

### The Center's Purpose

The <u>National Rural Health Resource Center (The Center)</u> is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining and improving health care in rural communities. As the nation's leading technical assistance and knowledge center in rural health, The Center focuses on five core areas:

- Transition to Value and Population Health
- Collaboration and Partnership
- Performance Improvement
- Health Information Technology
- Workforce





# DRCHSD Program Supported by FORHP and DRA



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (<u>HRSA</u>) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (<u>HHS</u>) under grant number U65RH31261, Delta Region Health Systems Development, \$10,000,000 (0% financed with nongovernmental sources). This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by <u>HRSA</u>, <u>HHS</u> or the U.S. Government.



#### 4

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Anti-racism



#### Building a culture where difference is valued

The Center is committed to DEI and anti-racism. We create an environment that reflects the communities we live in and serve; a place where everyone feels accepted and empowered to be their full, authentic selves; and where everyone belongs.

We understand the impact of and seek to defeat racism and discrimination in ourselves, our workplace, and the world. This guides how we cultivate leaders, build our programs and resources, and deliver our technical assistance.

We are an organization that honors, celebrates, and respects all dimensions of diversity. These principles are central to our mission and to our impact.



### DRCHSD Upcoming Webinars

- Rural Health Workforce Resources: Delta Doctors and AmeriCorps Rural Health Workforce Resources: Delta Doctors and AmeriCorps
  - April 27 from 11:00 12:00 pm CT
- DRCHSD Hospital and FQHC Application and Eligibility Webinar
  - June 6 from 11:00 12:00 pm CT
- DRCHSD RHC and Small Clinic Application and Eligibility Webinar
  - June 29 from 11:00 12:00 pm CT



### Pre-Polling Question

I am \_\_\_ in my understanding of the federal grant application process, from searching for a federal grant to submitting a successful application.



# Delta Region Community Health System Development (DRCHSD) Program Supported By:



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy



Suzanne Snyder,
Public Health Analyst and
DRCHSD Program Coordinator
at FORHP ssnyder1@hrsa.gov







### **Federal Grants 101**

Suzanne Snyder, MSW
Public Health Analyst
Hospital State Division
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



### **Federal Grants 101**

# 

- How to Apply
- Where and How to Find Funding
- Reading a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- HRSA Review Process
- Application Tips and Common Mistakes
- Q&A



# **How to Apply SAM and Grants.gov Registrations**

#### Must register in 2 different systems

System	Why is it important?	Website	Support
System for Award Management (SAM)	Designating an e-business point of contact. Registering with SAM is required for organizations to use Grants.gov	https://sam.gov/c ontent/home	Federal Service Desk <a href="https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp">https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp</a> 1-866-606-8220 Monday-Friday, 8 AM to 8 PM ET.
Grants.gov	Search for and find federal grant opportunities. Submit grant applications.	https://www.gran ts.gov/web/grant s/register.html	https://gditshared.servicenowservices.com/hhs grants 1-800-518-4726 Email support@grants.gov 24 hours a day 7 days a week.



### **How to Apply**

### **Step 1: System for Award Management (SAM)**

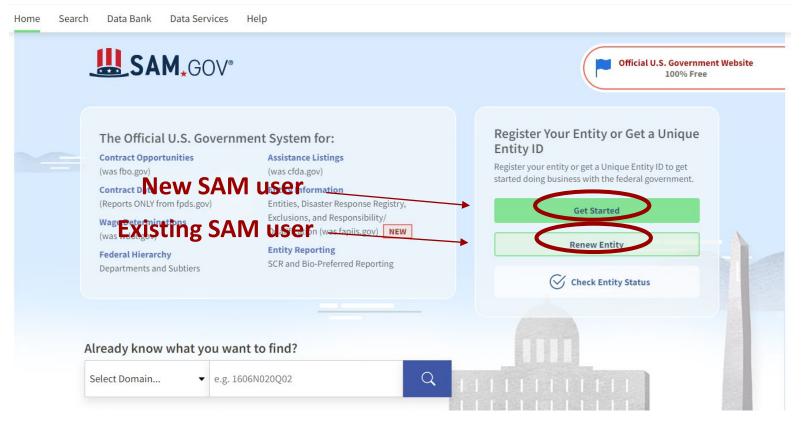
- Register with SAM
  - https://www.sam.gov
  - **1.888.606.8220**
  - Registration is FREE
- What You Need to Register
  - UEI Number (received when signing up)
  - Taxpayer Identification Number
  - Non-Federal entities must mail an original, signed notarized letter to the Federal Service Desk within 30 days of activation
- Renew Registration Annually





