

RHTP Hospital Planning Grant Town Hall

June 10, 2026, 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.



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RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION



HFS
Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We improve lives.

- ▶ We address social and structural determinants of health.
- ▶ We empower customers to maximize their health and well being.
- ▶ We provide consistent, responsive service to our colleagues and customers.
- ▶ We make equity the foundation of everything we do.

This is possible because:

- ▶ **We value our staff
as our greatest asset.**

We do this by:

Fully staffing a diverse workforce whose skills and experiences strengthen HFS.

Ensuring all staff and systems work together.

Maintaining a positive workplace where strong teams contribute, grow and stay.

Providing exceptional training programs that develop and support all employees.

- ▶ **We are always
improving.**

We do this by:

Having specific and measurable goals and using analytics to improve outcomes.

Using technology and interagency collaboration to maximize efficiency and impact.

Learning from successes and failures.

- ▶ **We inspire
public confidence.**

We do this by:

Using research and analytics to drive policy and shape legislative initiatives.

Clearly communicating the impacts of our work.

Being responsible stewards of public resources.

Staying focused on our goals.



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Stevens Amendment Acknowledgment

This presentation is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$193,418,216.21 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government



General Town Hall Operations and Communications

Presenter: Melishia Bansa,
Deputy Director of Community Outreach

Town Hall Meeting Basics

House Keeping

Please note, this Town Hall is being recorded.

To ensure accurate records, please type your name and organization into the chat.

Please be sure to mute your audio except when speaking.

Please note that HFS staff may mute participants to minimize any type of disruptive noise or feedback.

If you have a question during this town hall, please utilize the Webex chat feature to send your question directly to the host or co-host.

Meeting Basics

House Keeping

HFS is committed to hosting meetings and town halls that are accessible and ADA compliant. Closed captioning have been provided to you via the WebEx platform.

Please email HFS.Boards.and.Commissions@Illinois.gov to report any requests or accommodations you may require.

Patience, please – many meeting attendees may be new to these town hall proceedings.

Technology Check

House Keeping



- Meeting Chat – Contact the Meeting Host with Questions or Comments



- Connect Audio - Mute and Unmute – Microphone



- Closed Captioning



- Start Video – Turn Camera On or Off

Hi, I'm the Webex Assistant!

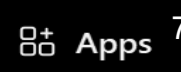
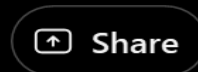
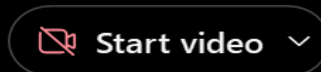
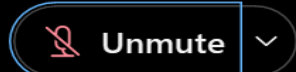
Captions and highlights
View captions and highlights created in the meeting.

Voice commands
Say commands like: "On Webex, the action item to capture highlights."

Turn on Webex Assistant

Spoken language
English

Caption language
English



Today's Town Hall Audience Focus

- This virtual town hall is meant for hospitals who meet established eligibility criteria for the RHTP Hospital Planning Grant opportunity.
- The intended audience is staff who will be responsible for applying on behalf of their hospital organization.



Introduction of HFS Staff

Presenter: Melishia Bansa

Deputy Director of Community Outreach – Boards & Commissions

HFS Team

- Dani Mendez, Program Director, Rural Health Transformation Program
- Aileen Kim, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Director
- Angela Kung, Assistant Director of Special Projects, Office of Medicaid Innovation



a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Summary of Agenda

Presenter: Melishia Bansa,
Deputy Director of Community Outreach, Boards and
Commissions

Town Hall Agenda

1. Provide an overview of RHTP,
2. Provide an overview of the Hospital Planning Grant,
3. Provide an overview of the application process,
4. Provide an overview of the budget template process,
5. Next steps, and
6. Answer submitted questions.

1. Rural Health Transformation Program

Illinois Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program

- Illinois was awarded **\$193.4 million** for the first year of the five-year initiative.
- Award amounts for years 2 – 5 are tentative and will be impacted by the state's performance in the program.
- HFS actively drafted funding opportunities, made plans to distribute the first year of funds, and worked towards standing up its governance structure.

