

Notice of Funding Opportunity
Application due 07/17/2026

HRSA

Health Resources & Services Administration

Bureau of Health Workforce

Division of Medicine and Dentistry

Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities (SOHW)

HRSA-26-084



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Before You Begin

Health Resources and Services Administration
Bureau of Health Workforce
Division of Medicine and Dentistry
Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities (SOHW)
HRSA-26-084

Step 1: Review the Opportunity

Basic information

Summary

This program supports states in developing and implementing innovative programs to address the oral health workforce needs of Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (Dental HPSAs).

The program objectives are to:

- Encourage and support state innovation to increase oral health services in Dental HPSAs.
- Strategically use evaluation to improve program performance, assess impact, and address key stakeholder concerns.
- Develop ways to sustain programs that increase accessibility and quality of oral health services in Dental HPSAs.

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

Key facts

Opportunity name:

Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities (SOHW)

Opportunity number:

HRSA-26-084

Announcement version:

initial

Federal assistance listing:

93.236

Key dates

NOFO issue date:

06/15/2026

Informational webinar:

Application deadline:

07/17/2026

Expected award date is by:

08/31/2026

Expected start date:

09/01/2026

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

Funding details

Application Types:

Competing continuation

New

Expected total available funding in FY:

2026: \$14,800,000

Expected number and type of awards:

37 G (Grant)

Funding range per award:

up to \$400,000 per year

We plan to fund awards in five 12-month budget periods for a total of five years, with a period of performance from 09/01/2026 to 08/30/2031.

Eligibility

The Secretary of Health is authorized to award grants to States for the purpose of helping States develop and implement innovative programs. We encourage states to work with tribal entities to facilitate greater coordination between states and tribal governments. We will only accept one application per state. All states are eligible to apply. If you are a current recipient with a period of performance ending on August 31, 2026, you are eligible to apply. For more information, contact your HRSA project officer.

Types of eligible organizations

These types of *domestic organizations may apply if they otherwise meet the eligibility criteria.

“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.

State governments

Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

Additional information on eligibility

These types of domestic* organizations may apply:

- State governor-designated entities such as:
 - The office of the state dental director.

- State-run university or dental school.
- State or special district government, including the District of Columbia, domestic territories, and freely associated states.

We encourage states to work with tribal entities to facilitate greater coordination between states and tribal governments. We will only accept one application per state. All states are eligible to apply. If you are a current recipient with a period of performance ending on August 31, 2026, you are eligible to apply.

Individuals are not eligible applicants under this NOFO.

Other eligibility criteria

If you are not the office or division of the state dental director

You must coordinate with that office or division. You must include an eligibility letter from your state governor or state dental director in [Attachment 1](#). **We will not consider your application without this letter.** This letter must:

- Endorse you as the state’s sole designated representative to apply for these federal funds on the state’s behalf.
- Detail how the state dental director will be actively involved in the project.

If you are the office or division of the state dental director

You do not need to include an eligibility letter.

If your state does not have an official dental director, program, office, or division

Your organization must include an eligibility letter from the individual or entity within the state government that holds primary responsibility for the state’s dental workforce.

Trainee eligibility

To receive support under this program, a trainee/participant must be one of the following:

- A U.S. citizen or non-citizen national.
- An individual lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States.
- Any other “qualified alien” under section 431(b) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L 104-193, as amended.

Trainees/participants have additional eligibility criteria for financial support or loan repayment under this program:

- To receive resident stipend support under allowable activity 4, trainees must demonstrate need of the support.
- To receive loan repayment, loans must be in good standing. Additionally, recipients of loan repayment under this grant cannot receive financial support from another federally funded program requiring a service commitment that runs concurrently with this program.
 - This includes, but is not limited to, scholarship and loan repayment programs through the [National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\)](#), the [Indian Health Service](#),

[HRSA's Faculty Loan Repayment Program](#), and the [Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Programs](#).

- The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program is not considered a service obligation.
- Federal employees are not eligible to receive financial support under this grant program.

Completeness and responsive criteria

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](#).
- Fails to include a [required eligibility letter of support](#) from either the governor or the state's dental director that specifically endorses the applicant as the state's sole designated representative to apply.
- Fails to include a [required letter with all mandatory assurances](#) outlined in the NOFO.

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.

- If we receive applications from more than one entity within a state, the application from the office or division of the state dental director will supersede other applications.
- If you don't include all required documents, we may deem your application non-responsive.

Cost sharing

Federal share

This program requires you to contribute 40% of the federal share.

- Cost sharing/matching is required for this program. 42 USC §256g(d) (§340G (d) of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act) requires a minimum 40 percent match in non-federal contributions based off the total amount of grant funds you are awarded. States must match at least 40 percent of federal funds provided under this grant.
 - We waive cost sharing requirements up to \$200,000 for any award to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. (48 U.S.C. 1469a(d)).
 - **Source:** (48 U.S.C. 1469a(d)). For details, see [AT 2024-03](#) Waiving Match Requirements for Awards to Insular Areas.
- The budget justification narrative must include a line-item breakdown and narrative description of all matching funds proposed for this project.
- Matching funds must be non-federal contributions related directly to carrying out project activities.