### **How to Apply**

#### **Step 1: System for Award Management (SAM), continued**



- Register your organization at www.SAM.gov
- Establish an E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) to oversee all activities for your organization within Grants.gov
- Receive a Unique Entity
   Identifier (UEI) or Entity ID by
   SAM and be fully registered in approximately 7-10 business
   days





# How to Apply Step 1: System for Award Management (SAM), concluded

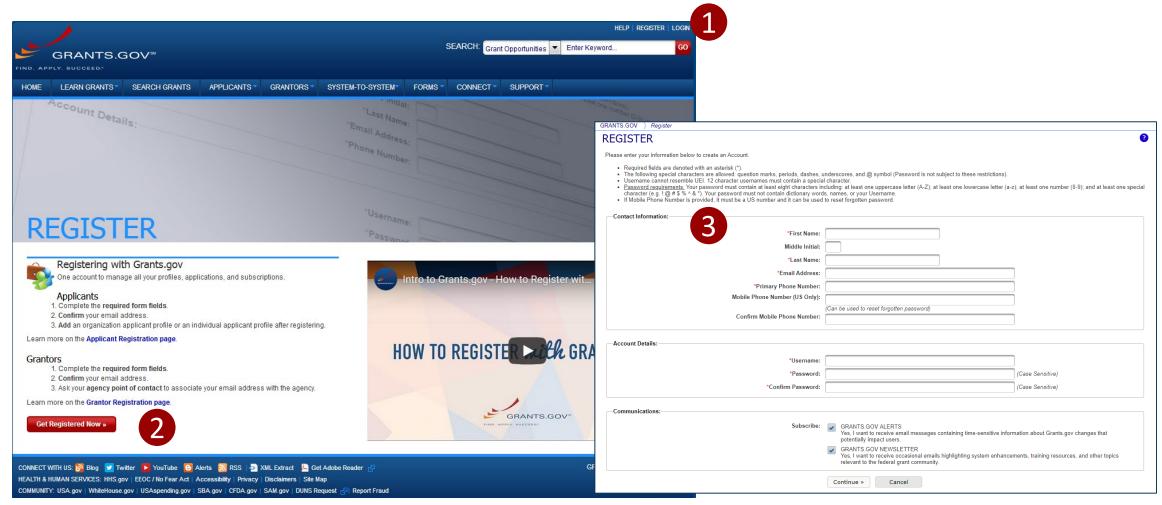
- Electronic Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC)
  - Critical role in the Grants.gov registration and application process
- Marketing Partner ID Number (MPIN) password
  - Created by the E-Biz POC
  - Used to login into Grants.gov to designate Authorized Organization Representatives
- Authorized Organization Representatives (AORs)
  - Designated by the E-Biz POC in Grants.gov
  - Authorized to submit applications on behalf of an organization





### **How to Apply**

### **Step 2: Grants.gov**







### **How to Apply**

### Step 2: Grants.gov, continued

- Log on to Grants.gov
- AOR must complete profile on Grants.gov
  - Need UEI Number
  - SAM Registration
- E-Biz POC must log into Grants.gov to approve AOR registration
- AOR registration must be updated <u>annually</u>
- AOR password must be updated every 90 days

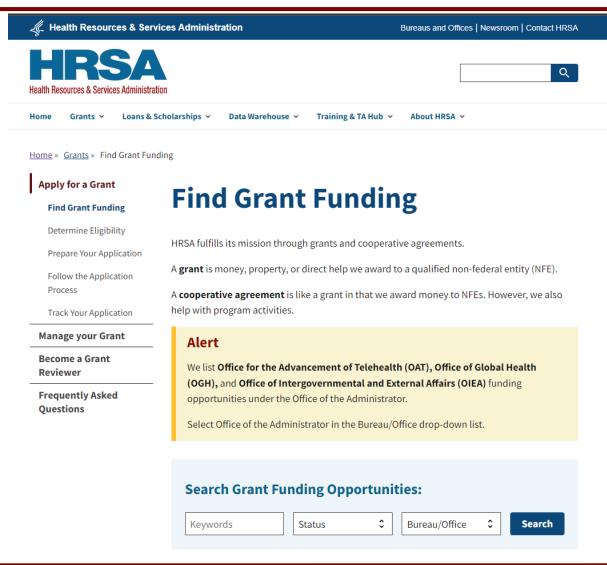


Check out the <u>How to</u>
Register with Grants.gov
video!





