

Frequently Asked Questions Updated May 8, 2026

Application Requirements

- Q:** If our application is selected for funding but the awarded amount is less than the amount requested, would we have the option to withdraw our application or revise it to fit the funding?
A: Yes. Applicants funded at an amount lower than what they requested will be given the opportunity to withdraw the application and/or amend their application to align with their award.
- Q:** What if our organization does not have a CEO or board of directors?
A: If the applicant does not have a CEO or a board of directors, they may submit letters from equivalent leadership roles such as an executive director, program director, department lead, or an advisory council.
- Q:** If we are partnering with another entity, which entities will need to provide letters of support?
A: All applications require a letter of support from the applicant's CEO and/or an internal board of directors/advisory entity, as well as a professional/community partner. Certain projects require additional letters of support as specified in the application. Applicants may provide letters of support from their partners, provided all letters of support fit within the five-page limit.
- Q:** Can we include programmatic costs?
A. All costs associated with the proposed project should be accounted for within the budget and explained in detail in the budget narrative. Sustainability plans should include an explanation of how the applicant will cover ongoing costs once funding ends.
- Q:** Is the grant applicant permitted to include appendices to supplement and support the analysis presented within the project narrative (over the 10-page maximum)?
A: No. The page limit applies to the total number of pages submitted.
- Q:** Does the capital expenditure and infrastructure cap apply to individual applicants?
A: Applicants should apply for funding within the allowable range as described in Section 4.4 of the funding opportunities.
- Q:** If we are awarded funding for one-time infrastructure or technology projects, can we then be reimbursed by Medicaid or insurance for services provided utilizing those project improvements?
A: Yes. Infrastructure and technology project improvements awarded through this funding opportunity are intended to increase access to services for rural South Carolinians. The South



Carolina Department of Health and Human Services encourages applicants to include insurance reimbursement in their sustainability plans.

Eligibility

8. **Q:** Are projects located in urban zip codes that serve rural patients eligible for funding?
A: Funding is intended to support rural South Carolinians. Proposed activities must directly benefit rural residents and demonstrate measurable impact in rural communities.
9. **Q:** Does having current grants disqualify an entity from applying for additional funding?
A: Applicants must demonstrate and ensure Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) funds are not being used to supplant existing funding. Projects funded by RHTP must remain distinct and non-duplicative.
10. **Q:** How do I determine if an area is rural? Is there a tool available that I could submit a zip code to determine rurality?
A: To determine if an area is rural as defined by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), please click [here](#).
11. **Q:** What are the verification requirements for proving how funds were used?
A: All applicants must provide quarterly and annual reports and provide supporting documentation to demonstrate use of funds as outlined in their contract. Applicants are also required to work with the third-party evaluation firm that will be responsible for program governance, reporting, and auditing.

Timeline

12. **Q:** The grant opportunities for all four (4) initiatives are using the 2025 federal salary cap instead of the updated 2026 federal salary cap. Is it allowable for applicants to use the updated 2026 federal salary cap of \$228,000?
A: Yes. The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program.
13. **Q:** Can we submit an application for a project that will take five years to implement?
A: No. Applicants should view the grant initiatives as one-year awards with sustainability plans written to show sustainability without reliance on funding for years two through five.

Connections to Care

14. **Q:** Regarding the “Connections to Care” initiative, can this grant be used to purchase new IT equipment?
A: Yes. The Connections to Care grant can be used to purchase new IT equipment, if the equipment directly supports the approved activities within the selected project (Modernize Health IT or Expand Remote Patient Monitoring and Assistive Technology) and does not fall into the categories of unallowable costs.
15. **Q:** For applicants pursuing the Modernize Health IT Infrastructure project, may ongoing monthly fees for electronic health record or similar systems be requested as allowable costs for the period covered by the award (through Sept. 30, 2027), provided they are directly tied to the implementation activities described in the approved application?

A: These expenses are allowable through Sept. 30, 2027, provided they support the “Modernize Health IT Infrastructure” project and are justified in the budget narrative as necessary and have a future sustainability plan.

Leveling Up Initiative

16. **Q:** May grant funds be used to support the cost of diagnostic testing or screening for patients whose insurance does not cover the test, or for patients who are uninsured, given that such costs cannot be billed to or reimbursed by an insurer?

A: No. Grant funds may not be used to cover any reimbursable clinical activity, regardless of the insurance status of the patient.

Shoring Up to Sustainability

17. **Q:** Is the direct purchase of an existing commercial building (for the purpose of converting it into a healthcare facility) an allowable "One-time Infrastructure" cost under the Shoring Up to Sustainability track?

A: The direct purchase of an existing commercial building is not an allowable cost per the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Systems (CMS).

18. **Q:** Are large-scale facility modifications – such as major redesigns or construction required to support clinical operations – eligible for grant funding?

A: The use of funds to significantly retrofit buildings is not allowed per federal guidelines.

19. **Q:** Could one application focus on multiple enhancements, or enhancements at multiple locations, or the purchase of equipment at multiple locations?

A: No. Organizations will need to provide one application per enhancement (e.g., HVAC upgrade is one application; electrical upgrades is one application).

20. **Q:** Could we include equipment or renovations that are in the hospital budget for the next fiscal year but are not yet purchased?

A: Supplanting funding for in-process or planned construction projects or directing funding towards new construction builds is unallowable.

21. **Q:** When would we be able to get better answers on what qualifies as allowable renovations?

A: Definitions of renovations or alterations, as described in the Use of Funds Section found on CMS’ website under the RHTP webpage, can be found [here](#).

22. **Q:** Are there any additional restrictions on the use of the one-time bonus by the recipient provider, including whether the bonus may be applied toward student loan repayment or similar financial obligations?

A: Issuing direct student loans and funding student loan repayment programs are unallowable uses of RHTP funds.

23. **Q:** How do we determine the level of bonus offered to clinicians?

A: Applicants should apply for funding within the allowable range and use the narrative to explain how this amount was determined.

24. **Q:** Is there a sample commitment agreement with language detailing repayment?

A: No. The Shoring Up To Sustainability opportunity does not include a sample retention/commitment agreement and does not prescribe a required format.

25. Q: Does bonus funding have to be disbursed immediately to clinicians, or can it be given over the five-year period?

A: Incentive funding tied to the 5-year rural service commitment may be structured as periodic payments.

Wellness Within Reach

26. Q: Would upgrading/upfitting EMS vehicles, such as ambulances, fit under the facility enhancement within Shoring Up to Sustainability, or would it fall under another initiative?

A: Yes. Equipping EMS vehicles with essential medical supplies, technology, and equipment to support community-based care delivery would fit under the expanding community care sites project.

27. Q: Must mobile health units serve only HRSA designated rural areas?

A: Although mobile units funded by RHTP funds will not be limited to serving communities defined as rural by HRSA, applications must demonstrate how the project will serve South Carolinians living in a HRSA-defined rural community.

Tech Catalyst Fund

28. Q: Will you provide more details on the Tech Catalyst Fund?

A: The Tech Catalyst Fund will have a separate but consistent funding methodology administered by the South Carolina Research Authority. Announcements regarding this process are forthcoming.

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