- If you fail to address cost sharing/matching requirements, we will deem your application ineligible and will not consider you for funding.

You can meet your match requirement through any combination of:

- Cash contributed by your organization, partners, or other third parties.
- In-kind (non-cash) contributions from your organization, partners, or other third parties.

The State may provide the contributions in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, and [services](#) and may provide the contributions from State, local, or private sources.

We waive cost sharing requirements up to \$200,000 for any award to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. (48 U.S.C. 1469a(d)).

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 this program is to help states develop and implement innovative programs to address the oral health workforce needs of Dental HPSAs.

- To support states in developing and implementing innovative programs to address the oral health workforce needs of Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (Dental HPSAs).

Background

As of May 2026, there were 7,846 federally designated Dental HPSAs impacting 74 million people and would require over 12,326 oral health practitioners properly distributed to remove these designations. [\[1\]](#)

The program authorization provides for 12 specific activities that allow for a broad range of programs. These include support for dental pipeline and training programs, recruitment and retention programs for oral health providers, establishment or expansion of service delivery infrastructure, population-based services, and public health infrastructure.

Examples of current or previously funded innovative programs include:

- Oral health training rotations in medically vulnerable rural clinical sites.
- Preventive services to tribal communities.
- Leveraging of new and expanded scopes of practice in new care models.
- Development of teledentistry and mobile care models.
- Testing of new payment models.
- Training on opioids and pain management.

In addition to the 12 specific activities outlined in the authority, the authority also provides the Secretary the flexibility to identify additional appropriate activities that States may pursue under this program; as such this funding opportunity includes three additional activities:

- **13-A: Screening and referral for opioid and other substance use disorders.** Drug overdoses are one of the leading causes of injury death in adults and have risen over the past several decades in the U. S. [ii], [iii], [iv] As prescribers of opioids, dentists can help minimize the potential for their misuse and increase screening and referral for needed substance use treatment.
- **13-B: Activities to develop or improve dental therapy programs in accordance with state laws and policies.** Dental therapists (DTs) are primary care oral health professionals who provide general dental care. This includes restorative and limited surgical services. DTs are authorized in 14 states with 17 additional states considering authorizing DT. [v] State policy often requires DTs to work in specific communities (such as tribal communities) or serve populations (such as medically vulnerable or Medicaid populations) to increase oral health access to isolated populations. [vi]
- **13-C: Oral health workforce programs designed to address risk factors contributing to early childhood caries.** Early childhood caries is defined as one or more decaying or missing teeth resulting from caries or filled teeth in primary dentition in children up to 71 months old. [vii] Studies have found that early childhood caries are more frequent in children who consume juice between meals and sweetened solid food. Salivary flow reduces while sleeping; therefore, combining low salivary flow and a child who falls asleep with a bottle filled with a sweet liquid significantly increases the risk of early childhood caries. [viii]

Program goal and objectives

Goal: To support states in developing and implementing innovative programs to address the oral health workforce needs of Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (Dental HPSAs).

Objective 1. Encourage and support state innovation to increase oral health services in Dental HPSAs.

Objective 2. Strategically use evaluation to improve program performance, assess impact, and address key stakeholder concerns.

Objective 3. Develop ways to sustain programs that increase accessibility and quality of oral health services in Dental HPSAs.

Program requirements and expectations

Award recipients are required to participate in federally designed evaluations to assess program effectiveness and efficiency upon request.

You must use this funding to develop and implement one or more innovative programs to meet the oral health workforce needs of [Dental HPSAs in your state](#).

An “innovative program” is a new or significantly changed program or service delivery system that uses new ideas, methods, and approaches. Maintenance, additional funding, or minor changes to an established program is not considered an innovative program.

Allowable activities

Your innovative programs must include one or more of these allowable activities:

