

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Application due 07/08/2026

HRSA

Health Resources & Services Administration

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy








Policy Research Division

Rural Health Research Dissemination Program

Opportunity number: HRSA-26-049



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Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up-to-date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on 07/08/2026.



To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.

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

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Basic information

Health Resources Services Administration

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Policy Research Division

Supporting rural health research under the Rural Health Research Dissemination Program.

Summary

This notice announces the opportunity to apply for funding under the Rural Health Research Dissemination Program. The purpose of this program is to disseminate health research, including rural mental health, rural infant mortality prevention, and rural occupational safety and preventive health research focused on rural health care to rural stakeholders at national, state, and community levels.

FORHP funds health research through the Rural Health Research Center (RHRC) Program and other cooperative agreements. The successful applicant for this program will disseminate research so that it is easily and freely accessible to the public. The successful applicant will also develop and maintain strategies to disseminate this research through a website, an e-mail listserv presentations, , and webinars.

Funding details

Application types: Competing continuation, New

Expected total available funding in FY26: \$230,000

Expected total number and type of awards: 1 CA (Cooperative Agreement)

Funding range per award: \$0 to \$230,000 per award.

We plan to fund awards in five 12-month budget periods for a total 5-year period of performance from 07/01/2026 to 06/30/2031.

The program and awards depend on the appropriation of funds and are subject to change based on the availability and amount of appropriations.



Have questions?

Go to [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name:
Rural Health Research
Dissemination Program

Opportunity number:
HRSA-26-049

Announcement version:
Initial

Federal assistance listing:
93.155

Key dates

NOFO issue date:
06/05/2026

Application deadline:
07/08/2026

Expected award date:
09/01/2026

Expected start date:
07/01/2026

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

Eligibility

You can apply if you are a domestic public or private, for-profit or non-profit organization.

Types of eligible organizations

These types of domestic* organizations may apply:

- State governments.
- County governments.
- City or township governments.
- Special district governments.
- Independent school districts.
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education.
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized).
- Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments).
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.
- Private institutions of higher education.
- For profit organizations other than small businesses.
- Small businesses.
- Others (see text field entitled “Additional information on eligibility” for clarification).

Additional information on eligibility

Only domestic* organizations are eligible. *“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.

Individuals are not eligible applicants under this NOFO.

Completeness and responsive 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](#).
- Is not responsive to the purpose of the program or requirements for attachments.

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

This notice announces the opportunity to apply for funding under the Rural Health Research Dissemination Program. The purpose of this program is to disseminate health research focused on rural health care to broad audiences, such as rural stakeholders at national, state, and community levels.

FORHP funds health research through the Rural Health Research Center (RHRC) Program and other cooperative agreements. The successful applicant for this program will disseminate research so that it is easily and freely accessible to the public. The successful applicant will also develop and maintain strategies to disseminate this research through a variety of innovative mechanisms which may include but are not limited to a website, an e-mail listserv presentations, and webinars.

- To develop and maintain a website that catalogs rural health research so that it is easily and freely accessible to the public.

Background

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is the main office for rural health activities within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

By law, FORHP advises the Secretary of HHS on how Medicare and Medicaid policies affect:

- The financial health of small rural hospitals.
- The ability of rural areas to attract and keep health care professionals.
- Access to and quality of rural health care.

FORHP accomplishes this mission through a broad range of program activities, including the Rural Health Research Center (RHRC) Program. [More information on FORHP.](#)

The RHRC program:

- Supports rural health research activities at multiple research centers on issues of nationwide relevance.
- Helps providers understand rural health issues and needs to inform the improvement of health care in rural areas.

A component of the RHRC Program, the goal of the Rural Health Research Dissemination is to make such research free to the public in a way that is easily understood by a wide variety of audiences interested in the improvement of health care in rural areas. The Rural Health Research Dissemination program also helps advance the [Making America Healthy Again \(MAHA\)](#) priorities, which include:

- Preventive health.
- Reducing chronic disease.
- Mental health.
- Nutrition.
- Primary and value-based care.
- Culturally appropriate services for tribes.
- Early childhood health and autism support.

