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# Rural Tribal COVID-19 Response

## HRSA-20-135

*Technical Assistance Resource*



# Disclaimer

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*The **Rural Tribal COVID-19 Response Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)** and **HRSA's SF-424 Application Guide** should be your primary resources for application instructions and guidelines. This webinar will merely provide a brief overview of the NOFO and answer any questions you might have at this stage in the process.*



# Background on RTCR

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- Created in FY20 with \$15 million appropriation from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed on March 27, 2020
- Part of HRSA-wide initiative to combat the COVID-19 pandemic among vulnerable and underserved populations
- <https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus>
- RTCR housed in the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
- We have had many discussions with tribal leaders and stakeholders about this program to get an understanding of the needs and took their feedback into consideration when designing this program



# Purpose of RTCR (page 1 of the NOFO)

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**“...to provide maximum flexibility to assist tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, and health service providers to tribes to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus and the evolving needs in rural communities.”**



# Funding Overview (pp. ii, 2 of the NOFO)

- Approximately 50 grant awards
- Up to \$300,000 per award
  - Recipients will receive the full amount in the first year of the two-year period of performance
- Cost sharing/match **not** required
- Period of performance:
  - May 31, 2020 to May 30, 2022 (**two years**)
- Funding restrictions—cannot use RTCR funds for the following purposes:
  - For construction
  - To pay for any equipment costs not directly related to the purposes for which the grant was awarded
- More information can be found in [HRSA's SF-424 Application Guide](#)



# Eligibility—Applicant Organization (pp. 3-4)

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- Tribes
- Tribal organizations
- Urban Indian health organizations
- Health service providers to tribes
- Should have the staffing and infrastructure necessary to oversee program activities and serve as the fiscal agent for the grant



# Eligibility—Target Population (pg. 2)

Applicant organizations can be located in rural or urban areas, but **all activities supported by RTCR must exclusively target populations residing in HRSA-designated rural areas**, as defined by <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health?tab=Address>



**Question:** Is it problematic if we target rural populations, but urban populations also happen to benefit?  
**Answer:** Positive spillover effects are welcome, but your project should exclusively target rural populations.

# Possible Activities (page 4)

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- **Outreach/education**
- **Establishing testing sites**
- **Purchasing test kits**
- **Implementing telehealth**
- **Purchasing PPE/supplies**
- **Hiring/training health care providers**
- **Other needs you may have**



# Overview of Application Components (pp. 4-7)

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- **Project Narrative**
  - **Proof of Eligibility**
  - **Overview of the rural tribal population to be served**
  - **Needs of the population to be served and plan to respond**
  - **Staffing**
- **Budget Narrative**
- **SF-424A Budget Form**
- **SF-424 Application Form**



# Project Narrative (pp. 5-7)

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- **Proof of Eligibility:** Federally-recognized tribe designation or how you meet the eligibility criteria.
- **Overview of the rural tribal population to be served:**  
Demographic overview of the rural population that you will serve (size and health status of the population, access to health care providers, etc.)
- **Needs of the population to be served and plan to respond:**  
Describe the needs of the population to be served related to COVID-19 and how you will meet those needs with RTCR funds.
- **Staffing:** Describe who will be managing this award and/or responsible for carrying out grant activities.



# Budget & Budget Narrative (pp. 6-8)

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- Budgets and budget narratives must adhere to guidance outlined in Sections 4.1iv 4.1v of HRSA's [SF-424 Application Guide](#)
- Budget requests must not exceed \$300,000 for the two-year period of performance (inclusive of direct and indirect costs)



# Attachments (page 7)

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- **Attachment 1:** Project Narrative
- **Attachment 2:** Budget Narrative
- **Attachment 3:** Map of Service Area (Optional)
- **Attachment 4:** Any Additional Supporting Documentation (Optional)



# Review Criteria (pp. 9-10)

- Eligibility (1 point) 
- Demographic Overview (3 points)
- Needs of the Population (5 points)
- Plan to Address Needs (5 points)
- Plan to Serve Exclusively Rural Population (3 points)
- Designated Person to Manage the Grant (2 points)
- Budget Narrative (5 points)
- Acknowledgement of other COVID-19 funds/no other funds (1 point)
- Completed SF-424 Budget Form (1 point)
- No funding priority points or preference

***TOTAL: 26 possible points***



# Reporting Requirements (pp. 11-12)

- **Annual progress reports**

- The recipient must submit a progress report to HRSA on an annual basis. More information will be available in the Notice of Award.