1. Loan forgiveness and repayment programs for dentists who agree to:
 - a. Practice in Dental HPSAs.
 - b. Serve as public health dentists for the federal, state, or local government.
 - c. Provide services to patients regardless of ability to pay and use a sliding payment scale for patients who are unable to pay the total cost of services.
2. Dental recruitment and retention efforts.
3. Grants and low-interest or no-interest loans to help dentists who participate in Medicaid to establish or expand practices in Dental HPSAs. These grants and loans may equip oral health offices or share in the overhead costs of practices.
4. Establishment or expansion of dental residency programs, in coordination with accredited dental training institutions, in states without dental schools.
5. Programs developed in consultation with state and local dental societies to expand or establish oral health services and facilities in Dental HPSAs, including [services](#) and facilities for children with special needs, such as:
 - The expansion or establishment of community-based dental facilities, free-standing dental clinic, consolidated health center dental facilities, school-linked dental facilities, or U. S. dental school-based facilities.
 - The establishment of mobile or portable dental clinics.
 - The establishment or expansion of private dental services to enhance capacity through additional equipment or additional hours of operation.
 - The establishment or development of models for providing dental services to children and adults, such as dental homes. Models may provide services to groups including older adults, blind people, people with disabilities, and people living in long-term care facilities.
 - The establishment of initiatives to reduce the use of emergency departments for oral health services more appropriately delivered in a dental primary care setting.
6. Placement and support of dental students, dental residents, and advanced dentistry trainees.
7. Continuing dental education, including distance-based education.
8. Practice support through teledentistry in accordance with state laws. Teledentistry is the use of telehealth systems and methodologies in dentistry. We encourage the use of methods such as Multiple Chronic Conditions (MCC) e-Care Plan, artificial intelligence and assistive technology, and mobile health technologies to provide telehealth and in-person care delivery.
9. Community-based prevention services, such as dental sealant programs.
10. Coordination with local educational agencies on programs that promote children going into oral health or science professions.
11. Establishment of faculty recruitment programs at accredited dental training institutions that have:
 - A mission that includes community outreach and service, and
 - A demonstrated record of serving medically vulnerable states.

12. Establishment of a state dental officer position or expansion of a state oral health office to coordinate oral health and access issues in the state

Note: If your state cannot adequately track and assess oral health workforce capacity, you must include development or enhancement of this tracking as part of your project activity 12.

13-A) Screening and referral for opioid and other substance use disorder treatment. Such programs may include training oral health providers in screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment of people with opioid and other substance use disorders.

13-B) Activities to develop or improve dental therapy programs in accordance with state laws and policies.

- If you include this activity, dental therapy must be legally authorized in your state at the time you apply.
- We encourage you to coordinate with tribal entities in your state for dental therapy under the Indian Health Service Community Aide Program.

13-C) Oral health workforce programs designed to address risk factors common to early childhood caries.

Other guidance

If your proposed activities involve loan repayment or community-based prevention services, you must demonstrate that these activities:

- Will not duplicate other federal programs, including CDC state oral health grants.
- Show a significant innovative change.

We encourage you to:

- Work with tribal entities to facilitate greater coordination between states and tribal governments.
- Collaborate and coordinate with your [State Primary Care Office](#).
- Use teledentistry in your programs when feasible and appropriate. [Telehealth](#) and teledentistry can be an important tool for delivering oral health services and resources.
- Consider conducting your project activities at facilities that are automatically designated as [HPSA facilities](#).
- Consider integrating [age-friendly health system concepts](#) in any programs that will serve older adults.

Statutory authority

[42 U.S.C. § 256g](#) (Section 340G of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act)

[i] Bureau of Health Workforce Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Health Workforce Shortage Areas (HPSA) tool. <https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas>

[ii] Spencer MR, Garnett MF, Minino AM. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 2002-2022. NCHS Data Brief, no 491. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2024.

[iii] National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. WISQARS-Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System. 2023.

[iv] National Center for Health Statistics. Mortality multiple cause files. 2023.

[v] Oral Health Workforce Research Center. Authorization Status of Dental Therapists by State. <https://oralhealthworkforce.org/infographics/authorization-status-of-dental-therapists-by-state/>

[vi] Integration of dental therapists in safety net practice increases access to oral health care in Minnesota. J Public Health Dent. 2024 Sep;84(3):281-288. Doi: 10.1111/jphd.12628

[vii] Sujata Tungare; Arati G. Paranipe. Early Childhood Caries. National Library of Medicine StatPearls August 2023.

[viii] Seow WK. Early Childhood Caries. Pediatr Clin North Am. 2018 Oct;65(5):941-954. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30213355/>

Award information

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:
 - Fund more applicants from the rank order list.
 - 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 Section 3.1.4 of the [R&R Application Guide](#). You can also see [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 rate higher than the Executive Level II if the amount beyond the HHS SRL is paid with non-HHS funds. For help calculating salaries under this limit, read more at “salary rate limitation” in the [R&R Application Guide](#).

Program-specific statutory or regulatory limitations

- You cannot use grant funds:
 - To buy real property, or for construction.
 - To pay for equipment costs, not related directly to the purposes of this award. Funding for reasonable equipment purchases is allowed.
 - For foreign travel or training.
 - For specialty board certification exam fees.
 - For fringe benefits for trainees.
 - For accreditation costs and fees.
 - For financial assistance to other health care trainees.
- You must have policies, procedures, and financial controls in place. You must comply with legal requirements and restrictions, including those that limit specific uses of funding.

See [Manage Your Grant](#) for other information on costs and financial management.

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 charge 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 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.

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](#).

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.

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-26-084.

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, Visit the [Bureau of Health Workforce's open opportunities](#) website. The webinar will be recorded.