Program requirements and expectations

You must conduct activities in alignment with the goal of making rural health research freely accessible to and easily understood by the public. Examples of activities include, but are not limited to:

- Developing and maintaining a website that catalogs rural health research.
- Making the research easy to find, free to access, and available to the public.
- Developing and using strategies to disseminate this research, including an e-mail listserv, presentations, and webinars.
- Synthesizing and summarizing health research on key rural health topics of national interest.
- Shifting to solution-oriented approaches in health research.
 - HRSA and HHS have invested substantially in rural health research. This research has not always translated into measurable improved health outcomes. Going forward, the activities will prioritize disseminating research that goes beyond measuring health or simply observing health outcomes. The disseminated research must actively examine innovative evidence-based interventions that address poor health outcomes in rural areas.

Activities should advance one or more of the MAHA priorities. Strategies to consider include work that informs:

- Addressing root causes of poor health.
- Improving access to primary care, behavioral health, preventive care, or developmental services.
- Expanding nutrition programs or chronic disease prevention.

- Supporting early childhood development or autism services.
- Preparing systems for value-based care.
- Advancing HHS Gold Standard Science.
- Partnering with tribal health systems.

Activities cannot support:

- Publicity or propaganda, including preparing, distributing, or using any material designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before any legislative body.
- The salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or Executive order proposed or pending before any legislative body. See [Anti-Lobbying Restrictions for HHS Grant Recipients](#).
- Advertising or campaigns.
- Expenses related to subscriptions to academic journals and publishing costs.

Disclosure of participation in or benefit from CMS Rural Transformation Program

You must disclose whether you participate in or benefit from your state's CMS Rural Transformation Program. If you do, you must coordinate any HRSA-funded work to ensure it is complementary, not duplicative, of CMS-supported.

Statutory authority

This program is authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 912(b)(5) (§ 711(b)(5) of the Social Security Act).

Award information

Cooperative agreement terms

Our responsibilities

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

- Providing input on dissemination strategies and selection of publications/products for distribution including target audiences for dissemination.
- Providing input on content, presentation approach, and selection of products/publications.
- Reviewing and providing comments on draft products and publications prior to public dissemination.
- Providing input and knowledge on the current and future rural health research issues of relevance to this cooperative agreement.
- Providing input on metrics to evaluate your deliverables.
- Providing consultative support in the selection of appropriate professional meetings, including the total number of meetings, at which to exhibit or present.

Your responsibilities

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

- Adhering to HRSA guidelines pertaining to acknowledgment and disclaimer on all products produced by HRSA award funds.
- Updating materials and resources based on the latest information on new, ongoing, and recently completed rural health research.
- Assessing the target audiences within the general public of rural health stakeholders to understand how to optimize dissemination strategies and provide information that aligns with their needs.
- Coordinating with HRSA-funded entities conducting rural health research activities to maximize the efficient use of federal funding (e.g., coordination with HRSA-funded entities to strengthen the reach of their work).

- Developing brief (1-2 pages) research summaries using findings from research products on key topic areas (e.g., quality, workforce, post-acute care) for a general audience.
- Establishing evaluation metrics and tracking related data to measure the success of this cooperative agreement and the reach of rural health research.
- Using information gleaned from evaluation metrics to inform continuous improvement of dissemination outreach methods.

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 \[PDF\]](#).
 - You can also see [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E](#) - General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost.
 - Allowable and Unallowable Cost 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. For help calculating salaries under this limit, read more at “salary rate limitation” in the [R&R application guide](#).

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](#).

Program income

Program income is money earned as a result of your award-supported project activities. You must use those funds to add to approved project activities. Find more about program income at [2 CFR 200.307](#).



Step 2:

Get Ready to Apply

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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 [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

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-26-049.

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. Webinar information will be posted to the Related Documents tab on Grants.gov. We recommend you “Subscribe” to the NOFO on Grants.gov to receive updates when documents are posted



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



Step 3:

Build Your Application

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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](#) 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	Yes

Attachments

See [instructions for attachments](#).

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. Agreements with other entities	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Project organizational chart	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Disclosure of participation in or benefit from CMS Rural Transformation Program (if applicable)	No
<input type="checkbox"/> 6-15. Other relevant documents	Yes

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

* 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
- .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 \[PDF\]](#).

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 proposed project and how it aligns directly with the purpose of this funding opportunity to disseminate rural health research so that it is free and accessible to a wide range of rural health stakeholders. Describe how your activities will advance one or more MAHA priorities. Explain how your activities build from, but do not duplicate, other federal, state, tribal, or local programs.

Need

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

- Describe and clearly demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of why rural stakeholders need access to rural-focused, health research.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the target audience for rural health research dissemination funded under this program.
- Describe the unique dynamics affecting rural populations compared to urban populations from a health care service, payment and provider point of view.