IL RHT Goals



Transform Rural Healthcare



Overcome Geographic Barriers to Care



Build a Resilient Workforce

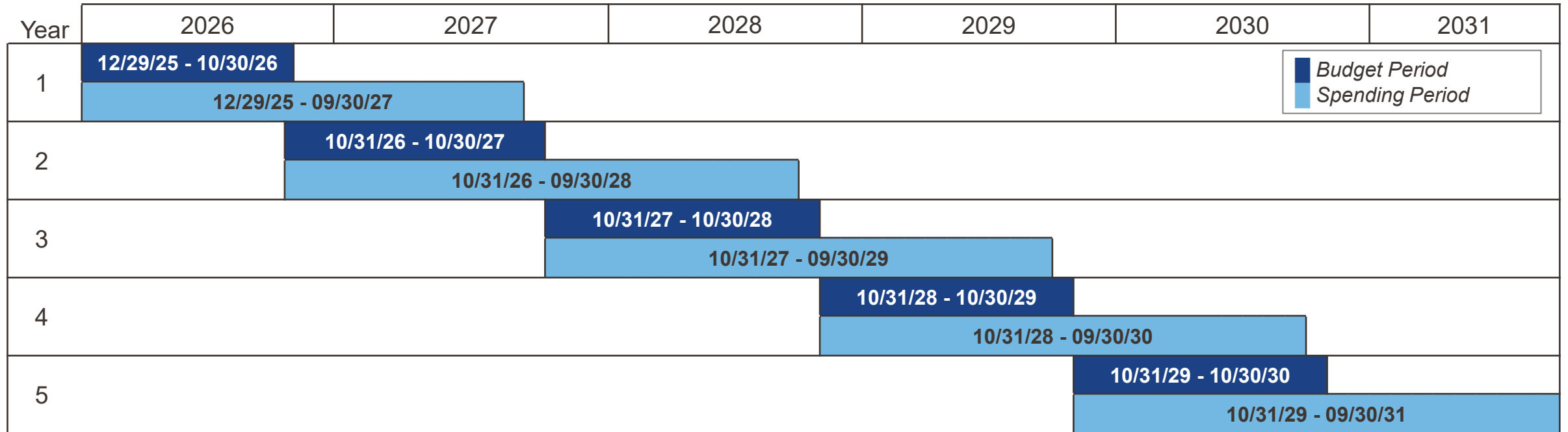
RHT Program Goal Areas

1. **Transforming Rural Healthcare** by catalyzing value-based care models, regional health care partnerships in the hospital and primary care practice spaces, practice transformation, and population health improvement.
2. **Overcoming Geographic Barriers to Care** by creating opportunities for individuals in rural settings to receive appropriate access to services while remaining in their communities through investment in mobile health, mobile crisis, and EMS services and expanding telehealth and technological innovations.
3. **Building a Resilient Workforce** through foundational investments that fill urgent gaps in the rural healthcare workforce through scholarship and university program expansion, regional training and certification programs, and expansion of high-school and community college programs.

Illinois RHT Initiative Overview

3 Goals	8 Initiatives	12 Funding Strategies	Intermediaries
Transform Rural Healthcare	1.A. Hospital Transformation	Hospital Transformation Grants	None
		Healthcare Transformation Collaborative (HTC) Expansion	None
		Hospital Technical Assistance	OMI
	1.B. Community Care Infrastructure	Team-Based Care Grants for Primary Care and Behavioral Health Providers	IPHCA and CBHA
		Primary Care and Behavioral Health Technical Assistance	OMI
	1.C. Hospital Disease Prevention	Disease Prevention Grants to Hospitals	ICAHN
Overcome Geographic Barriers to Care	2.A. EMS and Mobile Healthcare	EMS Enhancement Grants to Resource Hospitals	IDPH
		Mobile Health Infrastructure Funds to Primary Care and Behavioral Health Providers	IPHCA and CBHA
	2.B. Technical innovation for Virtual Care	Investment in Technological Infrastructure for Rural Providers	ICAHN
Build a Resilient Workforce	3.A. Healthcare Workforce Expansion	Expansion of Incentives and Training Programs for Clinical Professionals	OMI, ICCB, and ICAHN
	3.B. Training Healthcare Support Workers	Expansion of Training and Certification Programs for Healthcare Support Workers	ICCB, UIC
	3.C. Rural Health Education Pipeline	Expansion of Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Career Pathways Programming	UIC AHEC