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

FAQs will be posted on the Bureau of Health Workforce's open opportunities website.

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

See the instructions for the [project narrative, form](#), and the [budget and budget narrative](#).

Form	Included in page limit*?
<input type="checkbox"/> Research & Related Other Project Information	Yes*
<input type="checkbox"/> Research & Related Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed)	Yes*

Attachments

See [instructions for attachments](#).

Form	Included in page limit*?
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Eligibility letter	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Program specific assurances	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Letters of agreement with other entities	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Staffing Plan and Job Description	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Tables and charts	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Progress report for competing continuation applications	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Letters of support	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Project Organizational Chart	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 9. Accreditation Documentation	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Indirect cost rate agreement	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

See [form instructions](#).

Other required forms

See [form instructions](#).

Form	Included in page limit*?
<input type="checkbox"/> SF-424 (R&R)	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Abstract Summary Form	No
<input type="checkbox"/> R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s)	Yes*
<input type="checkbox"/> Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile form	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Project/Performance Site Location(s)	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Standardized Work Plan (SWP) form	No

* Unless otherwise indicated, only what you attach to a form counts toward the page limit. The form itself does not count.

Application contents and format

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

Application page limit: 60

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 or .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 our files in the [R&R Application Guide](#).

Project narrative

Use the Research & Related Other Project Information form to attach the project narrative. In the project narrative, you will describe all aspects of your project.

Use the section headers and the order as listed.

Introduction

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

- Briefly describe the purpose of your project.
- Be sure to describe how you will develop and implement one or more innovative programs to address the oral health workforce needs of Dental HPSAs in your state.

Need

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

- Outline the oral health workforce needs of your state's Dental HPSAs and medically vulnerable populations. Include any workforce trends and any coordination with your State Primary Care Office.
- Describe how these workforce needs affect the access to quality oral health services in Dental HPSAs.
- Describe specific populations or communities that your innovative programs will target within the Dental HPSAs. Include accessibility of quality oral health services and oral health status for these populations.
- Highlight any gaps that prevent your state from adequately tracking and assessing its oral health workforce capacity. **If your state cannot adequately track and assess oral health workforce capacity, you must include development or enhancement of this tracking as part of your project activities (under Activity 12).**

Approach

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

- Tell us how you'll address your stated needs and meet the [program requirements and expectations](#) described in this NOFO.
- Clearly describe each proposed innovative program you plan to develop and implement. Describe how each program meets the oral health workforce needs of Dental HPSAs in your state.
- For existing programs, clearly outline how the proposed innovations are a significant change from your existing program.
- Provide evidence that supports your proposed innovative programs and the outcomes that you expect.

- Describe any state policies, regulations, or laws you are leveraging in your innovative programs. Include recent changes in your state’s practice acts or scopes of practice for any oral health providers.
- If you propose programs under Activity 13-B, cite the state law making dental therapy legal. Indicate if the law restricts dental therapy to tribal or other geographic areas or populations. Laws and regulations required for proposed activities in this application must be in place by the application due date.
- If your proposed activities involve loan repayment or community-based prevention services, you must demonstrate that these activities:
 - Will not duplicate other federal programs.
 - Show a significant innovative change.
- If you are not the office or division of the state dental director, indicate how you will coordinate your proposed programs and evaluation with that office or division.

High-level work plan

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

- Describe how you will achieve each of the [objectives](#) during the period of performance.
- Provide a timeline that includes each activity and identifies who is responsible for each. As needed, identify how key stakeholders will help plan, design, and carry out all activities.
- Include the extent to which these stakeholders address the needs of the populations and communities served.
- If your plan includes hiring new personnel, awarding contracts, or making sub-awards, your work plan must account for the time needed to execute these activities.
- You will also include a more detailed work plan in your Standardized Work Plan (SWP). See [Other required forms](#).

Resolving challenges

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

- Discuss challenges that you are likely to encounter in designing and carrying out your innovative programs and the activities in your work plan.
- Explain approaches that you will use to resolve each challenge.

Performance management

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

- **Outcomes.** Describe the expected outcomes (desired results) of the innovative programs and funded activities.
- **Performance measurement and reporting.** See [Reporting on Your Grant](#) for performance measure requirements and examples of reporting forms.
 - Describe how you will collect and report the required performance data accurately and on time.
 - Describe how you will manage and securely store data.
 - Include how you will report and collect National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers for program trainees.

- Describe your process to track trainees after program completion for up to one year.
- Describe how you will monitor and analyze performance data to support continuous quality improvement.
- **Program evaluation.** The evaluation should examine processes and progress towards goals, program objectives, and expected outcomes. Be sure your evaluation plan assesses each proposed innovative program to determine its effectiveness and impact utilizing performance measures available to you. Evaluations must follow the HHS Evaluation Policy, as well as the standards and best practices described in [OMB Memorandum M-20-12](#). Describe your plan to evaluate the project. Include:
 - The evaluation questions, methods, data you will collect, and timeline for implementation.
 - The evaluation barriers and your plan to address them.
 - The evaluation capacity of your organization and staff. Include experience, skills, and knowledge.
 - How you will disseminate results.
 - How you will assess whether your dissemination plan is effective, whether the results are national in scope, and the extent of potential replication.