- Demonstrate an understanding of rural health research, including the Rural Health Research Center Program.
- Use and cite data whenever possible.

Approach

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

- Tell us how you'll address the need for accessible rural health research you described in the previous section.
- Explain how you'll meet the program requirements and expectations outlined in this NOFO, which include:
 - Developing and maintaining a website that catalogs solution and evidence-based rural health research.
 - Making the research easy to find, free to access, and available to the public.
 - Developing and using strategies to disseminate this research, including an e-mail listserv, presentations, and webinars.
 - Synthesizing and summarizing health research on key rural health topics of national interest.
 - Implementation science.
- Discuss how your approach will lead to increased awareness of rural health research, including the Rural Health Research Center Program.
- Include a description of any innovative methods that you will use to address the stated needs.
- Discuss how the work plan will fill information gaps that can inform the improvement of health care in rural areas.

High-level work plan

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

- Describe how you'll 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. Clearly identify any major milestones.

Your work plan must explain how you will meet the program needs and requirements.

- You should make sure your plan clearly responds to the program's purpose.
- You should describe plans for the first year of funding in detail. You may provide less detail for years two through five.

- You should set strong goals and objectives and connect them to your proposed activities.
- Show that you understand the need to use a variety of strategies, media and tools to increase awareness of rural health research publications.

Your plan should address the specific methods you will use to disseminate rural health research findings. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Developing, maintaining, and updating a website that serves as a single portal for new and archived research publications.
- Ensuring the website has user-friendly elements such as search features by keyword, topic, researcher, date of funding, and institution.
- Collecting feedback from users of the website.
- Developing, maintaining, updating, and expanding an email listserv to alert rural stakeholders of new research.
- Developing press releases, infographics, and other publicity for major research studies.
- Coordinating with existing rural information resources, such as [RHlhub](#), to extend reach.
- Creating brief (1-2 page) summaries of research on key topics such as workforce, quality, and post-acute care.
- Hosting and promoting webinars featuring rural health research.
- Identifying a broad range of stakeholders within the target audience, such as State Offices of Rural Health to ensure that the activities under this award are relevant nationwide.

Your plan should also detail how you intend to incorporate key stakeholders into your activities and workflow. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Collaborating with FORHP throughout your work including input on specific dissemination strategies, research studies for distribution, topic areas of focus for dissemination activities, and language included in dissemination activities prior to public release.
- Working with researchers as appropriate as part of dissemination activities such as webinars and research alerts.

You will also include a more detailed work plan in your [attachments](#).

Resolving challenges

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

- Discuss the challenges you expect when planning and carrying out the activities in your application.
- Explain how you will address these challenges.
- Include potential copyright or coordination of research release issues, and how you will resolve them.

Performance reporting and evaluation

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

- Describe the approach for establishing evaluation metrics and tracking related data to measure success. At a minimum, these metrics should reflect specific dissemination methods, such as:
 - Numbers of visitors to a website, and specific subsections of the website including individual research studies.
 - Frequently searched or accessed topics areas on the website.
 - Number of e-mail subscribers and engagement statistics.
 - Outcomes of exhibiting at national conferences (e.g., number of conference attendees that sign up for the listserv while visiting an exhibition booth).
- Discuss how you will set goals, baselines, and/or benchmarks for assessing your progress and performance.
- Describe how you will communicate collected data to FORHP.
- Discuss how you will use the information collected to develop and refine strategies and activities for future years.

See [Reporting](#) for more information.

Organizational Information

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

- Briefly describe your mission, structure, and the scope of your current activities.
- Discuss the organizational structure, staff roles and responsibilities, and chain of command to attain project objectives.
 - Include a [project organizational chart](#) in your attachments ([Attachment 4](#)).
- Describe the experience of your staff and explain how they will help you carry out the program requirements.
 - Include a [staffing](#) plan in your attachments ([Attachment 2](#)).
- Include previous experience conducting similar work for rural-centric audiences. The description should include:
 - Evidence of an established relationship and/or capacity to establish and maintain relationships with rural health researchers and rural health stakeholders who would comprise the target audience.
 - Previous experience of the organization and its staff in conducting the activities outlined in the approach and work plan.
 - Previous experience, skills and knowledge relevant to evaluating rural-centric research dissemination activities.
- Describe the project director's experience.
 - The project director should have significant experience in the areas related to conducting and/or disseminating rural health research. Demonstrating this experience may include, but is not limited to, time in the field (for example, at least 5 years of experience in these areas), extensiveness of relevant experience, or a history of successfully completed projects related to rural health research dissemination.
- Discuss the skills you have that are necessary to manage, improve, and implement change as it relates to the types of information dissemination modalities discussed in this funding opportunity such as website, listservs, webinars, and presentations.
- Discuss how you'll follow the approved project workplan, keep track of all federal funds, and record all costs to avoid issues during the project audit.
- Describe your organizational profile, budget, partners, key processes, and your key staff's experience, skills, and knowledge.

