



**HFS**

Illinois Department of  
Healthcare and Family Services

# Healthcare Transformation Capital Investment Grant Q & A

## AWARD AMOUNTS

**?** If submitting a request for one safety net hospital, is there a maximum amount of funding that will be considered or an ideal amount that would be considered for a request from a single hospital? We are aware of the funding ceiling of \$80 million, but wanted clarification if the higher end of the funding range is meant for a healthcare system request that may include multiple locations?

*It is the limit per award.*

## AWARD AMOUNTS

**?** Will awards to successful applications be on an “all-or-nothing basis”? For example, if an application requests \$50M, will the award decision be either the full amount (\$50M) or zero? Or could the awarded amount be some dollar amount in between?

*HFS may make an award for some, but not all components of a proposal; however before doing so HFS may seek to determine whether the applicant can raise any other necessary finds before HFS/CDB funds are awarded.*

## ALLOWABLE COSTS

**?** Sect E Funding Restrictions (pg. 7): The definition of equipment states that it is a “durable manufactured [item] that [has] a significant useful life of at least 20 years.” How does one determine this? Does this mean that any equipment with 10 or 15 years of useful life is not eligible? How does office furniture meet those guidelines (pg. 7)? Is equipment purchases limited only to medical equipment? Or are we able to purchase other equipment such as furniture, smart boards, technology equipment, etc.?

*The useful life of an item is determined by auditors/an internal asset register/IRS asset lists. While computers used to be considered equipment; now, they are considered supplies at a federal level. Bond funds may only purchase computers or similar technology if they are part of a larger new build or substantial rehab.*

*Office furniture may only be purchased as part of a new construction or remodel.*

*Cabinets and other fixed furniture are more likely to be approved if they have an expected life of 12 or more years. HFS/CDB may need to discuss specific technology, furniture or fixed items to gain further details before approving.*

## ALLOWABLE COSTS

**?** Is the purchase and renovation/construction of a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) site eligible for this Healthcare Transformation Capital Investment Grants? Existing HTC Partnerships with the coalition members would continue to deliver medical care, conduct outreach to target community, and contract with medical providers from the coalition.

*Building purchases and renovations are allowable under this program, including for a PACE site.*

**ALLOWABLE COSTS**

? Please confirm that the applicant needs to own the building where the proposed capital work will occur. Are there any options for buildings that are in a long-term lease or owned by a partner agency?

*No. Per administrative rules, leasehold improvements are not allowed.*

**ALLOWABLE COSTS**

? Sect G Unallowable Costs and Activities (pg. 9): "To lease/rent space for occupancy" is an unallowable cost. If project is not 100% owner-occupied (i.e., solely owned by applicant), are acquisition and renovation/construction costs eligible project costs? Regarding lease/rent expense – for clarification: as long as none of the grant proceeds are used for ongoing operating expenses, is that acceptable? Can the applicant be part of a joint-venture, partnership, etc. who owns the project and/or said real estate?

*The administrative rules governing this program prohibit using grant funds to make leasehold improvements. See 71 Ill. Adm. Code 44.145(b). Therefore, eligible project costs would only include acquisition and renovation/construction costs for property owned by the applicant.*

*The administrative rules governing this program prohibit using grant funds to either lease/rent space or to make leasehold improvements. See 71 Ill. Adm. Code 44.145(b).*

*The applicant must have a controlling ownership interest in the property that will be improved with grant funds.*

**ALLOWABLE COSTS**

? Would the purchase of an Electronic Health Record be an allowable use of these funds under the equipment category?

*The Electronic Health Record must meet minimum useful life requirements per bond funding requirements.*

**ALLOWABLE COSTS**

? Would the purchase or improvement of a mobile healthcare unit (i.e. care van) be allowable under this opportunity?

*Vans are considered rolling stock and not allowable.*

**AWARD AMOUNTS**

? AHS Family Health Center is considering applying for the Healthcare Transformation Capital Investment Grant. The NOFO indicates awards are between \$5m and \$80m. Would our application be considered with a \$1million request for renovation of one of our four FQHC clinic locations? We are members of the North Side Collaborative/ HTC.

*The range listed is estimated. No award floor is listed.*

**AWARD AMOUNTS**

? I see that there is \$200 Million available for grants, and it says that the grant request amount range is \$5 million to \$80 million. Does that mean that there is a minimum request amount of \$ 5million? or can it be any amount?

