grants.gov. You can find them in the NOFO [application package](#) or review them and any available instructions at [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Forms	Submission requirement
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With application.
Project Abstract Summary Form	With application.
Grants.gov Lobbying Form	With application.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL), optional	With application.
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	With application.
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF 424A)	With application.
Key Contacts	With application.

**Form instructions**

The application guide has detailed instructions for:

- The [Application for Federal Assistance \(SF-424\)](#).

- The [Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs \(SF-424A\)](#).

**Project abstract summary form instructions**

Complete the information in the Project Abstract Summary form. Include a short description of your proposed project. Include the needs you plan to address, the proposed services, and the population groups you plan to serve. For more information, see Section 3.1.2 of the [Application Guide](#).

**Important: Public information**

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant’s Project.

We share what you put there with [USAspending](#). This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends their money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

[See instructions and examples.](#)

**Step 4: Understand Review, Selection, and Award**

**Application review**

**Initial review**

We will review your application to make sure that it meets [eligibility](#) criteria, and the requirements in this NOFO. If your application does not meet eligibility criteria, it will not be funded. If your application does not meet other criteria, we will not fund it.

**Merit review**

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. You can find more about the merit review process in the [Application Guide](#). The members use these criteria.

Criterion	Total number of points = 1
1. Need	10 points
2. Response	35 points
3. Performance reporting and evaluation	15 points
4. Impact	15 points
5. Resources and capabilities	20 points
6. Support requested	5 points

Criterion 1: Need (10 points)

See the project narrative [Introduction](#) and [Need](#) sections.

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Clearly describes the vision and purpose of your Telehealth Center of Excellence.

- Explains how your experience in telehealth, evaluation, and partnerships prepares your organization for success as a national model.
- Describes the rural populations and other populations you serve, the services you provide, and the needs you address.
- Explains who you will serve, the geographic areas you will cover, and the unmet health needs at both the national level and in your focus area.
- Uses demographic data, public health reports, and peer-reviewed literature to support the description of rural populations and populations with limited access to services and their health challenges.
- Provides a clear summary of the proposed projects, including who they will serve, how partners across the country will work together, and the main focus areas.
- Explains how proposed projects will strengthen the evidence base for innovative telehealth programs and technologies.
- Details specific gaps in access to care and telehealth services among target populations, especially in rural populations and populations with limited access to services. Clearly explains why telehealth is a critical strategy to address barriers and improve access, quality, and outcomes.
- Identifies gaps in telehealth research, including gaps related to chronic disease prevention and management in rural populations and populations with limited access to services.
- Describes the need for more data to inform effective and scalable telehealth models.
- Explains how you will help close these evidence gaps.
- Describes existing national telehealth resources and technical assistance provided and identifies gaps you will address.
- Discusses key health challenges in your local area and state, using data. Explains how addressing these challenges can produce lessons, models, or evidence that can be used at the national level.

Criterion 2: Response (35 points)

The panel will review your application for how well it:

**Methodology (15 points)**

- Describes how you will advance telehealth at the national level and meet identified needs (see [Needs](#) section).
- Explains how you will implement at least 20 telehealth projects each year focused on rural populations and populations with limited access to services.
- Clearly describes the projects planned for the first budget year and how they will produce findings that advance telehealth nationally.
- Explains how you will select projects each year. Include how you will assess feasibility, timelines, milestones, measures, products, and costs.
- Discusses innovative telehealth technologies you will use. Explain how they will improve access, quality, outcomes and cost-effectiveness, and how they will address gaps in telehealth research and evidence.
- Shares how you will provide proactive technical assistance, outreach, and education to providers and stakeholders across the country.

- Describes how you will work with other telehealth groups, including HRSA-funded entities.
- Details plans for ongoing staff training, teamwork, and internal communication to support high-quality implementation. Describe how you will support project leads or principal investigators.
- Explains how you will share findings, tools, best practices and successful models with other communities and at the national level.
- Details how you will partner with other organizations and include all required information in [Attachment 4](#).
- Discusses how you will create and maintain a website for OAT-funded projects.

