2027-2028 Rural Population Health Incubator Program FAQ

Application

Q: There's space to upload one supporting document on the online submission form. What if I have more than one letter of support?
A: You can combine the PDFs into one document and upload that document. Please try to limit the number of pages in your supplemental document to 2-3 pages.

Q: Can organizations apply for multiple projects?
A: Yes, you can submit multiple grant applications for different projects.

Eligibility

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the Incubator?
A: Rural hospitals, clinics, public health departments and community-based organizations are eligible to apply for the Incubator. Urban-based entities are eligible if the program exclusively serves a rural area and has an established partnership with a rural organization. Partnerships must be demonstrated through a letter of support, which can be uploaded as supplemental material on the application. Rural is defined by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. Find out if your area is rural by using the Am I Rural? Tool.

Q: How do you define "community-based organization"?
A: We use the term community-based organization (CBO) to include all other organization types. This includes nonprofits, coalitions, schools, long-term care facilities, etc.

Q: Are private rural clinics eligible?
A: Yes, private rural clinics are eligible.

Q: Can an urban organization apply for the Incubator if they are serving a rural area?
A: Yes, an urban organization can apply if they have a partnership with and experience in working with a rural hospital, clinic, public health, EMS or CBO. This partnership must be demonstrated by uploading a letter of support in the supplemental documents section of the application.

Budget

Q: Can applicant organizations charge their normal indirect rate?

A: Yes, Incubator funds can be used for indirect costs, but they must be limited to 15% of the total budget or less.

Q: Can salaries be supported through the Incubator?
A: Yes, salaries can be supported if the program aligns with the Incubator program goals. ORH encourages you to limit salaries attributed to the grant to 20% so more funds are spent on direct program costs. However, if you propose using grant funds to exclusively support salaries, please include a strong sustainability plan for the position to continue after the grant period.

* Please note that salaries for direct patient care cannot be supported by Incubator funds. For example, the $10,000 cannot be spent on a nurse's salary at your hospital. The salary must go to support a population health focused program.

Q: What costs are ineligible to be covered by the Incubator funds?
A: Grant funds cannot be spent on:

- Food or drink*
- Salaries for direct patient care
- Facility infrastructure costs
- Medical devices**

*Some Incubator funds come from Federal grants, and so cannot be spent on event food or drink. However, if your program is related to food insecurity, you could spend the money on items such as food boxes or grocery cards.

Applications that propose using funds solely for medical devices for direct patient care will not be approved. However, purchasing supplies and equipment **that support your overarching population health program and goals is allowable.

For example:

- Allowable: A hospital who requests grant funds to support their programming for older adults and would like to use Incubator funding to purchase gym equipment that is needed for their weekly mobility classes.
- Unallowable: A clinic applies for funding to buy 100 blood pressure cuffs.

Grant Period

Q: What are the details and expectations around attending cohort meetings and workshops?
A: Grantee cohort meetings will be held virtually once per quarter of the grant cycle on the following dates:

- April 25, 2027, from 1pm-2pm PT
- July 20, 2027, from 12pm- 1pm PT
- October 25, 2027, from 1pm-2pm PT
- February 13, 2028, from 12pm-1pm PT

These meetings are informal spaces for grantees to share about their programs and learn from one another. Workshops will be held during the grant cycle, dates TBA. Grantees are expected to prioritize attendance at these meetings.

In addition to cohort meetings and workshops, ORH staff may ask to visit your program in person. These visits will happen in June or July after the grant cycle has ended.

Q: How long is the grant period?
A: The grant period runs from April 15, 2027, to April 14, 2028. Final reports will be due by April 30, 2028.

Reporting

Q: What are the reporting requirements?
A: Grantees are required to submit a midpoint report in mid-October, as well as a final report due at the end of April. Templates and instructions will be provided at least one month ahead of time. These reports are not meant to be overly burdensome but to provide a succinct overview of the project's progress, successes and challenges, overall impact, and grant expenses.

Grantees are also expected to complete short surveys throughout the grant cycle to help ORH staff improve and report on the Incubator program.