See the [reporting](#) section for more information.

Sustainability

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

We expect you to sustain key elements of your innovative programs that improve practices and outcomes for the target populations in Dental HPSAs. Propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends.

- Highlight key elements of your innovative programs. Examples include training methods or strategies that have been effective in improving practices leading to increased oral health access in your state.
- Describe the actions you'll take to obtain future sources of funding.
- Determine the timing to become self-sufficient.
- Discuss challenges that you'll likely encounter in sustaining the programs. Include how you will resolve these challenges.

Organizational information

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

- Briefly describe your mission, structure, and the scope of your current activities. Explain how they support your ability to carry out the program requirements. Include a project organizational chart.
- Discuss how you'll follow the approved plan, account for federal funds, and record all costs to avoid audit findings.
- Describe how you'll assess the unique needs of any trainees/participants and populations you serve.
- Include a staffing plan and job descriptions for key staff in [Attachment 4](#).

- Describe the organizations you will partner with to fulfill the program goals and meet the program objectives. Include key agreements in [Attachment 3](#) and letters of support in [Attachment 7](#).
- You will also include biographical sketches for key staff using the Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile form. See [Other required forms](#).

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 [R&R Application Guide](#) and any specific instructions listed in this section.

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 activity or project. This includes costs charged to the award and nonfederal funds used to satisfy any matching or cost sharing requirement (which may include maintenance of effort, if applicable).

The **budget narrative** supports the information you provide in the Research and Related Budget Form. The merit review committee reviews both. Your budget should show a well-organized plan.

The budget narrative includes an itemized breakdown and a clear justification of the requested costs. As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are reasonable, allowable and allocable, and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- Restrictions on spending funds. See [Funding policies and limitations](#).
- You must include funds for the Project Director or designee's attendance at the annual National Oral Health Conference in your budget and budget justification.
- If you fail to hire project personnel or execute project contracts in a timely manner consistent with the work plan, we may take administrative action, up to and including termination of the award.
- You must provide a mandatory assurance letter in [Attachment 2](#) that states, with respect to the costs for carrying out the grant funded activities, you will provide non-federal contributions in an amount equal to not less than [40 percent of federal funds](#) provided under the grant.

To create your budget justification narrative, see budget narrative instructions in the [R&R Application Guide](#).

Participant and trainee support costs

If you include participant or trainee support costs under any allowable activity, in your budget narrative:

- List tuition, fees, health insurance, stipends, travel, subsistence, and other costs.

- Identify the number of participants and trainees.
- Separate these costs from others so we can identify them easily.
- Include a sub-total entitled “Total Participant and Trainee Support Costs” with the summary of these costs.

Preceptor costs

Preceptors can be either your employee, contractor, or consultant, if applicable to your innovative programs. Preceptor costs are unique and different than trainee costs, which are for students. Allowable preceptor costs may include:

- Stipends (other than to employees)
- Percentage (%) of salary (for employees)
- Continuing education, other training, and related fees
- Travel

Note: You cannot require students to pay for preceptor costs.

- If the preceptor is an employee, specify those costs under section B Other Personnel, Section D Travel, and Section F Other Direct Costs.
- If the preceptor is a consultant or contractor, lists those costs under section F Other Direct Costs.
- Include the number of preceptors in your budget narrative.

Consultant

Identify each consultant, the services they will perform, the total number of days, travel costs, and the total estimated costs.

Attachments

See section [3.2 of the HRSA R&R Application Guide](#).

Place your PDF attachments in 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 Eligibility letter

If you are not the office or division of the state dental director, you must coordinate with that office or division. You must attach an eligibility letter from your state governor or state dental director. **We will not consider your application without this letter.** This letter must:

- Endorse you as the state’s sole designated representative to apply for these federal funds on the state’s behalf.
- Detail how the state dental director will be actively involved in the project.

Attachment: 2 Program specific assurances

You must provide a letter from an authorizing official for your organization. This letter must provide the following assurances:

- That you will provide [non-federal contributions](#) for grant-funded activities in an amount equal to not less than 40 percent of federal funds provided under the grant. Matching funds must relate directly to project activities. You may provide the contributions:
 - In cash or in-kind (non-cash), fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, and services.
 - From your organization, partners, or other third parties.
- That you possess sufficient infrastructure to manage the grant-funded activities. This includes all hiring authority and sub-contracting support needed to initiate and deliver the proposed programs.
- That you possess the infrastructure to evaluate and report on the outcomes of the project's innovative programs.

We will not consider your application without this letter.