### **Work plan (15 points)**

- Describes how you will implement innovative, evidence-based telehealth projects. Include realistic goals, objectives, and key milestones for the full five-year period.
- Includes a detailed five-year work plan ([Attachment 1](#)) that aligns with the [Project narrative](#).
- Provides timelines for key steps such as partnership agreements, curriculum or protocol development, onboarding providers, data collection, IRB review (if needed), and regulatory approvals.
- Includes specific plans to develop materials in the first year. These may include manuscripts, policy briefs, reports, technical assistance documents, and other products.
- Identifies key stakeholders and partners and explains their roles in planning and carrying out activities.
- Provides all required information for each of the 20 first-year projects. Include the title, principal investigator, health focus area, project description, geographic coverage, organization partners, and data sources.

### **Resolving challenges (5 points)**

- Identifies current or potential challenges, such as staffing, partnerships, technology, sustainability, or community barriers.
- Explains how you will identify challenges early in each project and make needed changes.
- Includes how you will recognize when project leads or project principal investigators need support and how you will provide that support.
- Discusses how you will resolve challenges and barriers.

Criterion 3: Performance reporting and evaluation (15 points)

**See the project narrative [Performance reporting and evaluation](#) section.**

The panel will review your application to the extent it:

#### Evaluation

- Details that staff, your organization, and partners have the skills, experience and systems needed to collect, manage, and report data on project outcomes and impact.
- Provides a clear and detailed explanation of how you will choose evaluation measures and use data to evaluate and identify challenges or gaps. Includes how those challenges will be addressed.

- Explains how you will receive input from the community and target population on data collection.

#### Performance measurement

- Shows that your staff, organization, and partners have the skills, experience and systems needed to collect, manage, and report data on project progress and performance.
- Explains how you will collect and use data to track progress toward goals. Describe how you will review performance regularly, meet timelines and deliverables, and identify challenges early, and make improvements.
- Clearly describes the project management plan for the Telehealth Center of Excellence. Identify who is responsible for overseeing activities, meeting goals, and delivering required products.
- Describes how you will adjust projects if they are not meeting expectations.
- Explains how you will measure the success of products, including who will track their use and impact.
- Describes how you will track who is using your products, how widely they are shared, how effective they are, and whether other organizations adopt them.
- Explains how you will review materials and products to ensure they are clear, concise, and free of errors. Describe your internal review process and how you will ensure data and written materials are accurate, complete, reliable, and consistent.
- Details how you will manage and securely store data. Explain how you will protect it from cybersecurity threats, breaches, or other loss of data integrity.

#### Criterion 4: Impact (15 points)

The panel will review your application for:

- Whether it clearly identifies gaps in current telehealth knowledge.
- A clear understanding of how project results – such as findings, reports, manuscripts, policy briefs, and implementation tools – will help providers, health systems, community partners, and policymakers improve health outcomes through telehealth.
- The expected impact of the proposed projects on the target population and on expanding telehealth services.
- The strength of telehealth-enabled activities, including whether they are well-designed, clinically informed, and realistic.
- How appropriate the timeline is.
- How well it describes strategies, expected results, outcomes, products, and overall impacts.
- Whether it clearly explains how you will monitor progress and improve health outcomes among the target population using performance and outcome measures or benchmarks.
- The thoroughness and feasibility of your plans for sharing project results with target populations, key stakeholders, and other audiences at the local, state, regional and national levels.
- Whether it explains how partnerships, tools and activities will be maintained, improved, or expanded over time.

- How likely the program is to continue after federal funding ends, including whether it identifies potential sources of support after the five-year period of performance.
- How findings will support long-term improvements in health outcomes in rural populations and populations with limited access to services.

Criterion 5: Resources and capabilities (20 points)

See the project narrative [Organizational information](#) and [Performance reporting and evaluation](#) sections.

The panel will review your application to determine the extent to which it:

- Describes your organization's experience designing and implementing telehealth programs in rural populations and populations with limited access to services. Explain how this experience will help you meet program requirements.
- Shows that your organization has the structure, resources, and systems needed to manage a large number of projects. This includes administrative, clinical, research, data, and IT systems.
- Demonstrates strong project management processes and systems to meet HRSA requirements and complete deliverables on time.
- Outlines staffing, training, and qualifications, including requirements for the project director and other staffing roles (see Organizational Information). Show that your team has the skills training and experience needed for the program and proposed projects.
- Confirms that staff roles meet the required positions and that FTEs are not duplicated across other HRSA OAT-funded programs, as outlined in Organizational Information.
- Describes your experience building and managing partnerships. Include how you manage contracts and subawards on time and with proper documentation, and how you communicate regularly with partners.
- Shows that you have strong quality control processes to ensure products are accurate, detailed and consistent.
- Thoroughly explains your ability to collect, manage, and use data for analysis and developing products for dissemination.
- Describes how you will track progress toward project goals, monitor performance measures, and use data to regularly review results and make improvements.
- Explains how your team will follow federal rules and reporting requirements. Include your internal controls and policies that ensure accountability, quality, and audit readiness.
- Shows how you will monitor budgets and track federal funds by funding year.
- Demonstrates your experience managing federally funded programs or other large grant programs accurately and effectively.

