

Rural Hospital Improvement  
RFA HHS0015677  
Addendum 2 - Questions and Answers

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
1	General	I am interested in attending the Applicant Conference on March 14, 2025 at 11:30 am. However, I don't believe I have seen anything to sign up. Could you please send me where I would need to go to register for the conference?	The Applicant Conference was held on March 14, 2025. The slides presented during the conference have been posted for your reference on the Grants Website as Addendum No. 1 to this RFA.
2	General	I'm reaching out because we are going to be applying for the Rural Hospital Improvement Grant (RFA HHS0015677) and I would like to attend the Applicant Conference tomorrow at 11:30am. Where do we register for this call?	Please see response for Question #1.
3	General	I would like to attend the webinar tomorrow for the Rural Hospital Improvement RFA No. HHS0015677. We are a Rural Emergency Hospital and this would be a great opportunity for us.  Would you please send me the information for the conference tomorrow?	Please see response for Question #1.
4	General	Do you have information on the location of the conference for Rural Hospital Improvement Grant (RFA HHS0015677). Will it be available by webinar?  <b>Applicant Conference and RFA Questions</b> All interested applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the Applicant Conference scheduled on <b>March 14, 2025 at 11:30 am</b> . The purpose of this conference is for HHSC staff to review key elements of the RFA. HHSC is not able to answer questions during the Applicant Conference; however, attendees are encouraged to submit questions. Answers will be posted to the HHSC Grant web page on the date identified in the Schedule of Events in Section 7.1 of the RFA. For questions or requests for clarification, please contact the sole point of contact identified in Section 7.2 of the RFA. All questions and requests for clarification must be submitted in the format	Please see response for Question #1.

		described in Section 7.3 of the RFA.	
5	General	May I please have the link to the conference scheduled for today at 11:30?	Please see response for Question #1.
6	General	I cannot find the link for todays webinar.	Please see response for Question #1.
7	General	How do I get a link to join the meeting today?	Please see response for Question #1.
8	General	Several hospital CEO's, including myself, have asked where this meeting was held today, and if there was a virtual option. Neither are mentioned in the body of this email. Could you please provide a recorded version of the Applicant Conference scheduled for March 14, 2025, or the rescheduled meeting date, location, and time.	Please see response for Question #1.
9	Section 7.1 Schedule of Events, Page 21, Applicant Conference	The Schedule of Events shows "Applicant Conference – March 14, 2025 at 11:30 A.M. Central Time. We are unable to locate where to connect/call in to this event. Please let us know how to attend.	Please see response for Question #1.
10	General	May I inquire as to where I can find the Q&A for grant RFA No. HHS00115677? I went to the HHS grant website but could not find the link.	Per Section 7.1 Schedule of Events, the tentative date for Answers to Questions or Requests for Clarification to be posted is on or after March 25, 2025 at 5:00 PM. Each Applicant is responsible for checking the <a href="#">HHS Grants RFA</a> website for updates.

