Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
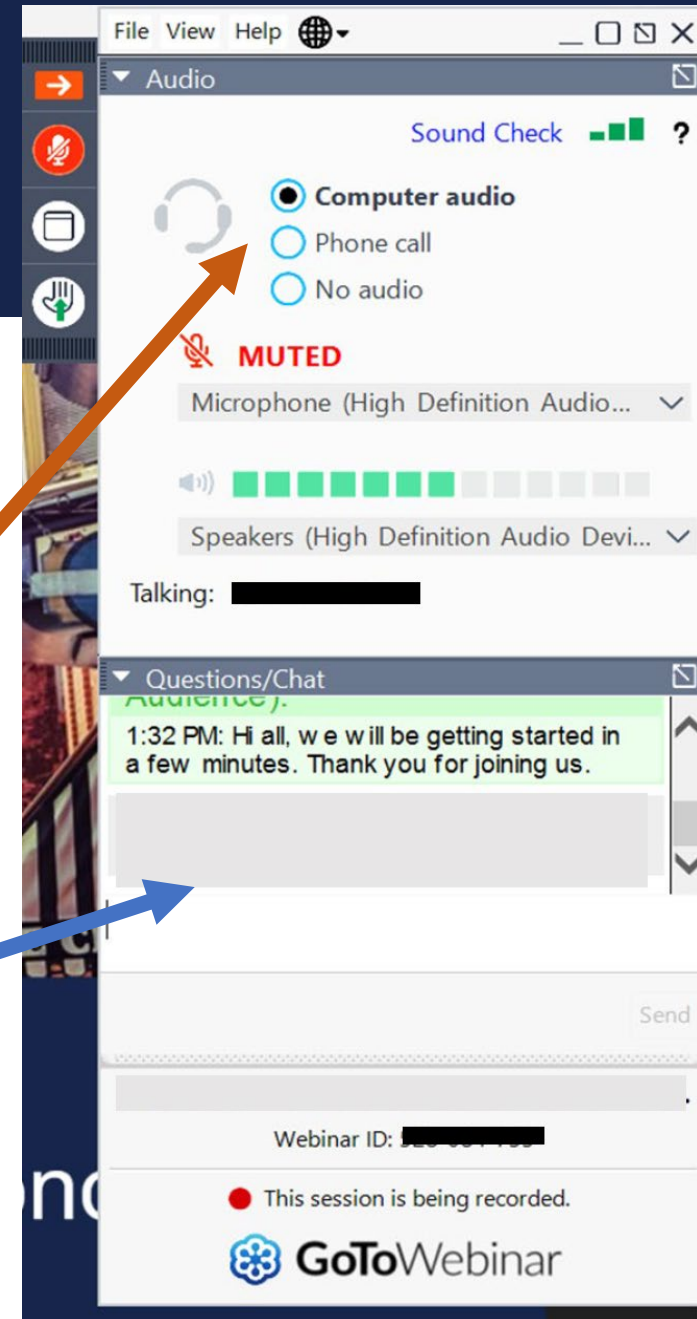
American Rescue Plan

Community Facilities Program, Rural Housing Service

USDA **Rural Development**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Welcome

Attendees:

- **You are joined with computer audio by default.**

- **You can change to phone if needed. Check this button and use the PIN provided.**