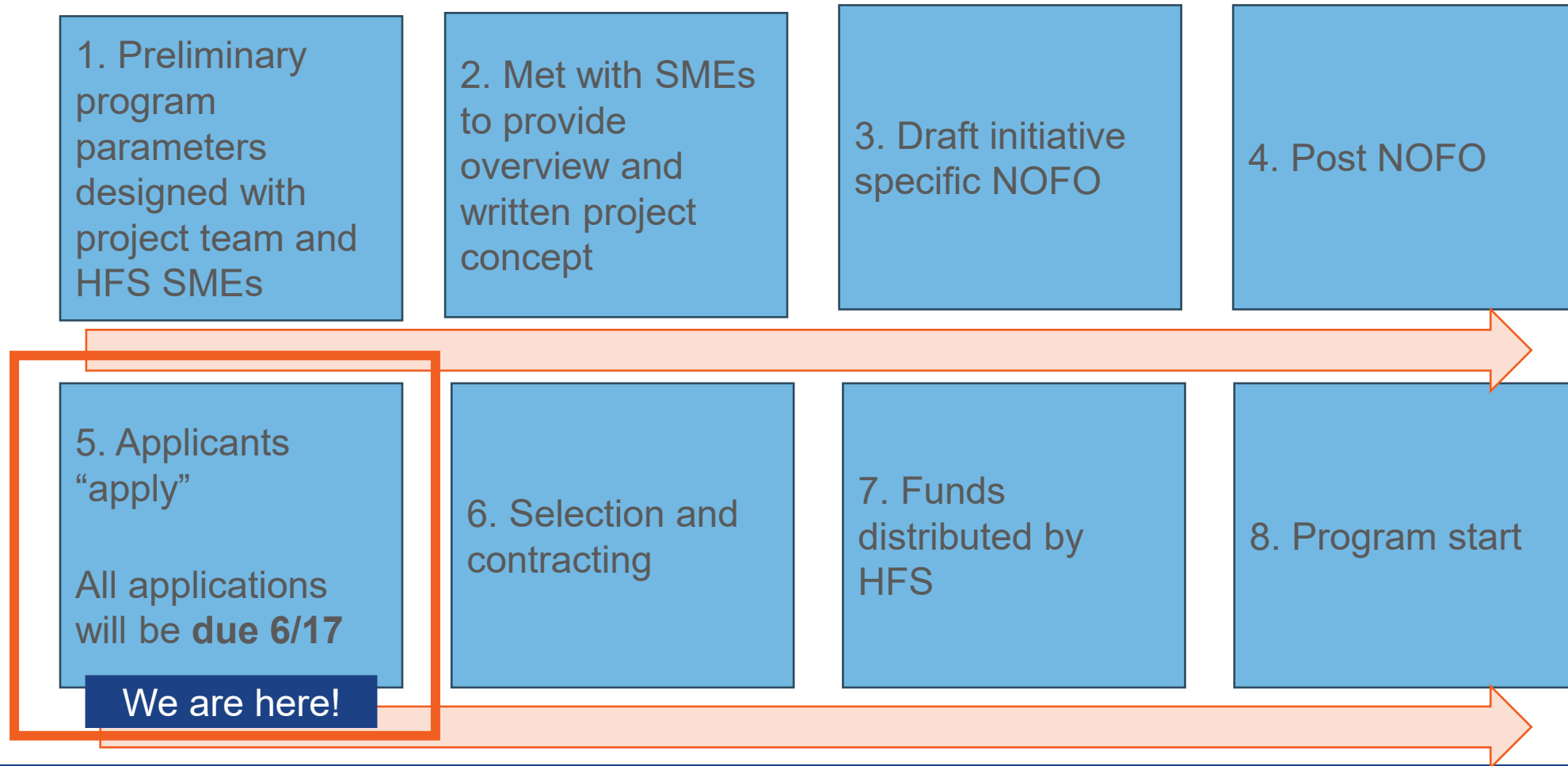
RHT Funding Timeline



Notes

- HFS submitted annual budgets in the RHTP application
- HFS had to submit a revised budget in January 2026 reflecting the awarded amount for Y1
- CMS lifted fund restriction on February 25, 2025
- Funds must be obligated before the end of the budget period (i.e., 10/30/26 for Y1)
- Funds may be spent through the end of the fiscal year (i.e., 9/30/27 for Y1)

Opportunity Development Process



2. Hospital Planning Grant



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Purpose



The State proposed the Hospital Transformation Initiative and carved out transformation funding for hospitals to:

- **Establish sustainable models of rural health care that improve population health, and**
- **Keep appropriate services accessible in rural communities.**

Program objectives include reshaping and right sizing hospital service delivery by filling care gaps, transforming service lines, and shifting business models to better align with community needs and increase the number of rural patients served. In addition, increasing access to care by improving the long-term financial viability of rural hospitals through testing of value-based payment models.



Program Design



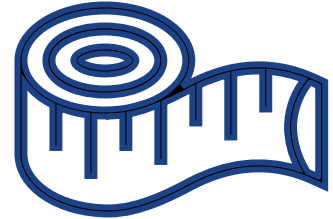
The program is designed as a phased initiative that provides planning support to all eligible applicants in Year 1 and competitive implementation funding in Years 2–5. Illinois will award funding to eligible applicants in two phases:

- **Year 1:** Funding supports Planning Grant awardees to complete foundational planning including submission of Transformation Plans, establishing regional partnerships, engaging with the Office of Medicaid Innovation (OMI) and establishing program infrastructure.