11	General	<p>That was an extremely short Webinar.</p> <p>I was hoping to learn exactly what this grant could be used for with Hospital Improvements.</p> <p>Is there somewhere I can look? I read the documents for the application but didn't see what exactly this could be used in regard.</p>	<p>Per section 6.1, Narrative Proposal of the RFA, "Applicant must provide a written explanation demonstrating how it proposes to use the grant funds to improve financial stability of the Rural Hospital through hospital improvement activities." The section then identifies the minimum information that the response must provide.</p>
12	Section 1.2 Definitions and Acronyms, Page 7, "Rural Hospital" definition	<p>To qualify as rural under this RFA, does a hospital have to meet all three criteria in A, B and C. Or does it just have to meet one of A, B or C to qualify?</p>	<p>To meet the definition of rural, Applicants must meet one of the following sub paragraph requirements either: (A), (B), or (C).</p>
13	Section 2.3 Eligible Service Areas, Page 9	<p>I was told we could not apply previously because we are not the only rural hospital in our county of Colorado. We would like to clarify if that is still in the criteria for this grant?</p>	<p>Section 3.2 Application Screening Requirements identifies the Applicant must be classified as a Rural Hospital. The definition of a Rural Hospital can be found in Section 1.2 Definitions and Acronyms. The RFA does not state there is a limit on the number of Rural Hospital Applicants within a county.</p>
14		<p>We are currently working on a electric project that is projected to cost approximately 1.2 million. We are currently getting working to get bids to purchase a new generator for the hospital and move the previous generator to our Assisted Living Facility (Lynnwood) We wanted to check to see if we do not have the bids back by the deadline if we would still be able to use this grant money towards our electrical project.</p>	<p>Please include as much information that is available at the time of application. Ensure that the information required in Section 6.1 Narrative Proposal is included in your proposal. Ensure your narrative proposal conforms to the formatting requirements in Section 6.2 Narrative Proposal Page Limit and Formatting.</p>
15	General	<p>Perhaps the answer to this will be posted in the Q&amp;A; however, would it be possible to flesh out what projects/expenses would be included (samples) in "hospital improvement and financial stabilization"? That could be anything from keeping the lights on to bringing in new services to the rural community.</p> <p>Please advise.</p>	<p>Section 2.1 Purpose identifies the purpose of the grant "to provide time-limited financial support for any qualified Rural Hospital in Texas to support hospital improvement activities aimed to improve the financial stability of the hospital."</p> <p>It is up to each Applicant to identify what hospital improvement activity or activities would improve the financial stability of its facility. These activities may vary based</p>

			<p>on the individual hospital’s needs.</p> <p>Please include information required in Section 6.1 Narrative Proposal regarding how grant funds would be used for your proposed Project, its impact, estimated costs, etc. Ensure your narrative proposal conforms to the formatting requirements in Section 6.2 Narrative Proposal Page Limit and Formatting.</p>
16	Section II Scope of Grant Project, 2.4 Eligible Activities, Page 9	Are bond payments an eligible activity for consideration in the hospital’s application to be submitted?	<p>It is up to the Applicant to identify how their proposed Project and use of grant funds would improve the financial stability of the hospital. Section 2.1 Purpose identifies the purpose of the grant “to provide time-limited financial support for any qualified Rural Hospital in Texas to support hospital improvement activities aimed to improve the financial stability of the hospital.”</p> <p>Each Applicant should identify what hospital improvement activity or activities would be able to accomplish the grant’s purpose for its facility. These activities may vary based on the individual hospital’s needs.</p>
17	Section I, page 5, Section 2.1 Executive Summary, Definitions	Will a hospital that has received Tier III HHSC RH FSG grant funding (2024-2025) be eligible to apply for this grant program?	<p>Yes, a hospital that received a previous financial stabilization grant would be eligible to apply for the Rural Hospital Improvement grant. Section 3.2 Application Screening Requirements identifies the Applicant must be classified as a Rural Hospital. The definition of a Rural Hospital can be found in Section 1.2 Definitions and Acronyms.</p>
18	General	Is this funding offered every year?	<p>No. This funding for this grant purpose is not offered every year. Section 5.1 Grant Funding Source and Available Funding states that this grant is time-limited and that the allocation methods for the funds will vary from year-to-year. There is no guarantee of future funding beyond the duration for which the funding is</p>

			awarded.
19	General	Is this grant paid out initially and then we submit expenses or vice versa?	This grant does not use a cost reimbursement methodology for its grant payments. Section 5.5 Payment Method identifies how the grant funds will be paid upon execution of the Grant Agreement resulting from this RFA. According to this section of the RFA, a lump sum payment will be made once the System Agency receives and accepts the Hospital Stability Improvement Plan.
20	General	We are assuming the hospital license previously held by a separate health system. The license carries the responsibility for repaying IGT recoupments which is threatening our ability to go forward. Is repayment of these recoupments a potential use of the subject grant funding?	Grantees shall only use grant funds for expenses or costs for goods or services to foster hospital improvement and financial stabilization in accordance with the respective HHSC approved Hospital Stability Improvement Plan (see Section 2.5 Program Requirements). Section 5.1, Grant Funding Source and Available Funding states that grant funds must only be used for actual, allowable, and allocable expenses that occur within the Project Period, and grant funds must not be used for spending or costs incurred prior to the effective date of the Grant Agreement.