- **You can submit comments via the Questions/Chat section**

Farah Ahmad
Chief of Staff
Rural Development

USDA Rural Development

Telecommunications

Electric

Community Facilities

Water and Environmental

Business and Cooperative

Single Family Housing

Multifamily Housing

USDA Rural Development Offices

47 State Offices

400 Area Offices

1 National Office in DC

https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices
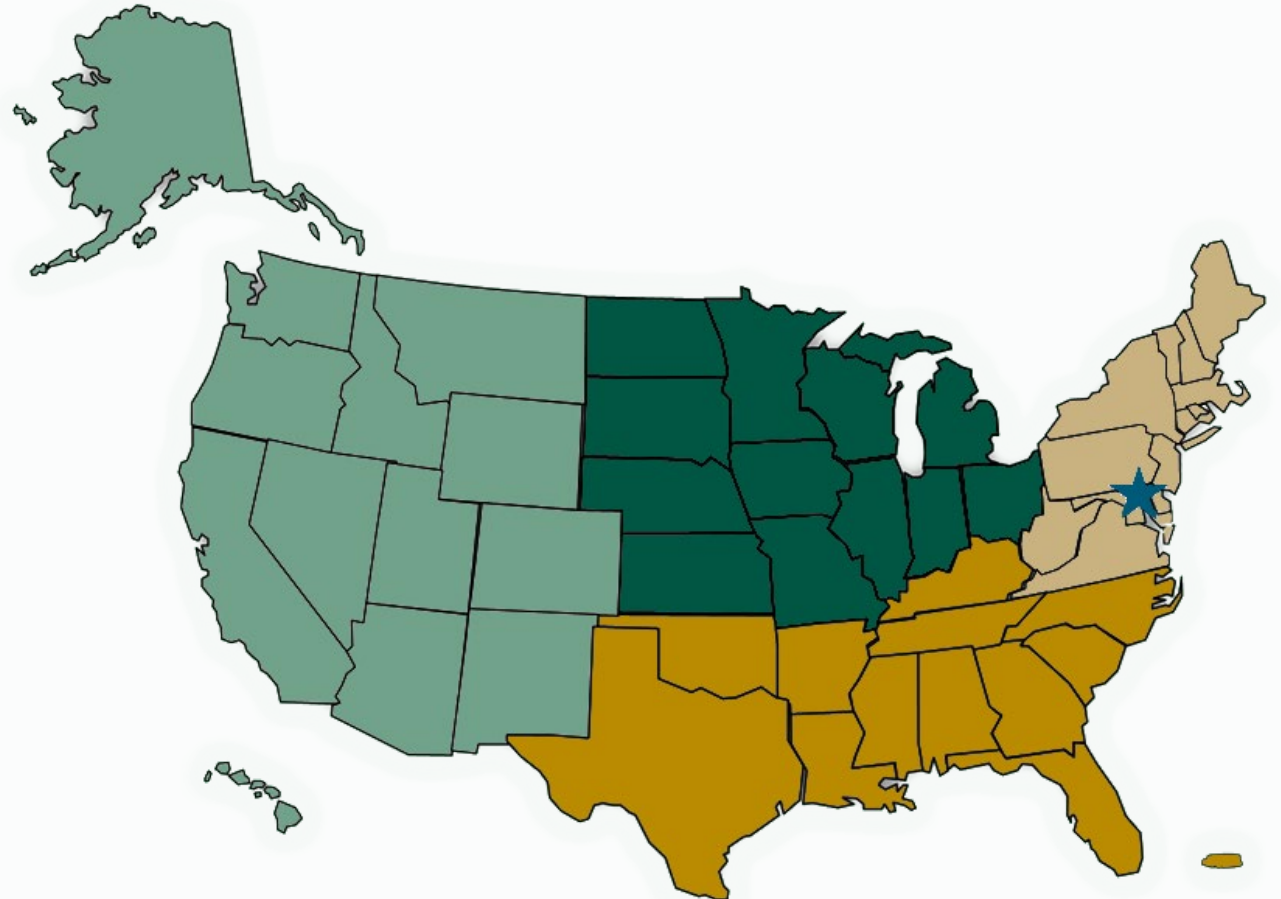
Community Facilities

- Hospitals, health clinics

- Colleges

- Schools

- Daycares

- Fire houses, first responder vehicles and equipment

- Community centers and more

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
American Rescue Plan Act

This program provides up to $500 million in grant funding to help broaden access to COVID-19 testing and vaccines, rural health care services, and food assistance through food banks and food distribution facilities.

Funding is available to eligible applicants through two tracks:

- **Track One: Recovery Grants** provide immediate relief to address economic conditions arising from the COVID-19 emergency. Grants range from $25,000 - $1 million.