*The range listed is estimated. No award floor is listed.*

**BEP**

**?** Can you provide us more information on the process for the Business Enterprise Program? What if we can't find businesses that are owned by women, minorities, or people with disabilities, but our design/build firm makes best efforts to meet the requirement? If best efforts are done, and certain statutory requirements are simply unable to be met, how does that impact (if at all) total grant funding or timing of funding and/or creating refund scenarios?

*For grant awards of \$250,000 or more, the grantee will be required to comply with the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/0.01 et seq.), which establishes a goal for contracting with businesses that have been certified as owned and controlled as a minority-owned business, woman-owned business or business owned by a person with a disability. CDB will work with the grantee to ensure compliance prior to the establishment of the grant agreement as well as through the life of the grant. Grantee must agree to coordinate the meeting of these goals with CDB's Diversity Contacting Unit and to provide documentation of its good faith efforts to meet the established percentages in the event that the goals are not met. The Business Enterprise Program is a legal statutory requirement. Failure to comply with any legal requirement or other requirement specified in the grant agreement may result in suspension or termination of the grant agreement, grant funds being repaid by the Grantee, the withholding of future grant payments by CDB, or other remedy provided by law.*

**BUDGET/COSTS**

**?** 1. If actual costs are higher than what is estimated in the proposal, is there a process to seek supplemental funding to meet them? 2. What level of documentation is expected by CDB to support costs as they are estimated in the proposals?

*1. No. 2. CDB does not require documentation for estimates; however, in the event the applicant is awarded a grant, all grant expenditures must be supported by executed design and construction contracts and invoices for eligible items related to the project.*

**BUDGET/COSTS**

**?** Can you please clarify the following excerpt from page 8 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Posted below for reference: • Pre-award costs. Costs incurred before award for architect's fees, consultant's fees, and environmental analysis necessary for the planning and design of the project are allowable if the project is subsequently approved and funded. Pre-award construction costs are generally unallowable. • Site survey and soil investigation and any necessary remediation. • Site clearance. Site clearance costs are allowable if they are reflected in the bid. Would remediation costs be allowed if they are budgeted and planned for? For example, what if Phase 1 & 2 of Environmental Analysis finds that remediation is required before constructing/renovating a site?

*Yes.*

**BUDGET/COSTS**

**?** In the proposed budget summary section, it has columns for grant funded and non-grant funded. Are there any stipulations regarding what can be considered non-grant funded? For example, if the grant is for \$100,000 from this grant, would another \$50,000 from our current HTC collaborative budget be considered non-grant funded?

*Yes.*

<b>BUDGET/COSTS</b>	<p><b>?</b> In this same proposed budget summary, is it ok to propose for the entire project to be grant funded by this grant only?</p> <p><i>Yes, however the grant is limited to capital improvement expenses only.</i></p>
<b>BUDGET/COSTS</b>	<p><b>?</b> Regarding the budget in the application: If we mention that we are soliciting funds from other sources to help with the cost of the project, do we only include what has been committed at the time of the application submission?</p> <p><i>Yes - only included what is committed.</i></p>
<b>BUDGET/COSTS</b>	<p><b>?</b> Under the section of the NOFO about unallowable expenses, it says that grant funds shall not be used to fund expenses associated with the operation of the facility; can you clarify what is meant by this or what type of operating expenses would not be allowable?</p> <p><i>No operating expenses are allowed. Examples of operating expenses that are not allowable include but are not limited to overhead, staffing, etc.</i></p>
<b>BUDGET/COSTS</b>	<p><b>?</b> What if the project is less than 20-Million, would we be eligible to apply?</p> <p><i>Yes. No award floor is listed.</i></p>
<b>BUDGET/COSTS</b>	<p><b>?</b> Will this program support only capital costs, or can operating costs (e.g., staffing) be included?</p> <p><i>The Grants may only support capital expenses. Operating costs may not be included. See Section G of the NOFO.</i></p>
<b>CAPITAL TYPE</b>	<p><b>?</b> Do any of these seem to fit with the objectives of the grant funds? 1. Transportation/wheelchair accessible van for our hospital and provider clinic. 2. Installation of bariatric equipment, including ceiling lifts, one in the ED and one on the inpatient unit. 3. Implementation of a mobile clinic for chronic disease mgmt., access to healthcare, immunizations, etc.</p> <p><i>1. No 2. Yes 3. No, Vans are considered rolling stock and not allowable.</i></p>
<b>CAPITAL TYPE</b>	<p><b>?</b> .We are interested in the Healthcare Transformation Capital Investment Grant for EPIC costs. Three of our facilities (one being a critical access facility and another a small, rural facility) will be implementing EPIC in September of this year. We hope to receive clarification as to whether EMR systems are considered "equipment" under the guidelines of this grant.</p> <p><i>EHRs must meet minimum useful life requirements per bond funding requirements.</i></p>
<b>CAPITAL TYPE</b>	<p><b>?</b> Will this grant support mixed use development i.e. services on the first floor and low-income housing on upper floors?</p> <p><i>The entire capital project must support healthcare transformation. Addressing social determinants of health and health related social needs would be considered part of health care delivery.</i></p>
<b>CDB</b>	<p><b>?</b> If grant money can be used for a PACE Site, does the grant application have to be specific to one (1) site? Or could we apply with more than 1 prospective site?</p>