- **Years 2-5:** Funding supports implementation of approved Transformation Plans that aim to improve access, quality, care coordination, and financial sustainability for rural communities in Illinois

For Planning Grant awardees ready to execute approved Transformation Plans, HFS anticipates that hospitals will apply for continued Years 2 – 5 competitive Implementation Grants by December 2026.



Planning Grant Eligibility Criteria



Eligibility criteria use three factors:

1. **Facility Type:**

- General short-term acute hospitals that meet either the Hospital Designation or Inpatient Discharge Threshold requirements.
- Long-term acute care hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, psychiatric hospitals, and children's hospitals are not eligible to apply as primary grantees but may participate as partners of a grantee.

2. **Hospital Designation:** All CMS designated Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) are eligible to apply, regardless of location.

3. **Inpatient Discharge Threshold:** All non-CAHs with a three-year rural discharge percentage of at least 15%.



Criteria Methodology

- To establish objective eligibility criteria for hospital inclusion in the planning grant opportunity, HFS assessed the volume of hospital services provided to residents of rural ZIP Codes.
- The analysis was based on Illinois Department of Public Health's hospital discharge and ED discharge data from 2022–2024 and HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy definitions of rural ZIP Codes.
- Hospitals were categorized as rural or non-rural based on the location based HRSA classification.
- Similarly, patient discharges and ED visits were categorized as rural or non-rural using each patient's ZIP Code.
- The total count and the percentage of each hospital's discharges and ED visits among rural patients was calculated and averaged across the three years.



