**S*FY2022-2023 Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance***

**NOTIFICATION OF GRANT FUNDING**

The Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (Flex Program) is a federal grant program directed to State Offices of Rural Health. The purpose of the Flex Program funds is to improve the quality of care provided by CAHs by focusing on improvement of financial and operational implementation, quality metrics, and management of population health according to performance measures as defined by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.

Rural Emergency Hospitals (REHs) are a new provider type established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 to address the growing concern over closures of rural hospitals. The REH designation provides an opportunity for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and certain rural hospitals to avert potential closure and continue to provide essential services for the communities they serve. Conversion to an REH allows for the provision of emergency services, observation care, and additional medical and health outpatient services, if elected by the REH, that do not exceed an annual per patient average of 24 hours. This new provider type, effective January 1, 2023, will promote equity in health care for those living in rural communities by facilitating access to needed services. REHs are facilities that convert from either a critical access hospital (CAH) or a rural hospital with less than 50 beds.

The creation of the REH designation provides an option for rural communities to ensure access to essential health services, including emergency care. Rural communities will need assistance to assess the viability of this option for meeting local need and how it fits into the larger rural framework. This grant will be awarded to an organization or organizations that create a plan to perform the following activities:

* Convene rural hospitals with 50 beds or less in North Carolina to perform outreach and education to eligible hospitals on the Rural Emergency Hospital Model.

• Scale and implementation: Assess hospital conversions and provide the technical

assistance needed to convert to an REH hospital.

* Financial and operational site assessments: Applicant facilities and their communities will need to do a significant amount of financial analysis to ensure that the REH will be financially viable and sustainable for their community.
* Coordinate activities with the National Technical Assistance Center (see below)

(Activities through this appropriation will consist of technical assistance provided by a Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Center (HRSA-22-167) and share resources developed through the national REH TA Center and engage state and regional partners)

***The maximum total per grant year not to exceed* $54,672*.*** All funding must be expended by August 31, 2023. ***(funding amount is dependent on federal allocation)***

**You must request a link to your application through the online survey tool by clicking on the following link**: [Rural Emergency Hospital Application](https://ncruralhealth.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dm7Qb3Vok9vQG0t)

Questions regarding the application may be directed to [Nick.Galvez@dhhs.nc.gov.](mailto:Nick.Galvez@dhhs.nc.gov.) **S*FY 2021-2023 Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program***

***RFA Instructions***

All required forms may be found on the ORH website [www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/orh)

Forms are not included in this document.

**Application Deadline**

Hard copies will not be accepted. Only electronic applications will be accepted. Access to the electronic application is a two-step process:

1 - You must submit your organization and contact information through this link: [REH Application](https://ncruralhealth.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dm7Qb3Vok9vQG0t)

2 - Once you submit your contact information in the link above, you will receive an email with a personalized link specific to your organization. The link in the e-mail will give you access to the electronic application. **The application closes 5:00 PM on September 23rd, 2022.**

**Eligible Applicants**

Any organization that is staffed to provide quality and operational technical assistance to Critical Access Hospital is eligible to apply. All eligible applicants must submit a complete grant application to be considered for funding.

**Funding Cycle**

Funding Period is September 30th, 2022 to August 31st, 2023.

**Organizational Information Sheet**

Grant application Page 1

Grant Request: Total request cannot exceed $54,672.

Summary of Proposal: Provide a very brief (1 paragraph) description of your project.

**Grant Narrative**

PART I - Overview of Organization (1-2 paragraphs)

Provide 1-2 paragraphs describing your organization and its ability to provide TA for the rural emergency hospital model to rural hospitals with 50 beds or less located in North Carolina. Provide a history of your experience providing technical assistant to rural hospitals.

PART II - Project Description and Ability

Describe your proposed plan to provide Technical Assistance (TA) to rural hospitals with 50 beds or less located in North Carolina on the rural emergency hospital model. Describe

Describe how the plan will satisfy the following activities:

* Convene rural hospitals with 50 beds or less located in North Carolina to perform education and outreach to all eligible hospitals on the rural emergency hospital model

• Provide Operational and Financial Assessment and Technical Assistance to hospitals

interested exploring converting to a Rural Emergency Hospital.

* Provide Financial Analysis to select hospitals that seek to convert to a Rural Emergency Hospital.: Applicant facilities and their communities will need to do a significant amount of financial analysis to ensure that the REH will be financially viable and sustainable for their community.
* Coordinate activities with the National Technical Assistance Center

PART III - Project Evaluation

Describe how you will evaluate project outcomes. Describe potential factors that could negatively affect your organization’s ability to reach your evaluation targets and describe how these factors will be mitigated.

PART IV - Project Budget

Complete the Program Budget Template using the Budget Template.

**Budget Template**

Provide a detailed cost breakdown for the project and identify all sources of funding for the project. Clearly identify which project costs will be covered with grant funds.

**Scoring Criteria**

Complete applications will be reviewed and scored on the following criteria:

Part I – Overview of Organization 10 points

Part II – Project Description and Ability 40 points

Part III – Project Evaluation 40 points

Part IV – Project Budget 10 points

**Total Available Points: 100 points**

**Application Packet Checklist**

* Application Information should be organized in the following order:
  + Organizational Information and Signature Sheet
  + Overview of Organization
  + Project Description
  + Project Evaluation
  + Budget Template
* Provider Documents: If the following documents are not currently on file with the Office of Rural Health, all applicants must upload documents in the online application.
  + [**Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement and Policy**](file:///C:\Users\dnbritt\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\ZWWD6GO0\ncruralhealth.az1.qualtrics.com\CP\File.php%3fF=F_5710qSwePL6wGpM)
  + **[Conflict of Interest Verification](C:\\Users\\dnbritt\\AppData\\Local\\Microsoft\\Windows\\INetCache\\Content.Outlook\\ZWWD6GO0\\ncruralhealth.az1.qualtrics.com\\CP\\File.php?F=F_belijagJwnO40aq)**
  + [**IRS Tax Exemption Form**](file:///C:\Users\dnbritt\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\ZWWD6GO0\ncruralhealth.az1.qualtrics.com\CP\File.php%3fF=F_019PYKBtM8IJ5dk)
  + [**No Overdue Tax Debts**](file:///C:\Users\dnbritt\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\ZWWD6GO0\ncruralhealth.az1.qualtrics.com\CP\File.php%3fF=F_5zFguLvXzfU8E7Q)
  + [**Contractor Vaccination/Testing Requirements Form**](file:///C:\Users\dnbritt\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\ZWWD6GO0\ncruralhealth.az1.qualtrics.com\CP\File.php%3fF=F_0lAIgn0o7aglQDc)