**COMMUNITY  
NEEDS**

*Multiple sites can be part of an application. If a current site is not yet determined, it is acceptable to include multiple potential sites as part of an application. However, the State cannot guarantee that the award amount would increase as a result of increased costs related to eventual site selection.*

**?** Our question is regarding the requirement to "serve underserved areas (based on the community needs assessment that underwrites the HTC award)"  
We are wondering what metrics you are using to determine an "underserved area". While our offices are located on the North and West Sides of Chicago, we serve a wide range of clients from historically underserved areas.  
Are you looking at client population or physical location?

*Based on Appendix A of the NOFO "Evaluation and Scoring Criteria Rubric" an Excellent score in the Project Needs Category is where "the Project needs assessment is thoroughly defined, planned, and executed to effectively present reliable and compelling data that demonstrate a significant need in the community." We recommend your application encompass that criteria.*

**COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATIONS**

**?** Does the grant require a specific minimum number of community organizations involved in the proposed project?

*No. The Grant does not require a specific minimum or maximum number of community organizations involved in the project.*

**ELIGIBLE  
APPLICANTS**

**?** Sect C.3 Eligibility (pg. 4): Is there a more specific definition of the "health care provider"? Can we confirm we are an "eligible medical provider with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services" since we bill HFS and have an NPI(s) for multiple medical services?

*If enrolled in Medicaid and bill for Medicaid service, you are considered a Medicaid provider.*

**ELIGIBLE  
APPLICANTS AND  
ALLOWABLE  
COSTS**








**?** Can agencies that are primarily educational be included in the whole project if we have medical agencies as well? Does that impact our general eligibility or budget considerations for construction and equipment? Could we purchase equipment for the educational entity (E.g., smart boards, desks, chairs, tables), or only equipment for the medical ones?

*Per the statute, grants are for "capital improvement grants to Illinois hospitals licensed under the Hospital Licensing Act and other qualified healthcare providers serving the people of Illinois." As far as equipment goes, a project may include, as part of the overall capital project, equipping the project space for use. The purchase of other equipment, such as large medical equipment, is also allowed provided that the equipment has a significant useful life and complies with the requirements of 71 Ill. Adm. Code 44.105.*

**GENERAL**


**?** Are community-based organizations and/or non-profits eligible to apply?

*Community based organizations may submit a joint application with an enrolled Medicaid Provider.*


- GENERAL**  Do proposed projects need to support existing Healthcare Transformation Collaborative initiatives and/or outcomes? Will projects that do this be evaluated more favorably?  
*No. Evaluation and scoring is outlined in the Scoring Rubric.*
- GENERAL**  Does HFS have a priority list of population health conditions that they can provide to make sure submissions align and are responsive to the intent of this NOFO?  
*No. Please refer to paragraph A. "Program Description" in the NOFO.*
- GENERAL**  From "HFS Grant Application Process" Pre-Qualification (pg. 6): Where can we confirm we have achieved Authentication and Grantee Registration? If we already have access to the GATA portal, does that mean we have already done these two pre-qual steps?  
*Illinois automates the pre-qualification verification based on the Grantee Portal Registration. The State utilizes connections to several external resources for the automated verification process, including the federally required SAM.gov account. Please see "What does Pre-Qualification Mean."  
<https://gata.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/gata/documents/grantee-links/grantee-portal-faq/What%20Does%20Pre-qualification%20Mean.pdf>*
- GENERAL**  From "HFS Grant Application Process" Slide Deck, Pre-Award Requirements (pg. 8): Where can we find the Programmatic Risk Assessment (PRA)? It's not in the online portal. Regarding the ICQ, we know to complete this in the GATA portal.  
*A Programmatic Risk Assessment is completed by the awarding agency based on the program and entity information. Programmatic risk assessment inform specific conditions in the grant agreement as necessary. Please see "Risk Assessment-ICQ and Programmatic" for further information.  
[https://gata.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/gata/documents/training\\_new/gata-spring-2018-training-for-fy19/risk-assessments.pdf](https://gata.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/gata/documents/training_new/gata-spring-2018-training-for-fy19/risk-assessments.pdf)*
- GENERAL**  Letters of Support: There is not a section the application online where attachments can be uploaded. The NOFO also doesn't mention or require any letters of support. If we could secure some, would that impact the scoring an application would receive? Where would we submit letters if that is approved?  
*The application process does not allow for acceptance of Letters of support.*
- GENERAL**  Please define "period of performance".  
*The period of performance is outlined in the grant agreement and may not exceed five years.*
- GENERAL**  Sect C.5 Limitations (pg. 5): What does it mean for all expenses to be "funded with bond funds"? . See also Sect F (pg. 7), "All purchases made with grant funds must be bondable."

