

Helpful Tips to Navigate the Rural Strong Grants: Strengthening Access to Care in Rural Communities

RFP#26: 09RHT-001

- Focus on Exhibits A (Use of Funds and Limitations) & B (Quick Answers). As a reminder, the state updated the section on Quick Answers with the addendum. These two exhibits will guide you in identifying allowable costs and clarify the content of the RFP.
- Review the list of allowable uses of funds on page 2 of the RFP and identify which category your project falls under.
- Review Exhibits C (Rural Strong Grants Template Guide) and D (Budget Template).
- Consider beginning with the budget, as this will drive what is included in the application. Keep in mind the amount of funding the state anticipates awarding in Year 1. Based on the addendum question #10, page 2, the state anticipates award amounts between \$200,000 to \$3,000,000.
- Draft the grant application. Tip: If you include a cost in the budget, you should also address it in the grant application (Exhibit C)
- Use the headings the state has outlined in Exhibit C (Rural Strong Grants Template Guide) and refer to the identified sections for more information, keeping in mind the page limits and spacing.
- Consider using AI tools such as Copilot, ChatGPT, Gemini etc. to assist drafting the application, depending on your healthcare facilities policies.
- Draft the budget narrative by addressing each category in order and write a brief description.
- Review 6.0 Proposal Evaluation and Award Process (RFP, page 11) to ensure the grant application (Exhibit C) includes information for each bullet point. These are the criteria the state will use to score your application.
- When you have your completed application, follow the instructions found under 5.0 Proposal Response Format (RFP, page 10) for the order in which documents must be submitted.

This material is provided for informational purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy, the official Request for Proposal (RFP) document shall serve as the source of truth.

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