Attachment: 3 Letters of agreements with other entities

Provide any documents that describe working relationships between your organization and others you refer to in the proposal. Documents that confirm actual or pending contracts or agreements should clearly describe the roles of subrecipients and contractors and any deliverables. It is not necessary to include the entire contents of lengthy agreements, so long as the portions you include describe the working relationship between you and the other organization. Make sure letters of agreement are signed and dated.

Attachment: 4 Staffing plan and job descriptions

See Section 3.1.7 of the [R&R Application Guide](#).

Include a staffing plan that shows the staff positions that will support the project and key information about each. Justify your staffing choices, including education and experience, qualifications and your reasons for the amount of time you request for each staff position.

For key personnel, attach a one-page job description. It must include the role, responsibilities, and qualifications.

Attachment: 5 Tables & charts

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

Attachment: 6 Progress report

If you're requesting continued funding for a project in the final budget period, you must include a progress report. If you do not receive an award under this NOFO, you will still need to submit the report through the usual process.

Your progress report should briefly present your accomplishments related to the program objectives during the current period of performance. Include:

- The period covered
- Specific program objectives
- The program activities conducted for each objective
- Positive or negative results or technical problems

Attachment: 7 Letters of support

You may provide letters of support from other organizations or departments involved in the proposed project.

Letters of support can also be from individuals within your institution who hold the authority to speak for the organization or department such as a CEO or chair.

Recommenders should indicate an understanding of and commitment to the project, and what their contribution to the project will be. You should reference letters of support in the applicable section of the project narrative.

Recommenders must sign and date their letter of support.

Attachment: 8 Project organizational chart

Provide a one-page diagram that shows the full project’s organizational structure. Include all aspects, not just the applicant organization.

Attachment: 9 Accreditation documentation

If you propose Activity 4, you must provide documentation of your partner’s Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accreditation or probationary accreditation. Do not simply provide a web link to the CODA website.

Attachment: 10 Indirect cost rate agreement

Provide a copy of the most recent negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or cost Allocation Plan. Not applicable if you budget the *de minimis* indirect rate.

Attachment: 11-15 Other relevant documents

You may use attachments 11 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
SF-424 R&R (Application for Federal Assistance) form	With application.
Project Abstract Summary Form	With application.
Research & Related Other Project Information	With application.
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	With application.
R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form	With application.
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	With application.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable, with the application or before award.
Standardizes Work Plan (SWP) form	With application.

Form instructions

In addition to the requirements for the [budget narrative](#), [project narrative](#), and [attachments](#), following are instructions for each of the other forms required by this NOFO. See the [application checklist](#) for a full list of all application requirements.

SF-424 (R&R) application for federal assistance

This is your application for federal assistance. Follow the instructions in section 3.1.1 of the [R&R Application Guide](#). This is the application for Federal Assistance.

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](#).

Project abstract summary form

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.

When writing your summary:

- Use 4,000 characters or fewer.
- Make sure it's clear, accurate, short.
- Do not refer to other parts of the application.
- Do not include [personally identifiable information \(PII\)](#) in abstract form.

If you receive an award, we'll put your project abstract on public websites and databases, including [USAspending.gov](#).

Research & related other project information

In addition to the requirements in the [project narrative](#) section, you will provide some additional information in this form.

- Complete sections 1 through 6.
- Upload a blank document in item 7: Project Summary/Abstract to avoid a cross-form error with your Project Abstract Summary Form.
- Upload your project narrative in item 8.
- Leave items 9, 10, and 11 blank.

Research & related senior/key person profile (expanded)

Include biographical sketches for people who will hold the key positions.

- Try to use no more than two pages per person.

- Do not include non-public [personally identifiable information](#).
- If you include someone you have not hired yet, include a letter of commitment from that person with their biographical sketch.
- Upload sketches in the Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile form.
- Include:
 - Name and title
 - Education and training – for each entry include Institution and location, degree and date earned, if any, and field of study.
 - Section A, Personal Statement. Briefly describe why the individual’s experience and qualifications make them well-suited for their role.
 - Section B, Positions and Honors. List in chronological order previous and current positions. List any honors. Include present membership on any federal government public advisory committee.
 - Section C, Other Support. This section is optional. List selected ongoing and completed projects during the last three years. Begin with any projects relevant to the proposed project. Briefly indicate the overall goals of the projects and responsibilities of the person.

R&R subaward budget attachment(s) form

You will also complete the R&R Subaward Budget Attachment Form for each subaward you propose. These include subcontracts. You will do this using the R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form.

Use the following instructions:

- Once you open this form, you can select “Click here to extract the R&R Subaward Budget Attachment”.
- Save the file and then open it to complete it.
- Once you save the file you can upload it within the form.
- Repeat the steps for each subaward.

If you have more than 10 subawards, you may upload the extra budget forms in the Research and Related Other Project Information form in Block 12 “Other Attachments”.