*Funding for this program comes from sales of state bonds. Items purchased with bond funds must be useable and useful for a minimum of 12 years. The Notice of Funding Opportunity outlines the allowable costs in Section F. Those costs that are allowable are considered bondable.*

**GENERAL**

 The NOFO references that a site analysis should be included in the Project Narrative for submission (NOFO Page 3 of 29, Item 5.c.) but there does not appear to be any specific section in the Amplifund application to submit the site analysis separately/individually. Can you provide guidance as to where in the Amplifund system we should submit this information?  
*The Project Narrative form now includes a section where the applicant is required to upload their site-analysis.*


**GENERAL**

 The NOFO states that the applicant for the grant must be licensed under the Hospital Licensing Act and other qualified healthcare providers serving the people of Illinois. Does this mean the NOFO is limited to hospitals only?  
*No.*


**GENERAL**

 Where can I find the NOFO or other information on the Illinois Healthcare Capital Investment Grant?  
*Full details of this opportunity, including applicant eligibility, may be accessed online via the Illinois Catalog of State Financial Assistance (refer to Healthcare Transformation Capital Investment Grants, HTC Capital Grants, CSFA Number 511-00-3381): <https://gata.illinois.gov/grants/csfa.html> The information is also available via Amplifund: <https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/530efdd1-8831-4364-9006-4b7d6aa5f083>*


**GENERAL**

 Will capital grants be awarded for new projects, or must proposals refer back to the scope and purpose of an original Healthcare Transformation Collaborative grant funded by HFS?  
*Applications may be for new projects or may be for the scope of original HTC grant.*


**HTC**

 As the HTC entity, am I able to submit an application for my capital needs and can each of our participating partners apply under their own application?  
*An HTC can apply provided the application is a joint application with a Medicaid Provider who is a provider with the Collaborative.*


**HTC**

 Can a Healthcare Transformation Collaborative that is a non-Medicaid provider apply for this grant on behalf of its providers who are Medicaid providers?  
*No.*

**HTC**

 Can multiple collaborative partners from the same HTC collab apply for their own funding?  
*Yes.*

**HTC**

 Can the actual collaborative entity apply for funding? We are not a hospital or FQHC and I don't know if we are considered an eligible medical provider.

*An HTC can apply provided the application is a joint application with a Medicaid Provider who is a provider with the Collaborative.*

HTC

❓ Our agency is part of an HTC. As a Behavioral Health Clinic, can we receive capital funds or are they only available to hospitals?

*Yes, IF the applicant is enrolled with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services as a Medicaid enrolled provider.*

HTC

❓ Saint Anthony Hospital is the lead of the PATH Healthcare Transformation Collaborative, and we are considering applying for a capital investment grant. Our current Healthcare Transformation funding supports buildout costs and rent for a leased space at 4192 S. Archer where services will be delivered for the next few years. PATH's long-term plan, however, is to deliver its services at Saint Anthony's new home on the Focal Point Community Campus located at 31st and Kedzie (<https://focalpointchicago.org/about-saint-anthony-hospital/>). The project is currently in the midst of schematic design. As PATH will be a key component of the broader Focal Point project, are we able to apply for the capital investment grant?

*Yes.*

HTC

❓ Seeking clarity that a partner in an approved Healthcare Collaborative whose capital has already been funded is not required to submit an application from the previous approved capital funding.

*You are not required to apply.*

HTC

❓ The eligible applicants section says it is for any health care provider, including hospitals enrolled as an eligible medical provider. So does this mean that the collaborative partner (i.e. safety net hospital) applies for this funding or does the HTC collaborative itself apply?

*Only Medicaid enrolled providers may apply.*

HTC

❓ When I read that we are to provide a general description of the project, is this a project description of the construction project or is it a project description of our SSHCO project?