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 \[PDF\]](#) 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 R&R. 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](#).

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

Attachments

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

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

Attach the project's work plan. Make sure it includes everything required in the [Project Narrative](#) section.

Attachment 2: Staffing plan and job descriptions

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

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 3: 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: Project organizational chart

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

Attachment 5: Disclosure of participation in or benefit from CMS Rural Transformation Program (if applicable)

Submit this attachment **only** if you participate in or benefit from their state's CMS Rural Transformation Program. Provide a description of the CMS-supported activities and clearly explain how the proposed HRSA-funded work is non-duplicative, coordinated, and complementary. **Reviewers will not consider this information during merit review.**

Attachment 6-15: Other relevant documents

You may use attachments 6 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.

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 \[PDF\]](#).

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. For more information, see section 3.1.2 of the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

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 2 page(s) 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.
 - Other information. If they apply, include language fluency and experience working with populations that are culturally and linguistically different from their own.

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](#).



Step 4: Understand Review, Selection, and Award

In this step

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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 \[PDF\]](#). The members use these criteria.

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

Criterion 1: Need (15 points)

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

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Describes the proposed project and how it aligns directly with the purpose of this funding opportunity to disseminate rural health research so that it is free and accessible to a wide range of rural health stakeholders.
- Describes and clearly demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of why rural stakeholders nationwide need access to rural-focused, health research.
- Demonstrates a clear understanding of the target audience for rural health research dissemination funded under this program.
- Describes the unique dynamics affecting rural populations compared to urban populations from a health care service, payment and provider point of view.
- Demonstrates an understanding of rural health research, including the Rural Health Research Center Program.

Criterion 2: Response (30 points)

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

The panel will review your application for:

Approach - 10 Points

- How well it responds to the program purposes and addresses the need for accessible rural health research you described in the previous section.
- The strength and feasibility of proposed activities to meet the program requirements and expectations including:
 - Developing and maintaining a website that catalogs rural health research.
 - Making the research easy to find, free to access, and available to the public.
 - Developing and using strategies to disseminate this research, including an e-mail listserv, and webinars.
 - Disseminating research that advances HHS Gold Standard Science tenets.
 - Articulate how they will deprioritize the dissemination of low rigor research that does not comply with HHS Gold Standard Science tenets.
 - Synthesizing and summarizing health research on key rural health topics of national interest.

High level work plan - 15 Points

- How well the activities described will address the problem and meet project objectives.
- How well the work plan details the incorporation of key stakeholders into proposed activities and workflow. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - Collaborating with FORHP throughout your work including input on specific dissemination strategies, research studies for distribution, topic areas of focus for dissemination activities, and language included in dissemination activities prior to public release.
 - Working with researchers as appropriate as part of dissemination activities such as webinars and research alerts.
- The extent to which the application provides a detailed work plan addressing the specific methods to disseminate rural health research findings, with particular attention to detail in year 1 of the proposed. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - Developing, maintaining, and updating a website that serves as a single portal for new and archived research publications.
 - Identify how they will deprioritize research that does not meet the HHS Gold Standard Science tenets.
 - Ensuring the website has user-friendly elements such as search features by keyword, topic, researcher, date of funding, and institution.
 - Collecting feedback from users of the website.
 - Developing, maintaining, updating, and expanding an email listserv to alert rural stakeholders of new research.
 - Developing press releases, infographics, and other publicity for major research studies.
 - Coordinating with existing rural information resources, such as RHlhub, to extend reach.
 - Creating brief (1-2 page) summaries of research on key rural health topics such as workforce, quality, and post-acute care.
 - Hosting and promoting webinars featuring rural health research.
 - Identifying target audiences, such as State Offices of Rural Health, for specific research project dissemination.