Hospital Transformation Plan Requirements

HFS expects Hospital Transformation Plans to include at least:

- Executive Summary
- Needs Assessment
- Partner Roles and Governance
- Goals for the Awardees' Transformation Plan
- Transformation Strategies
- Transformation Plan Outcome Metrics
- Workplan
- Overall Transformation Plan Budget
- Financial Model and Sustainability Plan



Hospital Transformation Plan Requirements – Transformation Strategies

Specific to Transformation Strategies, applicants should include at least one strategy in each of following categories:

- a) **Transform service lines,**
- b) **Deploy new models of care and supporting business operations,**
- c) **Design, pilot, and test Value-Based Purchasing Models.**

At least one strategy in any Transformation Plan category must specifically support closing critical access gaps in behavioral health, maternal health, or child health. Strategies should directly support the Awardee towards achieving program goals



Hospital Transformation Plan Requirements – Outcome Metrics

For each of the following key metrics, following award, HFS will provide both Awardee's baseline and targets for expected improvements through the Transformation Plan:

- **Follow-Up After ED Visits for Mental Illness**
- **Follow-Up After ED Visits for Substance Abuse**
- **ED visits for primary care sensitive cases**
- **Rates of ED visits for behavioral health**
- **Telehealth Utilization**
- **Member Level Total Cost of Care**
- **Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan**
- **Hospital Financial Stability: Days Cash on Hand**



Year 1 Planning Grant Milestones

- **October 30, 2026:**
 - Awardees provide HFS draft needs assessment
 - Awardees submit baselines for two calculated outcome measures.
 - Awardees describe progress on each of the required Planning Grant activities
- **January 30, 2027:**
 - Awardees submit full draft of Hospital Transformation Plan, concurrent with application for the Implementation Grant by December 2026.
 - Awardees describe progress on each of the required Planning Grant activities.
- **April 29, 2027:**
 - Awardees describe progress on each of the required Planning Grant activities.
- **June 29, 2027:**
 - Awardees have engaged with the Office of Medicaid Innovation (OMI) for two technical assistance sessions, at minimum.
 - Awardees describe final plans for detailed data governance, reporting, and analytics capabilities required to meet program requirements for Implementation Grant activities.



Available Funding



- Globally, **\$193,418,216.21** was awarded to Illinois for Year 1 across all initiatives.
- Total Year 1 Hospital Planning Grant funding amount of **\$28,191,393.00** will be allocated equally among eligible hospitals.
- If all **97 eligible hospitals** apply, this will result in an award amount of approximately **\$290,000 per hospital**.
- Total Year 2 to 5 funding will increase from Year 1 **but will be a competitive grant and funding awards will vary**. Funds will also **be subject to federal CMS approval**.
 - Year 2 - \$44M
 - Year 3 - \$52M
 - Year 4 - \$48M
 - Year 5 - \$48M

3. Application Process



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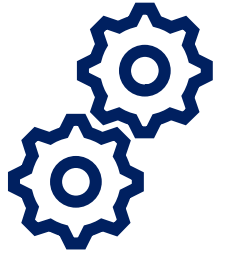
Initial Steps



- **Step 1:** Ensure you meet Hospital Planning Grant Eligibility Criteria
- **Step 2:** Ensure your organization is registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) grantee system before applying.
- **Step 3:** Navigate to the Euna portal and create an account if one does not exist.
- **Step 4:** Associate your account with your organizational account.
- **Step 5:** Begin funding opportunity application



Application Submission Components



- **Section 1: RHTP Uniform Grant Application**
 - Applicant Information, Organizational Unit, Program Name and Contact Information, Business Name and Contact Information, Proposed Service Area/Community Served, Areas Affected
- **Section 2: Project Overview**
 - Background and Need, Program Description
- **Section 3: Project Sustainability**
 - Data and Evaluation
- **Section 4: Budget**
 - Euna Budget Submission
 - RHTP Budget Worksheet Upload
- **Attachment**
 - Work Plan
 - Key Personnel
 - Letters of Support/Commitment