- **Track Two: Impact Grants** advance ideas and solutions to solve regional health care problems to support the long-term sustainability of rural health. Grants range from $5 million - $10 million.

https://rd.usda.gov/erhc

Application Submissions:

Track One: Recovery Grants

- Submit applications to the Rural Development State Office where your project is located

- Applications will be accepted on a continual basis until funds are exhausted

- State Offices will conduct an initial review and selection of complete applications received by 4 p.m. local time on October 12, 2021

- Subsequent application reviews, rankings, and selections will occur thereafter

Track Two: Impact Grants

- Submit applications to the Rural Development State Office or National Office where your organization is headquartered

- Applications must be received by the applicable RD office by 4 p.m. local time on October 12, 2021. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Program Eligibility

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Eligible Applicants – Tracks One and Two

Who May Apply?

- Public bodies

- Nonprofits*

- Federally-recognized Tribes

Entity must be engaged in provision of health care services or nutritional assistance.

* Nonprofit applicants must also demonstrate significant ties with the local community through one or more of the following:
- Close association with, or control by, a local unit of government
- Broad-based ownership and control by members of the community
- Substantial public funding
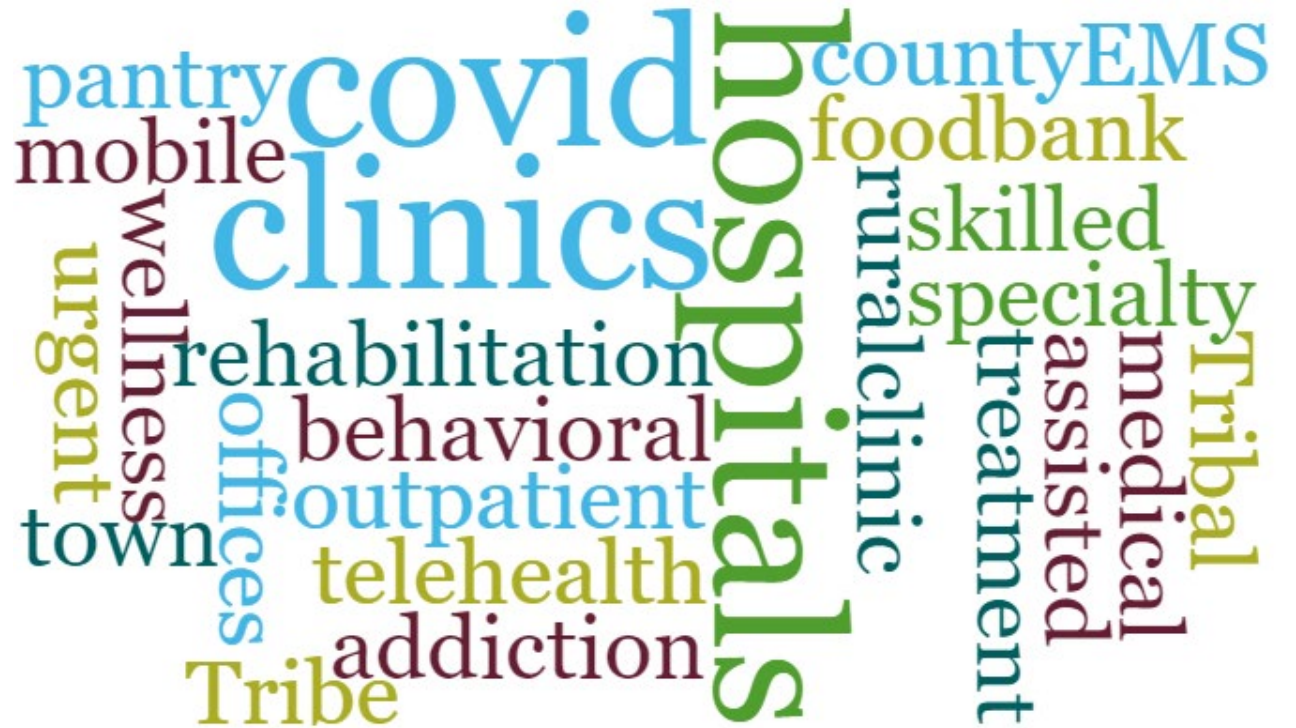
Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Eligible Applicants – Tracks One and Two

What Rural Areas?