### Where and How to Find Funding **HRSA** Website





#### **Rural Health Care Coordination Program**

**Funding Opportunity** Bureau/Office: Federal Number: HRSA-23-125 Office of Rural Health **Application Deadline:** Policy

05/26/2023 Status: Open 🔗 Apply on Grants.gov **View Grant Details** 

Who can apply: Eligible applicants include domestic public or private, non-profit or for-profit entities, including faith-based, community-based, tribes, and tribal organizations. The applicant organization may be located in a rural or urban area, but must have demonstrated [+] Show More Eligibility Info

#### **Delta Health Systems Implementation Program**

**Funding Opportunity** Number: HRSA-23-128 Application Deadline:

05/18/2023

Bureau/Office: Federal Office of Rural Health

Policy

Status: Open ⊗

Apply on Grants.gov **View Grant Details** 

Who can apply: Eligible applicants include domestic public or private, non-profit entities. Domestic faith-based and community-based organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations are also eligible to apply.

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Child and

Check it out for yourself!





# Where and How to Find Funding HRSA Website, continued



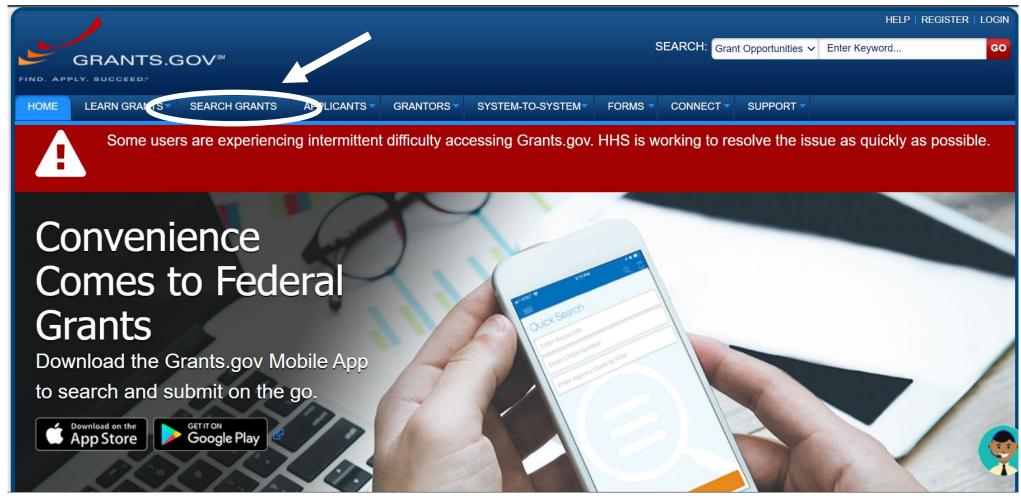






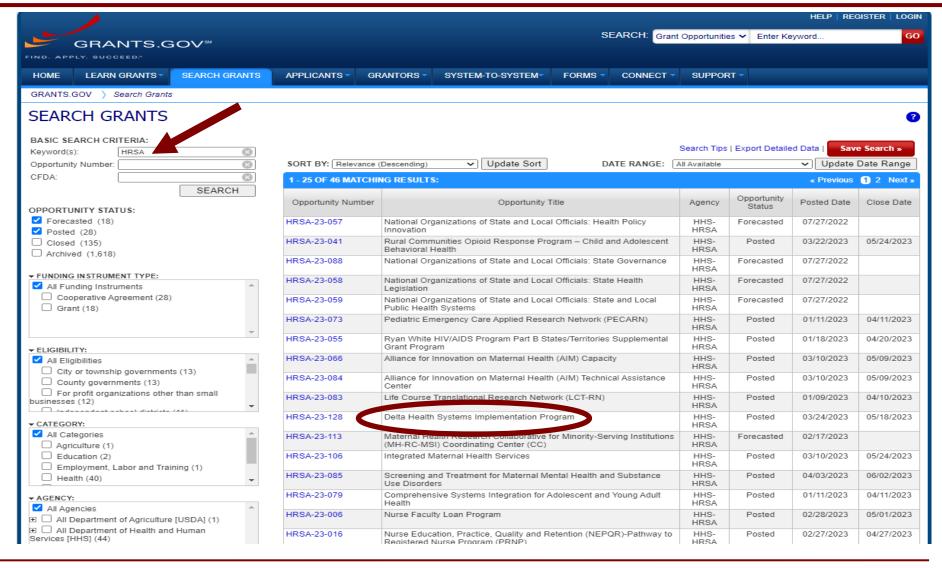
### Where and How to Find Funding

#### **Grants.gov**



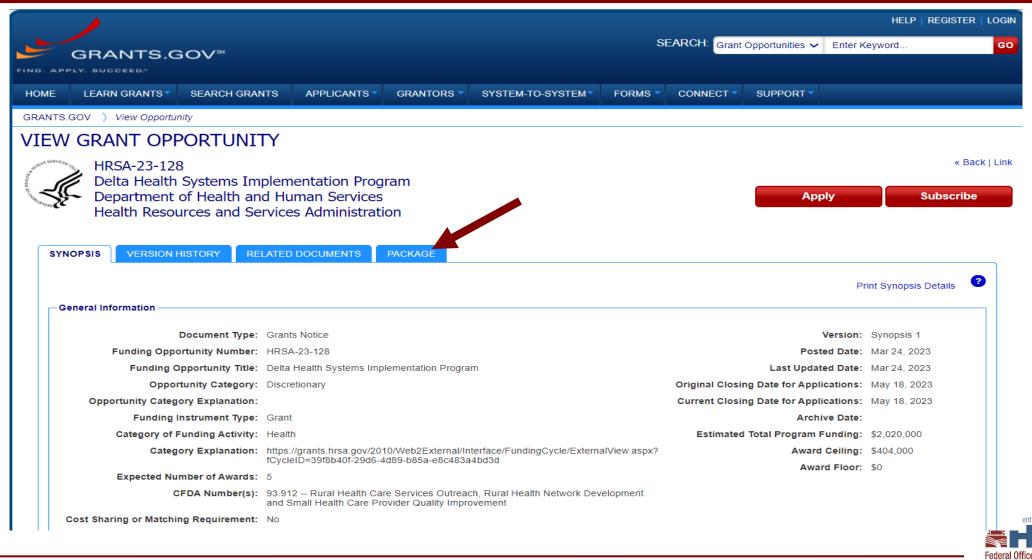




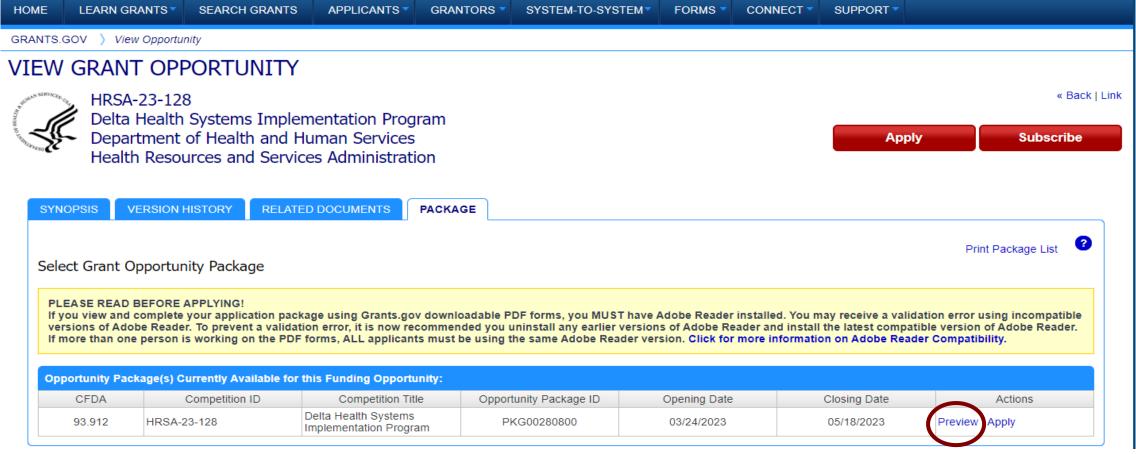






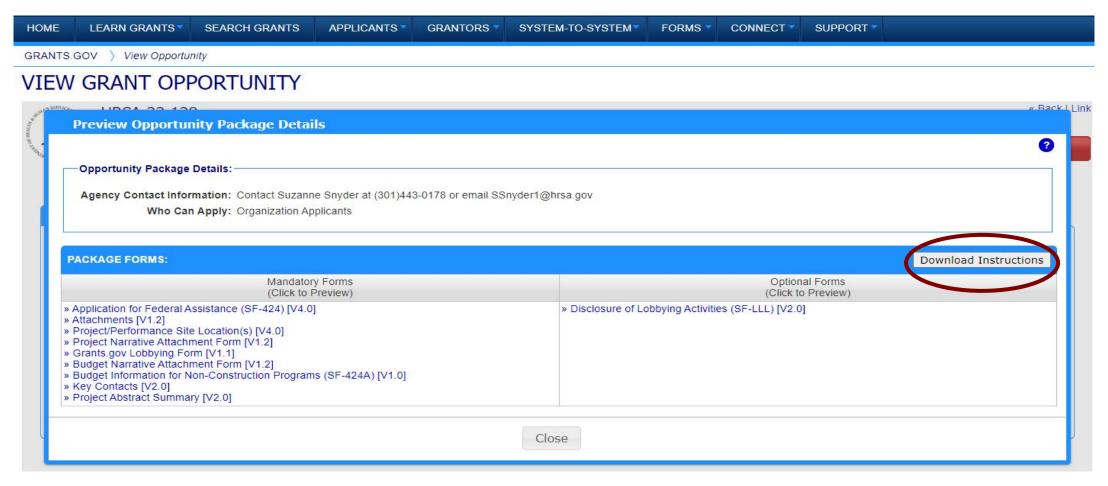






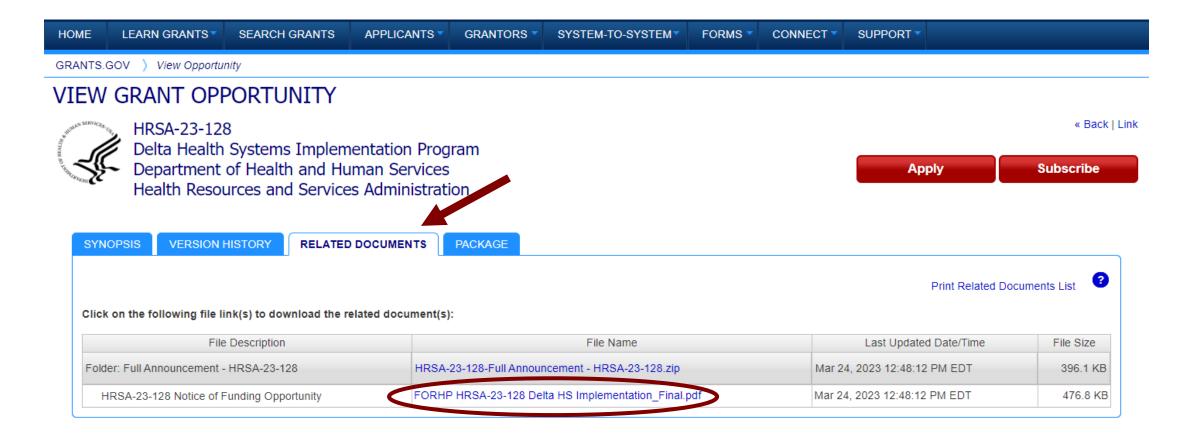








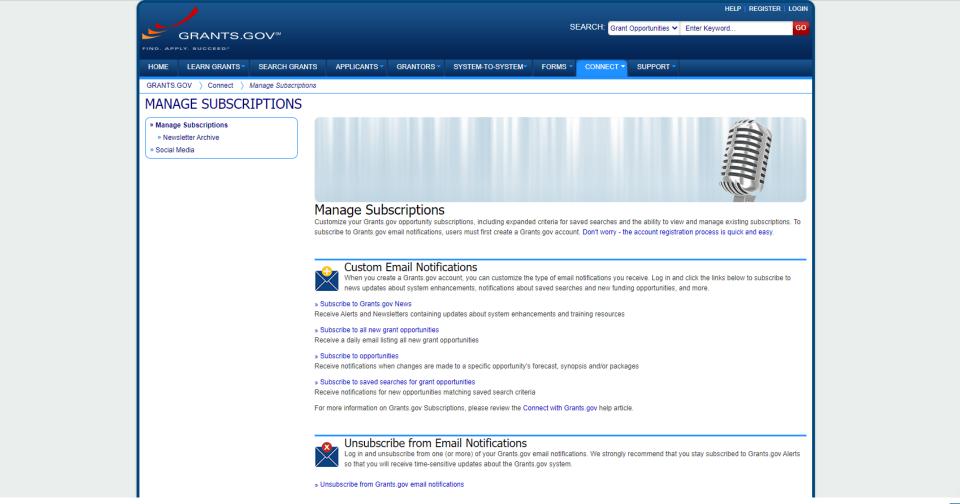