Project performance site location(s)

Follow the form instructions in [Grants.gov Forms](#). Use the “Next Site” option rather than “Additional Location(s)” to add more than one project/performance site location.

Disclosure of lobbying activities (SF-LLL) form

Follow the form instructions in [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Standardized work plan form

Does not count toward the page limit

In addition to the requirements in [project narrative, high-level work plan](#), follow these instructions:

- Submit your workplan through the SWP Form. Provide a detailed work plan that demonstrates your experience or ability implementing a project of the proposed scope.

- Follow the instructions in the SWP Form.
- Select your organizational priorities that best fit the objective.
- As specified in the NOFO, [program goal and objectives](#) must be copied as stated.

Does not count toward the page limit

In addition to the requirements in [project narrative, high-level work plan](#), follow these instructions:

- Submit your workplan through the SWP Form. Provide a detailed work plan that demonstrates your experience or ability implementing a project of the proposed scope.
- Follow the instructions in the SWP Form.
- Select your organizational priorities that best fit the objective.
- As specified on the NOFO, [program goal and objectives](#) must be copied as stated.

Step 4: Understand Review, Selection, and Award

Application review

Initial Review

We will review your application to make sure that it meets [eligibility](#) criteria, including the [completeness and responsiveness criteria](#). If your application does not meet these criteria, we will not fund it. If this is the case, we will notify your authorized official.

We will not review any pages that exceed the page limit.

Merit review

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

Criterion	Total number of points = 100
1. Need	10 points
2. Response	30 points
3. Performance management	15 points
4. Impact	15 points
5. Resources and capabilities	15 points
6. Support requested	15 points

Criterion 1: Need (10 points)

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

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Outlines the oral health workforce needs of your state’s Dental HPSAs and medically vulnerable populations, including workforce trends and coordination with your state Primary Care Office.

- Describes how these workforce needs affect the access to quality oral health services in Dental HPSAs.
- Describes specific populations or communities that your innovative programs will target within the Dental HPSAs, including accessibility of quality oral health services and oral health status.
- Highlights any gaps that prevent your state from adequately tracking and assessing its oral health workforce capacity.

Criterion 2: Response (30 points)

See the project narrative [Approach](#), [High-level work plan](#), and [Resolving challenge sections](#).

Approach (15 points)

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Proposes a project that responds to the program's [purpose](#).
- Clearly describes each proposed innovative program you plan to develop and implement and how it meets the oral health workforce needs of Dental HPSAs.
- Clearly outlines how the proposed innovations are a significant change from existing programs in place in the state.
- Provides evidence that supports the proposed innovative programs and outcomes expected.
- Describes any state policies, regulations, or laws leveraged in the proposed innovative programs, including recent changes in the state's practice acts or scopes of practice for any oral health providers.
- Cites state law making dental therapy legal and indicates if the law restricts dental therapy to tribal or other geographic areas or populations, if applicable.
- Describes other local, state, and federal programs that support loan repayment and community-based prevention services, such as dental sealant activities and demonstrates that the project will not supplant or duplicate efforts, if applicable.
- Indicates how the applicant organization will coordinate the proposed programs and evaluation with the office or division of the state dental director, if applicable.

High-level work plan (10 points)

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Describes activities that will address the problem and meet project objectives.
- Provides a timeline that includes each activity and identifies who is responsible, including key stakeholders, if applicable.
- Includes the extent to which project staff and/or stakeholders can address the needs of the populations and communities served.
- Accounts for the time needed to execute hiring of new personnel, awarding contracts, and/or making sub-awards, if applicable.

Resolution of challenges (5 points)

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Describes the obstacles and challenges you may face in designing and carrying out the proposed innovative programs and activities included in the work plan.
- Explains the approaches you will use to resolve each challenge.

Criterion 3: Performance Management (15 points)

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

The panel will review your application for:

Evaluation

(10 points)

- Describes the expected outcomes and desired results of the proposed innovative programs and activities.
- Includes measures that will assess that program objectives have been met and to what extent the results are because of the program.
- Contains an evaluation plan that assesses each proposed innovative program to determine its effectiveness and impact utilizing performance measures available.
- Anticipates evaluation obstacles and proposes to address them.
- Includes the evaluation capacity of the applicant organization and staff, including experience, skills, and knowledge.
- Describes plans for effectively sharing project results that could be replicated by others or be national in scope.

Performance measurement

(5 points)

- Presents a clear plan to collect and manage data to ensure accurate and timely performance.
- Describes a process to collect, manage, store, and report NPI numbers for eligible participants, if applicable.
- Includes the ability to track trainees after program completion for up to one year, if applicable.
- Proposes to use collected data for continuous quality improvement and to monitor and evaluate project results.

Criterion 4: Impact (15 points)

See the project narrative [High-level work plan](#) and [Sustainability](#) sections.