- *Population* - Facilities must be <u>located in</u> & <u>primarily serve</u> rural areas with no more than 20,000 population based on the 2010 decennial Census data
  - Prison populations and the first 1,500 military base populations may be excluded

- *Income* - Median Household Income (MHI) of the population to be served must be less than the poverty line or 90% of statewide nonmetropolitan MHI
  - Smaller communities with the lowest median household incomes (MHI) are eligible for a higher proportion of grant funds

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Maximum Percentage of Grant – Tracks One and Two

Cost-Sharing / Matching Funds Requirement

Grant assistance is limited to the following percentages of eligible project costs:

- 75% when the proposed project is located in a rural community with a population of 5,000 or less and MHI of the population to be served is below the higher of the poverty line or 60% of State nonmetro MHI

- 55% when the proposed project is located in a rural community with a population of 12,000 or less and MHI of the population to be served is below the higher of the poverty line or 70% of State nonmetro MHI

- 35% when the proposed project is located in a rural community with a population of 20,000 or less and MHI of the population to be served is below the higher of the poverty line or 80% of State nonmetro MHI

- 15% when the proposed project is located in a rural community with a population of 20,000 or less and MHI of the population to be served is below the higher of the poverty line or 90% of State nonmetro MHI

Questions

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Questions

How does this program define "rural?"

- To be eligible for grant funds under this program, a facility or project must be **located** in a city or town of 20,000 or fewer people, or in an unincorporated area.
- The facility or project must also primarily **serve** rural residents in cities or towns with populations of 20,000 or fewer, or in an unincorporated area.
- An applicant's total service area population may exceed 20,000, but a majority of the population must live in rural areas.

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Questions

The program requires facilities to be located in communities with populations of 20,000 or fewer. From what source should the population data be collected?

- For population data, use the 2010 Decennial Census. As of the date the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) published (August 2021), the 2020 localized decennial census data was not yet available.

- Population data may be found at Total Population (Table P1) in the 2010 Decennial Census, available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xF6wZ. Choose "Geos," then "Place," and search for your community after selecting your state.

The program requires applicants to establish the median household income (MHI) of a facility's service area in order to determine the maximum applicable grant percentage that can be awarded. What is the data source for median household income (MHI) data?

- Rural Development relies on the 2006-2010 American Community Survey dataset for median household income (MHI) data, available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xF6wf.

- To access the MHI in the past 12 months (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) (Table B19013), choose "Geos," then "Place," and search for your communities after selecting your state. (If your community does not show up, try "Geos," then "County Subdivision," then your state and then your county, and search for your community.)

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Use of Funds

Grant funds must be used to support health care or nutritional assistance in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic

Funding is available to eligible applicants through two tracks:

- **Track One: Recovery Grants** provide immediate relief to address economic conditions arising from the COVID-19 emergency; Grants range from $25,000 - $1 million

- **Track Two: Impact Grants** advance ideas and solutions to solve regional health care problems to support the long-term sustainability of rural health; Grants range from $5 million to $10 million

Track One: Recovery Grants

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Track One: Recovery Grants ($25,000 min - $1 million max)

Track One: Recovery funds must be used to support immediate health care needs stemming from the pandemic, to prepare for future pandemic events, or to increase access to quality health care services

a) Increase capacity for vaccine distribution (cold storage, vehicle, transportation, and other equipment expenses)

b) Provide medical supplies and equipment to increase surge capacity (PPE and lab equipment)

c) Reimburse for lost health care-related revenue *(more on next slide)*

d) Increase telehealth capabilities

e) Construct or renovate temporary or permanent structures to provide health care services

f) Support staffing needs for vaccine administration and/or testing

g) Support facility, equipment, and increased operating expenses associated with food banks and food distribution facilities

h) To pay professional service fees and charges, only when necessary and only when secondary part of the grant

i) To pay for pre-award costs incurred between March 13, 2020 and the proposed start date

c) Reimburse for lost health care-related revenue

- Requires CPA certification confirming the calculation is correct; CPAs may use one of two approaches:

  - Comparison of actual revenues

  - Comparison of approved budget to actual revenues

  Under both approaches, the applicant may choose the applicable time period (month, quarter, year) for the request, as long as the same time period is chosen in both years

- Must be health care-related

- Applicants may request lost revenue for any portion of time between March 13, 2020 & time of application

- Requires CPA certification that requested lost revenues have not been reimbursed from other sources

- Applicants that received federal funding for lost revenues under other programs may still be eligible under this program if the applicant can demonstrate that the other federal funding did not fully cover the lost revenue experienced and that there are no other outstanding applications for assistance to cover this lost revenue

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Track One: Recovery Grants - Construction or Renovation

e) Construct or renovate temporary or permanent structures to provide health care services such as testing, vaccine administration, and facility modifications

- Examples of facilities offering health care services include:
    - health care clinics
    - hospitals
    - medical offices
    - outpatient facilities
    - mobile health clinics
    - behavioral health and addiction treatment centers
    - assisted and skilled living facilities
    - rehabilitation facilities
    - urgent care
    - telehealth facilities
    - wellness centers

- Any construction work completed with grant funds under this award must meet Davis-Bacon Act conditions set forth in section 9003(f) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103(f))

- Note: Any pre-award construction activities must still adhere to Davis-Bacon and RD environmental requirements, etc.

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Track One: Recovery Grants - Selection Criteria

Track One: Recovery Grants

- Applications submitted to State Offices, link here: https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices
- Review & selections at State Offices

Selection Criteria

- Distressed Communities
- Median household income
- Population
- COVID-19 vaccine administration or testing priority
- COVID-19 Impacts priority*
- Equity*

*For more information, visit https://rd.usda.gov/priority-points.

Questions

What types of facilities are eligible to apply for the Track One, Recovery grants?

- Facilities must be organized as a public body, nonprofit, or federally-recognized tribe. Facilities must also provide health care services or provide nutritional assistance as a food bank or food distribution facility, although this does not have to be the sole or majority purpose of the organization.

What types of facilities may apply for lost revenue under Track One, Recovery Grants?

- Grant funds must be used to support health care and nutritional assistance. The NOFA specifies that lost revenue is limited to "health care-related revenue lost during the COVID-19 pandemic."

- Organizations providing services such as assisted living, transitional housing or adult care services are limited in the funds they can request that relate to health care-related revenue only. To the extent that organizations provide services such as primary care, behavioral care, or specialty care, then they can request funding for lost revenue associated with these services only.

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Questions

To what extent can food bank or food pantry organizations apply for funding to cover food purchases?

- Food banks and food distribution facilities may apply for funding to support facility, equipment, and operating expenses that correlate to the COVID-19 pandemic and that have not been covered by other federal or state sources.

- The cost of food may be one of the largest operating expenses for a food bank.

- For the cost of food to be an eligible expense under the grant, the applicant must demonstrate the amount requested in correlation to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, an applicant can compare food expenses during the pandemic to the corresponding periods before the pandemic to justify the added expenses. These added expenses are eligible expenses that may be covered through the Emergency Rural Health Care Grant Program.

Track Two: Impact Grants

Track Two: Impact Grants advance ideas and solutions to solve regional health care problems to support the long-term sustainability of rural health

Who May Apply?

- Public bodies, nonprofits with significant ties to the local community, or federally-recognized tribes (same as Track One)

Track Two: Impact applicants also must establish a network or consortium of health care provider organizations, economic development entities, federally-recognized tribes or institutions of higher learning. The network or consortium must:

- Be comprised of at least three or more entities

- Be comprised of rural or urban nonprofit entities, as long as at least 66 percent (two-thirds) of the network members are located in a rural area, and primarily serve a rural area

- Identify one lead entity to serve as the primary applicant and recipient of grant funds.

What Rural Areas?