Euna Walkthrough – Apply



Dani Mendez
Healthcare and Family Services

Rural Health Transformation Program - Overcoming Geographic Barriers to Care, EMS Support

[Print](#)[Help](#)[Download](#)[Apply](#)

Opportunity Information

CSFA Number	178-00-3982
CSFA Popular Name	RHTP-EMS
Title	Rural Health Transformation Program - Overcoming Geographic Barriers to Care, EMS Support
Description	Illinois' Rural Health Transformation Program will support rural communities across the State of Illinois in improving healthcare access, quality, and outcomes by transforming healthcare delivery. By partnering with the Illinois Department of Public Health and Resource Hospitals, this program will support EMS-related expenses in expanding care in rural communities and standing up innovative models to treat people in place; training, coordination, and staffing; limited capital infrastructure; and local training, apprenticeship, and hiring of new EMTs and paramedics.
Awarding Agency Name	Healthcare And Family Serv
Agency Contact Name	Dani Mendez
Agency Contact Phone	(773)720-9469
Agency Contact Email	Dani.Mendez@Illinois.gov
Program	
Fund Activity Categories	





Euna Walkthrough – Apply continued

Print

Multiple Applications

Your organization has the following application associated with this opportunity.

To view the application, select the Application Name.

<u>Application Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Organization 1	Unsubmitted

Euna Walkthrough – Workflow



EUNA Grants Powered by Amplifund

Dani Mendez
Healthcare and Family Services

Rural Health Transformation Program - Overcoming Geographic Barriers to Care, EMS Support

○

✓

○

✓

○

Opportunity Details Project Information Application Forms Budget* Submit

Opportunity Details ✓

Print Help Download **Save & Continue**

Opportunity Information

Euna Walkthrough – Review and Submit



Dani Mendez
Healthcare and Family Services

!!!CLICK SUBMIT!!!

Rural Health Transformation Program - Overcoming Geographic Barriers to Care, EMS Support


Opportunity
Details


Project
Information


Application
Forms


Budget*

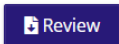

Submit

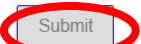
You are about to submit your application, **Organization 1**, to **Healthcare and Family Services**.

Take the time to review your application by using the timeline above. You can select any section and jump to that page.

When the application is fully complete, please select the "Submit" button. This will submit your final application to the funder.

You have forms that have not been completed.







Troubleshooting

If you are experiencing issue during the application process either submit a question to the Q&A link found in the funding opportunity and/or refer to the Gata Resource Library.

- [Hospital Transformation Q&A link](#)
- [GATA State Grantee Portal New User Guide](#)



Critical Reminder



- Your application must be completed and submitted via the Euna system no later than **4:00 p.m. Central Time (CT)**
- Applicants must upload all required documents in the designated sections of this opportunity. HFS will not accept documents sent by email, mail, or any method outside of the Euna system.
- If you have multiple hospitals in your system, we expect each hospital to submit an application. If there is a circumstance that would not allow you to do so, such as a FEIN number being shared across multiple hospitals, you may then submit one application. But you must notify HFS.

4. Budget Template



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Budget Submission



Budget submission completeness includes two steps:

- 1. Completing and uploading Excel Worksheet**
- 2. Completing and submitting Euna Budget**

[Personnel Services](#)
[Fringe Benefits](#)
[Indirect Costs](#)
[Administrative](#)
[Contractual Costs](#)
[Travel Costs](#)
[...](#)