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Proposes a solid plan for sustaining key project elements of the innovative programs beyond the period of federal funding.
- Highlights key elements of proposed innovative programs in improving practices leading to increased oral health access in the state.
- Describes actions your organization will take to obtain future sources of funding.
- Describes the timing required to become self-sufficient.
- Describes likely challenges you will encounter in sustaining the innovative programs and describes logical approaches to resolving the challenges.

Criterion 5: Resources and capabilities (15 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:

- You describe your mission, structure, and scope of current activities and explain how they support your ability to carry out the program requirements, including a project organizational chart.
- You describe how you will follow the approved work plan, account for federal funds, and record all costs to avoid audit findings.
- You describe the organizations you will partner with to fulfill the program goal and objectives, including any key agreements and letters of support.
- Project staff have the training or experience to carry out the project, as well as required performance reporting and program evaluation.
- You have the capabilities and adequate facilities to fulfill the needs of the proposed project.

Criterion 6: Support requested (15 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 performance.
- How reasonable are the costs outlined in the budget and required resources sections, and how well they align with the project's scope to develop, implement, evaluate, and sustain the proposed innovative programs.
- How sufficient the time is for key staff to spend on the project to achieve project objectives.
- How clearly the budget details the staffing and contract partners included in the work plan and accounts for the time needed to fill positions and award contracts.
- If the budget includes funds for annual travel to the National Oral Health Conference for the project director or designee.
- If the budget and budget justification include line items and narratives for all federal and matching funds proposed for each year of the project.
- If, based on the budget submitted, matching funds clearly meet 40 percent of requested federal funds as required in each year of the project and clearly show the source of matching support and how it relates to the grant activities.

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.
- Alignment with [HRSA Mission and Strategic Priorities](#)
- The results of reviewing the progress report submitted with a competing continuation application that seeks to receive a new period of performance.
- Merit review results. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.

We may:

- Consider the larger portfolio of agency-funded projects, including project type and geographic distribution.
- 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.

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

Special considerations

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 [R&R 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 07/17/2026, 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 [R&R 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 [R&R 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 Happen 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.
- The regulations at [2 CFR 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, modifications at 2 CFR 300, or any superseding regulations.
- The [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#). This document is incorporated by reference in your Notice of Award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.

- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements.
- See 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.

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.

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](#).

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 45 CFR 170, Subpart B 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 https://www.healthit.gov/topic/certification-ehrs/certification-health-it 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 successful, you will have to follow the reporting requirements in Section 4 of the [R&R Application Guide](#). The NOA will provide specific details.

- Progress report(s) each year
- Annual performance reports.
- All HRSA recipients must collect and report performance data so that HRSA can meet its obligations under the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRMA) and the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018.
- The Annual Performance Report (APR) collects data on all academic year activities from July 1 to June 30. It is due to HRSA on July 31 each year. If award activity extends beyond June 30 in the final year of the grant, HRSA may require a Final Performance Report (FPR) to collect the remaining performance data. The FPR is due within 120 calendar days after the period of performance ends.
- You can find examples of APRs at [Report on Your Grant](#) on the HRSA website. Performance measures and reporting forms may change each academic year. HRSA will provide additional information in the Notice of Award (NOA).

Contacts and Support

Agency contacts

Program and eligibility

Jesse Ungard

Project Officer

Attn:

Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities (SOHW)

Bureau of Health Workforce

Health Resources and Services Administration

jungard@hrsa.gov

301-443-6249

Financial and budget

Latasha Harris

Grants Management Specialist Division of Grants Management Operations Office of Financial Assistance and Acquisition Management (OFAAM) Health Resources and Services Administration

lharris@hrsa.gov

301-443-1582

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](#)
- [Bureau of Health Workforce Glossary](#)
- Additional information on telehealth can be found at <https://telehealth.hhs.gov/>
- For more information on shortage designations, visit <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/workforce-shortage-areas/shortage-designation>

Footnotes

[i] Bureau of Health Workforce Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Health Workforce Shortage Areas (HPSA) tool. <https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas>

[ii] Spencer MR, Garnett MF, Minino AM. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 2002-2022. NCHS Data Brief, no 491. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2024.

[iii] National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. WISQARS-Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System. 2023.

[iv] National Center for Health Statistics. Mortality multiple cause files. 2023.

[v] Oral Health Workforce Research Center. Authorization Status of Dental Therapists by State. <https://oralhealthworkforce.org/infographics/authorization-status-of-dental-therapists-by-state/>

[vi] Integration of dental therapists in safety net practice increases access to oral health care in Minnesota. J Public Health Dent. 2024 Sep;84*3):281-288. Doi: 10.1111/jphd.12628

[vii] Sujata Tungare; Arati G. Paranipte. Early Childhood Caries. National Library of Medicine StatPearls August 2023.

[viii] Seow WK. Early Childhood Caries. Pediatr Clin North Am. 2018 Oct;65(5):941-954. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30213355/>