- Same population and MHI requirements; Same cost-sharing or matching funds requirements

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Track Two: Impact Grants ($5 million min - $10 million max)

Track Two: Impact funds must be used to advance ideas and solutions to solve regional rural health care problems and to support the long-term sustainability of rural health care. Funds may be used to:

a) To establish or scale a consortium of community entities and health care partners to plan, implement, and evaluate a model(s) to support solving regional health care problems and long-term sustainability

b) To establish or scale an evidence-based model and disseminate lessons learned

c) To identify a health-related problem, develop and implement a method and solution, and conduct an evaluation

d) To establish a methodology to calculate summary impact measures or estimated return on investment

e) To cover the cost of TA to assist with one or more aspects of the project

f) To cover indirect costs

g) To make sub-awards

h) To pay professional service fees and charges, only when necessary and only when secondary part of the grant

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Track Two: Impact Grants ($5 million min - $10 million max)

c) To identify a health-related problem, develop and implement a method and solution, and conduct an evaluation

The Agency encourages, but does not require, that applicants consider the following areas:

- Development of integrated health care models
- Reducing facility bypass whether through telemedicine or business plan adjustments
- Telehealth
- Electronic health data sharing
- Workforce development
- Transportation

- Paramedicine
- Obstetrics
- Behavioral health
- Farmworker health care
- Cooperative home care
- Supporting health care as a small community, anchor institution

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Track Two: Impact Grants – Review Criteria

Track Two: Impact Grants

- Applications submitted to State Office or National Office, if applicant is headquartered in DC
- Selections made at National Office

Review Criteria

- Distressed Communities
- Median household income
- Population
- Equity
- Need, methodology, and innovation*
- Organizational capacity and strength of consortium*
- Workplan and proposed budget*
- Evaluation, impact, and ability to duplicate*

Subjective ratings, determined by panel of internal and external qualified reviewers

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Track Two: Impact Grants – Review Criteria

- **Need, methodology, and innovation (25 points)**
  - The extent to which the application clearly describes the purpose of the proposed project, the local/regional health care environment and how the need was identified, expected outcomes, focus area(s) and the aim(s) of the project.
  - The extent to which the applicant describes an innovative approach to address the need, goals, and objectives and the appropriateness of the proposed strategy.
  - The extent to which the applicant's project will provide demonstrable impact to rural community(ies) and the health community.

- **Organizational capacity and strength of consortium (15 points)**
  - Clarity of the roles and responsibilities for each consortium member and the strength of their mutual commitment
  - The extent to which the application identifies the composition, capacity, and expertise of each consortium member and successfully connects this expertise to the consortium members' (and project director's) proposed responsibilities.
  - The extent to which the application describes the geographical relationship with the rural service population.
  - Strength of the relationship between the consortium and the community or region it serves. Strength and qualifications of the project director, and how the project director's role contributes to the success of the network

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Track Two: Impact Grants – Review Criteria

- **Workplan and proposed budget (10 points)**
    - The feasibility of activities and objectives identified in the work plan including measurable outcomes
    - The reasonableness of the proposed budget for each year of the period of performance in relation to the objectives, the complexity of the project activities, and the anticipated results.

- **Evaluation, impact, and ability to replicate (10 points)**
    - The clarity and appropriateness of the proposed goals, objectives, strategy to calculate summary impact measures and/or return on investment, and extent to which project activities would result in achieving the proposed goals outlined in the work plan.
    - The appropriateness and strength of data collection efforts.
    - The appropriateness and strength of the proposed process for evaluation.
    - The extent to which the applicant clearly identifies factors and strategies that will lead to viability and sustainability of the network beyond Federal funding, and after the program ends. The clarity and reasonableness of proposed steps to disseminate lessons learned and encourage replication where appropriate.

Questions

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
More Information

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Track One: How to Apply

USDA Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Together, America Prospers

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants Application Checklist
Track One: Recovery Grants

Track One: Recovery Grants must be used in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and to support immediate health care needs, to help prepare for a future pandemic event, or to increase access to quality health care services and improve community health outcomes. Grant awards range from $25,000 – $1 million.