Criterion 6: Support requested (5 points)

See the [Budget and budget narrative](#) section.

The panel will review your application to determine:

- How reasonable the proposed budget is for each year of the period of performance.
- How reasonable costs are and how well they align with the project's scope.

- How sufficient the time is for key staff to spend on the project to achieve project objectives.

Please see additional requirements in the [Budget](#) section. To create your budget and budget narrative, see detailed instructions in [Section 3.1.5 of the Application Guide](#).

We do not consider **voluntary** cost sharing during merit review.

### **Risk review**

Before making an award, we review your award history to assess risk. We need to ensure all prior awards were managed well and demonstrated sound business practices. We:

- Review any applicable past performance.
- Review audit reports and findings.
- Analyze the budget.
- Assess your management systems.
- Ensure you continue to be eligible.
- Make sure you comply with any public policies.

We may ask you to submit additional information.

As part of this review, we use SAM.gov Entity Information [Responsibility/Qualification](#) to check your history for all awards likely to be more than \$250,000 over the period of performance. You can comment on your organization's information in SAM.gov. We'll consider your comments before making a decision about your level of risk.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see [2 CFR 200.206](#).

## **Selection process**

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- The amount of available funds.
- Assessed risk.
- Merit review results. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- The larger portfolio of HRSA-funded projects, including project type and geographic distribution.
- The funding priorities, funding preferences, and special considerations listed.
- [Alignment with HRSA Mission and Strategic Priorities](#)

We may:

- Fund out of rank order.
- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.

- Decide not to allow a recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

Additionally, we may not make an award if you are delinquent on two or more Single Audit Reports.

You cannot appeal a denial, or the amount of funds awarded.

## **Award notices**

We issue Notices of Award (NOA) on or around the [start date](#) listed in the NOFO. See “how we make awards” in the [Application Guide](#) for more information.

By drawing down funds, you accept the terms and conditions of the award.

## **Step 5: Submit Your Application**

### **Application submission and deadlines**

Your organization’s authorized official must certify your application. See the section on [finding the application package](#) to make sure you have everything you need.

#### **Application deadline**

**You must submit your application by 07/08/2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives applications.

If you need a deadline extension, see “requesting a waiver” in the [Application Guide](#).

#### **Submission method**

Grants.gov

You must submit your application through Grants.gov. You may do so using Grants.gov Workspace. This is the preferred method. For alternative online methods, see [Applicant System-to-System](#).

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Make sure that your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks, or we may not get it. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files.

If Grants.gov rejects your application due to errors, you must correct and resubmit before the deadline.

If you want to know more about correcting errors or tracking your application, you can refer to the [Application Guide](#).

**Have questions?** Go to [Contacts and Support](#).

## **Other submissions**

### **Intergovernmental review**

This NOFO is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. No action is needed.

## Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award

### Post-award requirements and administration

#### Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you need to know if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award (NOA). We incorporate this NOFO by reference.
- The regulations at [2 CFR Part 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, modifications at [2 CFR Part 300](#), and any superseding regulations.
- The [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#). Your NOA will reference this document. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your NOA.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in [HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#).
- The requirements for performance management in [2 CFR 200.301](#).
- All anti-discrimination laws: By applying for or accepting federal funds from HHS, you certify compliance with all federal antidiscrimination laws and these requirements. Complying with those laws is a material condition of receiving federal funding streams. You are responsible for ensuring subrecipients, contractors, and partners also comply.
- OAT's requests for additional information for proposals, work plans and human subjects research (see also [Administrative Requirements](#)).
- HRSA's guidance to support collaboration with HRSA's Telehealth Resource Centers, the Telehealth Research Centers, and other HRSA recipients.