- **Federal Financial Report**

- The Federal Financial Report (SF-425) is required no later than January 30 for each budget period and is an accounting of expenditures under the project that year.

- **Integrity and Performance Reporting**

- More information will be provided in the Notice of Award.

- **Final performance/closeout report(s)**

- Organizations are required to submit quantitative and/or qualitative performance data and information to HRSA at the end of the period of performance to enable HRSA to determine the impact of the activities and Rural Tribal COVID-19 Response program more generally.



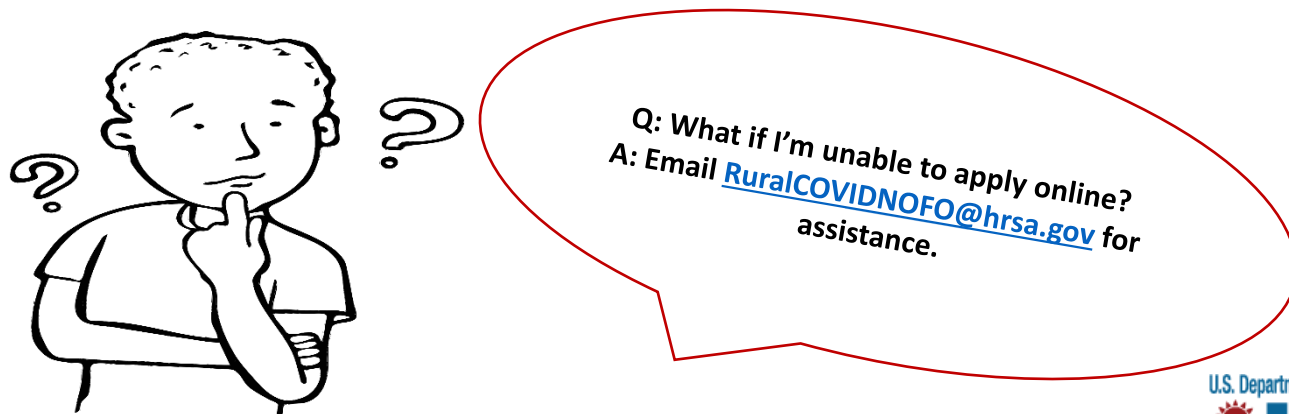
# Application Logistics

- RTCR/HRSA-20-135 Notice of Funding Opportunity is available at the following link: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=rural%20tribal%20covid>
- HRSA encourages you to apply electronically, but if you experience challenges doing so please email [RuralCOVIDNOFO@hrsa.gov](mailto:RuralCOVIDNOFO@hrsa.gov)
- **Suggested application length: 10-20 pages**
  - There is no advantage or disadvantage to a longer or shorter application, so long as it meets the requirements in the NOFO
- **Application deadline: May 6, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., ET**



# Application Logistics (cont.)

- We encourage you to apply online.
- Applying online requires registration in three systems:
  - **Dun and Bradstreet:** <https://www.dnb.com/duns-number.html>
  - **System for Award Management (SAM):** <https://sam.gov/portal/SAM/#1>
    - Entities registering in SAM must submit a [notarized letter](#) appointing their authorized Entity Administrator
  - **Grants.gov:** <http://www.grants.gov>



# Other Grant Opportunities With FORHP

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- **Telehealth Network Grant Program (HRSA-20-036) – NOFO** currently available and applications are due 6/15/2020
- **Ending the HIV Epidemic Rural Health Network Development Planning – NOFO** available Spring 2020, Project Period Start Date 9/1/2020
- **Rural Health Network Development Planning – NOFO** available Summer 2020, Project Period Start Date 7/1/2021
- **Rural Health Care Services Outreach - NOFO** available Fall 2020, Project Period Start Date 5/1/2021



# Contact Information

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**Erin Towner**

Public Health Analyst

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

**Grants.gov Assistance**

24/7 support (except Federal Holidays)

[Support@Grants.gov](mailto:Support@Grants.gov)

Local Toll Free: 1-800-518-4726