# Where and How to Find Funding Navigating Grants.gov – Manage Subscriptions







# Where and How to Find Funding Navigating Grants.gov – Workspace

- Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application.
- For each NOFO, you can create individual instances of a workspace.





Watch the <u>How to Create a</u> Grants.gov Workspace video!





### Reading a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) What's Inside?

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Health Resources & Services Administration

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Hospital State Division

Delta Health Systems Implementation Program
Funding Opportunity Number: HRSA-23-128
Funding Opportunity Type(s): New
Assistance Listings Number: 93.912

Fiscal Year 2023

Application Due Date: May 18, 2023

Ensure your SAM.gov and Grants.gov registrations and passwords are current immediately

HRSA will not approve deadline extensions for lack of registration.

Registration in all systems may take up to 1 month to complete

Issuance Date: March 24, 2023

Suzanne Snyder, MSW
Public Health Analyst, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
Telephone: (301) 443-0178
Email: senyder(@hrsa.gov

See Section VII for a complete list of agency contacts.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 912(b) (§ 711(b) of the Social Security Act)

- Explains available funding, application, and eligibility information
- Contains information applicants need to know to apply for funding
- Includes program history, regulations, and HRSA contact information





### Reading a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) What's Inside? - continued

#### Table of Contents

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- Program Funding Opportunity Description
- Award Information
- Eligibility Information
- Application and Submission Information
- Application Review Information
- Award Administration Information
- Agency Contacts
- Other Information





### Reading a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Executive Summary

Serves as a summary to potential applicants about the funding opportunity. It usually comprises the following:

- Name of Program/Title
- Funding Opportunity Number
- Application Due Date
- Purpose and Objectives
- Eligible Applicants
- Available Funding
- Number of Awards
- Cost Sharing/Match Requirement
- Project Period
- Agency Contacts

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Funding Opportunity Title:	Delta Health Systems Implementation Program (DSIP)		
Funding Opportunity Number:	HRSA-23-128		
Assistance Listing Number:	93.912		
Due Date for Applications:	May 18, 2023		
Purpose:	The purpose of the Delta Health Systems Implementation Program is to improve healthcare delivery in rural areas by implementing projects that will improve the financial sustainability of hospitals and allow for increased access to care in rural communities. These projects focus on financial and operational improvement, quality improvement, telehealth, and workforce development in hospitals in the rural counties and parishes of the Delta region.		
Program Objective(s):	Improve health care in rural areas by improving financial stability in small rural hospitals through projects focused on:  • Financial and operational improvements;  • Implementation of quality improvement initiatives;  • Expansion of telehealth services and;  • The development of new service lines to address the needs of the community, including populations in the community that have been historically underserved.		
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible applicants include domestic public or private, non-profit entities. Domestic faith-based and community-based organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations are also eligible to apply.  See Section III.1 of this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for complete eligibility information.		
Anticipated Total Annual Available FY 2023 Funding:	\$2,020,000		





# Reading a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Application and Submission Information

#### IV. Application and Submission Information

#### 1. Address to Request Application Package

HRSA *requires* you to apply electronically. HRSA encourages you to apply through <a href="Grants.gov">Grants.gov</a> using the SF-424 workspace application package associated with this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) following the directions provided at <a href="Grants.gov">Grants.gov</a>: HOW TO <a href="APPLY FOR GRANTS">APPLICANT SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM</a>. If you use an alternative electronic submission, see <a href="Grants.gov">Grants.gov</a>: APPLICANT SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM.