#### Required Alignment with HRSA Mission and Strategic Priorities

Recipients must use funds awarded under this NOFO to implement program goals or agency priorities in accordance with the HRSA [vision, mission, core values, and strategic priorities](#), where authorized by law.

In administering programs under this and all funding announcements, HRSA prioritizes:

- **Evidence-based healthcare:** Funding activities supported by rigorous scientific evidence, particularly for programs serving children and adolescents, where HRSA is committed to approaches that reflect the highest standards of clinical care and child safety.
- **Biological and physiological integrity:** Recognizing the relevance of biological sex to health outcomes, HRSA encourages applicants to account for sex-based health factors in program design, data collection, and service delivery where scientifically appropriate.

HRSA will implement these priorities consistent with applicable laws, regulations, court orders, and all required administrative procedures. Applicants are encouraged to describe how their proposed programs align with these priorities in their project narratives.

Funded activities must advance HRSA's vision of protecting and improving the health and well-being of Americans. The particular focus is on those who are medically vulnerable or live in areas with limited access to care. HRSA's duty is to serve wisely, effectively, and with

measurable results that justify every taxpayer dollar invested. HRSA's duty is to serve wisely, effectively, and with measurable results that justify every taxpayer dollar invested.

Consistent with HRSA's priorities, in carrying out any project funded under this NOFO, the recipient must adhere to the following principles, where they are consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

- **Gold standard science:** Design and deliver services using gold standard evidence-based and evidence-informed approaches, establish measurable performance goals, and use data to monitor outcomes and drive continuous improvement.
- **Program integrity and fiscal stewardship:** Recipients must:
  - Administer funds in accordance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and award conditions.
  - Maintain strong internal controls.
  - Prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.
- **Partnership and local leadership:** Coordinate with state, tribal, territorial, local, and community partners, as appropriate, and tailor services to meet community-identified needs while respecting local decision-making authority.

Recipients must manage any project awarded under this NOFO in accordance with the following objectives in programs authorized to advance them:

**Make America Healthy Again (MAHA):** HRSA prioritizes the health and well-being of all Americans by supporting common-sense, evidence-based health policies that promote:

- Personal responsibility.
- Strong families and communities.
- Proper nutrition.
- The prevention and management of chronic disease, while ensuring access to high-quality, affordable physical and mental health care.

**Child protections, biological integrity, parental rights, and lawful use of funds:** HRSA prioritizes safeguarding children's health and safety by:

- Not supporting medical interventions for gender dysphoria in minors that lack a strong evidence base.
- Applying sex-based definitions grounded in biological reality.
- Supporting parental authority, transparency, and choice in education, including school-based health centers that respect parental rights and religious upbringing.
- Ensuring taxpayer funds are not used to promote or support elective abortions, consistent with federal law and the Hyde Amendment.

**Advancing evidence-based, merit-driven, and ethically grounded health care:** HRSA will prioritize unbiased, transparent science; merit-based workforce opportunities; and programs that demonstrate measurable outcomes, while deprioritizing organizations with:

- Conflicts of interest.
- "Harm reduction" models.

- Housing-first approaches.
- Activities that facilitate illegal drug use or unsafe medical practices.

**Promoting public safety, lawful use of federal funds, and national health priorities:** To the extent permitted by law, HRSA will align funding with administration priorities by:

- Supporting ending the HIV epidemic through authorized, evidence-based care.
- Reserving benefits for eligible individuals.
- Discouraging illegal immigration and unsafe community practices.
- Prioritizing recipients that enforce public safety, address serious mental illness and substance use through treatment and recovery, and reduce homelessness responsibly.

To the extent allowable by law, under awards, HRSA will give priority to states and municipalities for programs to:

- Enforce prohibitions on open illicit drug use.
- Enforce prohibitions on urban camping and loitering.
- Enforce prohibitions on urban squatting.
- Enforce, and where necessary, adopt, standards that address individuals who are a danger to themselves or others and suffer from serious mental illness or substance use disorder, or who are living on the streets and cannot care for themselves. The approach must be through assisted outpatient treatment or by moving them into treatment centers or other appropriate facilities through civil commitment or other available means, to the maximum extent permitted by law.

HRSA will implement these priorities consistent with applicable laws, regulations, court orders, and any required procedures.