Excel Budget Worksheet Continued



DO NOT CHANGE ANY NUMBERS ON THIS TAB.					
NOTE: Amounts in this chart are linked to the "Total" cell in each tab. Changing this chart will change the associated tab's totals.					
Program Expenses	Total Costs	Total In-Kind	Total Amount Requested		
Personnel Services	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00		
Fringe Benefits	\$ 71,200.00	\$ -	\$ 71,200.00		
Indirect Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Administrative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Contractual Services	\$ 138,800.00	\$ -	\$ 138,800.00		
Travel Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Commodities and Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Telecommunications	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 290,000.00	\$ -	\$ 290,000.00		
Administrative - Personnel Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Administrative - Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Indirect Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Administrative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Administrative - Contractual Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Administrative - Travel Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Administrative - Commodities and Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Administrative - Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Administrative - Telecommunication	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Total Admin / Indirect Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
NOTE: Ensure that these totals also match the Euna Uniform Grant Budget Section you will complete during this application.					

Euna – Project Information



EUNA Grants
Powered by AmpliFund

Healthcare

Details Information Forms

Project Information ✓

Help Download Save Save & Continue

Application Information

Application Name * Organization 1 ✓

Pre-Qualification Status Not Qualified

How much are you requesting from the funder?

Award Requested * \$290,000.00

How much are you planning to contribute to the budget?

Cash Match Requirement	\$0.00 ⓘ
Cash Match Contributions *	\$0.00
In-Kind Match Requirement	\$0.00 ⓘ
In-Kind Match Contributions *	\$0.00
Other Funding Requirement	\$0.00 ⓘ
Other Funding Contributions *	\$0.00
Total Award Budget	\$290,000.00

Primary Contact Information

Euna - Budget



**EUNA Grants**
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Proposed Budget

Expense Budget 

Category	Grant Funded	Non-Grant Funded	Total Budgeted
+ 1. Personnel (Salaries and Wages) (2 CFR 200.430)	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$80,000.00
Person 1  	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$80,000.00
+ 2. Fringe Benefits (2 CFR 200.431)	\$71,200.00	\$0.00	\$71,200.00
Person 1  	\$71,200.00	\$0.00	\$71,200.00
+ 3. Travel (2 CFR 200.474)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
+ 4. Equipment (2 CFR 200.439)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
+ 5. Supplies (2 CFR 200.94)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
+ 6. Contractual Services & Subawards (2 CFR 200.318 & 200.92)	\$138,800.00	\$0.00	\$138,800.00
Consultant support  	\$138,800.00	\$0.00	\$138,800.00
+ 11. Telecommunications	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
+ 13. Direct Administrative Costs (2 CFR 200.413 (c))	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
+ Indirect Cost (2 CFR 200.414)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expense Budget Cost	\$290,000.00	\$0.00	\$290,000.00

Revenue Budget

Grant Funding		
Award Requested	\$290,000.00	\$290,000.00
Subtotal	\$290,000.00	\$290,000.00
Non-Grant Funding		
Cash Match	\$0.00	\$0.00
In-Kind Match	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Funding	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenue Budget Cost		(\$290,000.00)
Total Overall Budget Cost		\$0.00

Mark as In Progress Save & Continue

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5. Next Steps



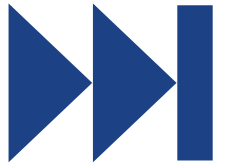
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Next Steps



- Complete application submission by June 17, 2026, 4:00PM CST
- Continue to asks questions via Q&A link
- Q&A document will be publicly posted
- Future information will be released on budget and reporting templates and cadence

High Level Timeline

Activity	Week of 5/18	Week of 5/25	Week of 6/1	Week of 6/8	Week of 6/15	Week of 6/22	Week of 6/29	Week of 7/6	Week of 7/13	Week of 7/20	Week of 7/27
Application go live	5/19										
Application open window*	5/19 to 6/17										
Application window closes					6/17						
Application review and iterative edits w/ subrecipients as needed					6/18 to 6/26						
Awards made, UGAs signed, Contract Approval Document (CAD) approved							6/29 to 7/10				

* Note: Fund distribution may range based on initiative



6. Q & A

Facilitator: Melishia Bansa – Deputy Director of Community Outreach:
Boards and Commissions

Thank you!



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