Resolving Challenges - 5 points

- How well your workplan describes the obstacles and challenges you may face during project design and implementation. This includes the quality of your plan to deal with them.

Criterion 3: Performance reporting and evaluation (10 points)

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

The panel will review your application for:

Evaluation

- How well the application describes the approach for establishing evaluation metrics and tracking related data to measure success, including specific dissemination methods such as:
 - Numbers of visitors to a website, and specific subsections of the website including individual research studies.
 - Frequently searched or accessed topics areas on the website.
 - Number of e-mail subscribers and engagement statistics.

Performance measurement

- Evidence that the measures the applicant identified directly relate to assessing progress towards project goals.
- Feasibility and usefulness of the proposed plan to set goals, baselines, and/or benchmarks for assessing progress and performance and to communicate collected data to FORHP.
- The applicant must report on how they have focused the activities on research that is consistent with HHS Gold Standard Science tenets.

Criterion 4: Impact (10 points)

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

The panel will review your application for:

- The effectiveness of the proposed project in achieving its objectives in alignment with the purpose outlined in this funding opportunity.
- The extent to which the application demonstrates the benefit to rural communities.

- The extent to which the application includes a timeline that provides sufficient detail, particularly for year one, including each activity and who is responsible.
- How likely the project results are to be national in scope.

Criterion 5: Resources and capabilities (30 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:

- The description of your mission, structure, the scope of your current activities, and previous experience demonstrates the capabilities to fulfill the needs and purpose of the project.
- The organizational structure, staff roles and responsibilities, and chain of command proposed support the attainment of project objectives.
- The application indicates the availability of facilities and organizational supports to fulfill the requirements of the proposed project.
- The experience of your staff enables them to carry out and evaluate performance of the project.
- The strength of previous experience your organization has in conducting similar work for rural-centric audiences in relation to the:
 - Evidence of an established relationship and/or capacity to establish and maintain relationships with rural health researchers and rural communities.
 - Previous experience of the organization and its staff in conducting the activities outlined in the approach and work plan.
 - Previous experience, skills and knowledge relevant to evaluating rural-centric research dissemination activities.
- The depth of experience of the project director, such that the project director should have significant experience in the areas related to conducting and/or disseminating rural health research such as time in the field (for example, at least 5 years of experience in these areas), extensiveness of relevant experience, or a history of successfully completed projects related to rural health services research dissemination.
- The extent of the organization's ability to manage, improve, and implement change as it relates to the types of information dissemination modalities discussed in this funding opportunity such as website, listservs, webinars, and presentations.

- The extent to which the organization has the capacity to follow the approved project workplan, keep track of all federal funds, and record all costs to avoid issues during the project audit.
- The strength of the organizational profile, budget, partners, key processes, and staff experience, skills, and knowledge.

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 are costs and 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.

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](#)
- 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.
- Consider the funding priorities, funding preferences, and special considerations listed.
- 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. Additionally, we may not make an award if you are delinquent on two or more Single Audit Reports.

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 \[PDF\]](#) for more information.



Step 5: Submit Your Application

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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 [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#).

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 \[PDF\]](#).



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

Other submissions

Intergovernmental review

If your state has a process, you will need to submit application information for intergovernmental review under [Executive Order 12372](#). Under this order, states may design their own processes for obtaining, reviewing, and commenting on some applications. Some states have this process and others do not.

To find out your state's approach, see the list of [state single points of contact](#). If you find a contact on the list for your state, contact them as soon as you can to learn their process. If you do not find a contact for your state, you do not need to do anything further.

This requirement never applies to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes or tribal organizations.



Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award

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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 [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.

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](#).

Reporting

If you are successful, you will have to follow the reporting requirements in Section 4 of the [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#). The NOA will provide specific details.

- We will require progress report(s) each quarter.
- Annual performance reports.



Contacts and Support

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Agency contacts

Program and eligibility

Karis Tyner

Research Coordinator/FORHP

Attn: Rural Health Research Dissemination Program

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Health Resources and Services Administration

kytyner@hrsa.gov

(301) 287-2615

Financial and budget

Lissette Young

Grants Management Specialist

Division of Grants Management Operations

Office of Financial Assistance and Acquisition Management (OFAAM)

Health Resources and Services Administration

lyoung@hrsa.gov

(301) 287-9864

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 resources and websites

- [R&R Application Guide \[PDF\]](#)
- [HRSA Grants page](#)
- [HHS Tips for Preparing Grant Proposals](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Applicant Training](#)