Track One: Recovery Applications will be accepted on a continual basis until funds are exhausted. Each Rural Development state office will conduct a review, rating, and selection from complete applications received by 4 p.m. local time on October 12, 2021. Subsequent reviews, ratings, and selections will occur as long as funding remains available.

NOTE: This Application Checklist is a supplement to the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA). Should

Before You Submit an Application

Please read the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) published in the *Federal Register* on August 12, 2021. The NOFA and additional program materials are available at the program webpage: https://www.rd.usda.gov/erhc.

Checklist

To apply for a **Track One: Recovery Grant**, submit an application to the USDA Rural Development state office in the state in which your project is located (state office addresses are available at this link: https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices). Include the following information:

- ☐ A summary page, double-spaced between items, listing the following (this information should not be presented in narrative form):
    - ☐ Specify funding track requested: **Track One: Recovery Grant**
    - ☐ Applicant name
    - ☐ Amount of grant request
- ☐ Project description: No more than three sentences summarizing applicant entity, location of assistance, and purpose of grant funds
- ☐ A detailed Table of Contents containing page numbers for each component of the application
- ☐ SF-424 "Application for Federal Assistance," available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xFWt6
- ☐ SF-424A "Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs," available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xFWz3

To Apply:

Contact your local Rural Development office (a list is available at this link: https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices) to discuss and submit your application.

Each Rural Development state office will conduct a review, rating, and selection from complete applications received by 4 p.m. local time on October 12, 2021. USDA will continue to accept **Track One: Recovery Grant** applications on a continual basis after October 12, 2021 until all funds are exhausted.

Resources

- Track One Application Guide
- Track One Checklist

https://www.rd.usda.gov/erhc/track-one

Emergency Rural Health Care Grants
Track Two: How to Apply

USDA Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Emergency Rural Health Care Grants Application Checklist
Track Two: Impact Grants

To Apply:

Contact your local Rural Development office (a list is available at this link: https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices) to discuss and submit your application.

Track Two: Impact applications must be received by the applicable Rural Development Office by 4 p.m. local time on October 12, 2021. Track Two: Impact applications received after October 12, 2021 will not be considered.

Resources

- Track Two Application Guide

- Track Two Checklist

Track Two: Impact Grants must be used in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic to solve regional rural health care problems and to support the long-term sustainability of rural health care. Long-term sustainability is defined as "improved health outcomes, improved access to quality health care, and creating and maintaining sustainable economic development for small communities."

Track Two: Impact Grants are awarded in ranges of $5 million – 10 million.

Track Two: Impact applications must be received by the applicable Rural Development Office by 4 p.m. local time on October 12, 2021. **Track Two: Impact** applications received after October 12, 2021 will not be considered.

Before You Submit an Application

Please read the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) published in the *Federal Register* on August 12, 2021. The NOFA and additional program materials are available at the program webpage: https://www.rd.usda.gov/erhc.

Checklist

To apply for a **Track Two: Impact Grant**, submit an application to the USDA Rural Development state office (available at this link: https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices) in the state in which your project is headquartered, and include the following information:

☐ A summary page, double-spaced between items, listing the following (this information should not be presented in narrative form):
   ☐ Specify funding track requested: Track Two: Impact Grant
   ☐ Applicant name
   ☐ Amount of grant request
   ☐ Project description: No more than three sentences summarizing applicant entity, location of assistance, and purpose of grant funds

☐ A detailed Table of Contents containing page numbers for each component of the application

☐ SF-424 "Application for Federal Assistance," available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xFWt6

☐ SF-424A "Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs," available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xFWz3
   -or-
   SF-424C "Budget Information – Construction Programs," available at this link: https://go.usa.gov/xFWza

☐ Organizational documents demonstrating the applicant is an eligible entity as described in Section IV: "Eligibility Information of the Notice of Funding Availability" (NOFA).

https://www.rd.usda.gov/erhc/track-two

Questions

Questions?

CommunityFacilities@usda.gov