*The project description should describe both the capital project and how it will promote healthcare transformation. See Section D.2. of the NOFO.*

HTC

❓ Will Capital Investment awards reduce or impact existing Healthcare Transformation Collaborative budgets?

*No.*

LEASED SPACE

❓ Can a healthcare provider (in partnership with FQHC) apply for this grant to support a new Wellness Center that is owned by a community-based organization? This new building would be owned by a community-based organization and the healthcare provider and FQHC would lease space in the proposed new building



*The administrative rules governing this program prohibit using grant funds to make leasehold improvements. See 71 Ill. Adm. Code 44.145(b). Therefore, eligible project costs would only include acquisition and renovation/construction costs for property owned by the applicant.*

*The administrative rules governing this program prohibit using grant funds to either lease/rent space or to make leasehold improvements. See 71 Ill. Adm. Code 44.145(b).*

*The applicant must have a controlling ownership interest in the property that will be improved with grant funds.*

**MULTIPLE  
APPS/SITES**

**?** Are we limited to only submitting one application per organization, or if we are considering multiple capital projects can we submit multiple applications?

*Applicants may submit multiple applications or one application with multiple proposals.*

**MULTIPLE  
APPS/SITES**

**?** Are you able to combine multiple, related capital projects under a single application or does the application have to be for a single capital project as defined by one address?

*You may combine multiple projects in one applications, but be aware that applications will be reviewed and awarded or not awarded in their entirety. Keep in mind that there are limited funds available.*

**MULTIPLE  
APPS/SITES**

**?** Can a single entity (e.g., the University of Illinois) submit multiple proposals? If not, can a single proposal incorporate a wide-ranging set of requests, or must they somehow be thematically related?

*Applicants may submit multiple applications or one application with multiple proposals.*

**MULTIPLE  
APPS/SITES**

**?** Can a single healthcare system submit their own proposal, or must those proposals demonstrate collaborations with community partners? If the latter, do those partners have to be the same as were included in the original Health Transformation Collaborative?

*A single system may submit their own proposal.*

**MULTIPLE  
APPS/SITES**

**?** Can one application include a capital project that involves multiple buildings on a hospital campus?

*Yes, construction projects in more than one building at a single site is allowable.*

**MULTIPLE  
APPS/SITES**

**?** Is it considered multiple partners applying if there are more than one applicant from the same collaborative? I ask because page 4 says it does not allow for multiple applications. I'm assuming that means from one applicant and not from one collaborative but I want to be sure. So could a safety net hospital and an FQHC each apply for their own funding?

*Yes. Multiple members of same collaborative may apply on their behalf.*

**MULTIPLE  
APPS/SITES**

**?** Would it be permissible for one proposal to fund two sites for an integrated mental health agency serving in areas of high need (DSAs)?

*Applicants may submit multiple applications or one application with multiple proposals.*

**SCOPE OF WORK**

**?** Regarding Scope of Work in the application: Can we select all that apply or only one? For example, could we select “for renovation projects”, “for building/land purchases”, and “for equipment purchases”?

*Include all categories as they pertain to your specific project.*

**SCOPE OF WORK**

**?** When trying to determine number of rooms for space, is it fine that we’re making our best estimate when some of those details are subject to change as the project progresses?

*Yes. An estimate is acceptable. However, a detailed scope is required for any successful applicant. Additionally, the total grant amount will not be adjusted in the event actual costs exceed estimates.*

**TYPES OF CARE**

**?** Are federally qualified hospital centers (FQHC) allotted a specific percentage of award funds?

*No.*

**TYPES OF CARE**

**?** As I read this application, this is intended for safety net hospitals. This is not for FQHCs that are part of the Healthcare Transformation Collaborative. Can you confirm?

*Yes, so long as the applicant is a Medicaid enrolled provider.*

**TYPES OF CARE**

**?** If a project is in an area of highest need for mental health and integrated mental health services, would it be eligible?

*Yes.*

**TYPES OF CARE**

**?** Is the delivery of primary care at the proposed capital project site a programmatic requirement for this funding?

*No.*

**TYPES OF CARE**

**?** With regards to the Healthcare Transformation Capital Investment Grants opportunities, are behavioral health clinics licensed under Medicaid Rule 140 eligible to apply?

*Yes. If enrolled in Medicaid.*

**TYPES OF CARE**

**?** Would a brick-and-mortar building following a Living Room model including a jail evasion program qualify for this funding?

*Yes.*

**TYPES OF CARE**

**?** Would the expansion of a family shelter to include a clinic within qualify for this funding? The shelter serves families and individuals that sometimes have undiagnosed mental illness the expansion could help with linkage to healthcare services and referrals.

*Yes.*