The recipient must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these priorities, in all programs that are authorized to advance them, through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation.

Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with the applicable requirements may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, or other actions consistent with federal grant regulations at [2 CFR Part 200](#) and the terms and conditions of this award. This includes termination under [2 CFR § 200.340\(a\)\(4\)](#) if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.

**Cybersecurity**

- If awarded, you must develop plans and procedures, modeled after the NIST Cybersecurity framework, to protect HHS systems and data. See [details here](#).

**HIT**

Successful applicants under this NOFO agree that:

Where award funding involves:	Recipients and subrecipients are required to:
Implementing, acquiring, or upgrading health IT for activities funded by any entity	Use health IT that meets standards and implementation specifications adopted in 45 CFR 170, Subpart B, if such

	standards and implementation specifications can support the activity.  Visit to <a href="#">45 CFR 170, Subpart B</a> learn more.
Implementing, acquiring, or upgrading health IT for activities by eligible clinicians in ambulatory settings, or hospitals, eligible under Sections 4101, 4102, and 4201 of the HITECH Act	Use health IT certified under the ONC Health IT Certification Program if certified technology can support the activity.  Visit <a href="https://www.healthit.gov/topic/certification-ehrs/certification-health-it">https://www.healthit.gov/topic/certification-ehrs/certification-health-it</a> to learn more.

If standards and implementation specifications adopted in [45 CFR part 170, Subpart B](#) cannot support the activity, recipients and subrecipients are encouraged to use health IT that meets non-proprietary standards and implementation specifications developed by consensus-based standards development organizations. This may include standards identified in the ONC Interoperability Standards Advisory, available at <https://www.healthit.gov/isp/>.

## Reporting

If you are funded, you will have to follow the reporting requirements in “reporting” section of the [Application Guide](#). The NOA will provide specific details.

You must also follow these program-specific reporting requirements:

- Progress report(s) each year
- Annual Performance reports.
- Quarterly progress reports.
- Ad hoc reports as requested by OAT.
- **Federal Financial Report.** The Federal Financial Report (SF-425) is required. The report is an accounting of expenditures under the project that year. Financial reports must be submitted electronically. Visit [Reporting Requirements | HRSA](#). More specific information will be included in the NOA.
- **Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT) Recipient Directory:** If you receive and accept this award, you must provide information for Recipient Directory Profiles. HRSA will provide further instructions.
- **Final Sustainability Plan:** As part of receiving the award, recipients are required to submit a final sustainability plan by month six of the third year of the award. This sustainability plan will be different and more robust than the plan submitted with the original application. Further information on what to include in this plan will be provided upon receipt of the award.
- **Final report.** You must provide a final report 120 days after the period of performance ends. You must submit the report through HRSA’s GrantSolutions site. We will provide

full information upon receipt of award, but the final report will collect information such as:

- Program-specific goals and progress on strategies.
- Performance measurement data.
- Results and impact of the overall project.
- Objectives and accomplishments.
- Challenges and barriers encountered and addressed.

## Contacts and Support

### Agency contacts

#### Program and eligibility

Tracy Tendo

Public Health Analyst

Attn:

Telehealth Centers of Excellence

Health Resources and Services Administration

[TTendo@hrsa.gov](mailto:TTendo@hrsa.gov)

240-706-3460

#### Financial and budget

Kim Ross

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#### HRSA contact center

**Open Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET**, except for federal holidays.

**Call:** 877-464-4772 / 877-Go4-HRSA

**TTY:** 877-897-9910

[Electronic Handbooks Contact Center](#)

### Help with systems

#### Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. You can call 800-518-4726, search the [Grants.gov Knowledge Base](#), or [email Grants.gov for support](#). Hold on to your ticket number.

#### SAM.gov

If you need help, you can call 866-606-8220 or live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

#### Helpful websites

- [Application Guide](#)
- [HRSA Grants page](#)

- [HHS Tips for Preparing Grant Proposals](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Applicant Training](#)
- [Manage Your Grant](#)
- [HRSA Office for the Advancement of Telehealth](#)
- [Rural Health Information Hub](#)
- [RHI Hub – Community Health Workers in Rural Settings](#)
- [National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers](#)
- [2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines](#) and [RealFood.gov](#)
- [Telehealth.HHS.gov](#) and [Telehealth.HHS.gov Best Practice Guides](#)

## **Footnotes**