The NOFO is also known as "Instructions" on Grants.gov. You must select "Subscribe" and provide your email address for HRSA-23-128 in order to receive notifications including modifications, clarifications, and/or republications of the NOFO on Grants.gov. You will also receive notifications of documents placed in the RELATED DOCUMENTS tab on Grants.gov that may affect the NOFO and your application. You are ultimately responsible for reviewing the For Applicants page for all information relevant to this NOFO.

#### ii. Project Narrative

Successful applications will contain the information below. Please use the following section headers for the narrative:

NEED -- Corresponds to Section V's Review Criterion 1 Need

#### Community and Hospital Demographics

- Describe the larger health care system beyond the small rural hospital, including other providers in the community or distance from the hospital to other providers.
- Describe the community health status and challenges that affect health care in the service area (e.g., poverty, uninsured or underinsured, chronic disease burdens, social determinants of health). Use and cite data, when possible, to support the information.
- Describe the rural population to be served and any rural underserved communities including those who suffer from poorer health outcomes, health disparities, and other inequalities. These populations include but are not limited to: Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of

Review Criteria		
(1) Need		
(2) Response		
(3) Evaluative Measures		
(4) Resources and Capabilities		
(5) Support Requested		





### Reading a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Application Review

- Addresses the criteria that agency will use to evaluate applications.
- Includes the merit and other review criteria that evaluators will use to judge applications, including any statutory, regulatory, or other preferences (e.g., minority status or Native American tribal preferences) that will be applied in the review process.

Five review criteria are used to review and rank DSIP applications. Below are descriptions of the review criteria and their scoring points.

Criterion 1: NEED (30 points) Corresponds to Section IV's Need

#### Community and Hospital Demographics (15 points)

- The extent to which the application clearly identifies the health care structure and systems of the applicant community.
- The extent to which the application clearly identifies the health care needs of the service area using demographic data from reliable and recent data sources.
- The extent to which the application clearly identifies the target population(s) to be serviced, including any rural underserved communities and those who suffer from poorer health outcomes, health disparities, and other inequalities.

#### Hospital Improvement Opportunities (15 points)

- The extent to which the application discusses recent technical assistance received from external subject matter experts or consultants
- The extent to which the application discusses the resulting recommendations for areas of improvement.

Criterion 2: RESPONSE (20 points) - Corresponds to Section IV's Response

#### 2. Review and Selection Process

The objective review process provides an objective evaluation of applications to the individuals responsible for making award decisions. The highest ranked applications receive consideration for award within available funding ranges. HRSA may also consider assessment of risk and the other pre-award activities described in Section 3 below. See Section 5.3 of HRSA's <u>SF-424 Application Guide for more details</u>. In addition to the ranking based on merit criteria, HRSA approving officials will apply other factors (e.g., geographical location and proof of prior TA) described below in selecting applications for award.





# Reading a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) SF-424 Application Guide

- Notice of Funding Opportunity
   Companion Guide
  - Detailed instructions to help applicants prepare and submit applications

Check it out for yourself!

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



#### **SF-424 Application Guide**

A guide developed and maintained by HRSA for preparing and submitting applications through Grants.gov to HRSA using the SF-424 Workspace Application Package

Use with HRSA notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) that specify use of the SF-424 Workspace Application Package

Updated February 4, 2022





#### **HRSA Review Process**

### **Key Steps**

- The central review office is the Division of Independent Review (DIR).
- Applications are reviewed by an Objective Review Committee (ORC).
- The ORC Panel is comprised of independent qualified Reviewers.
- ORC is responsible for evaluating and rating eligible applications in response to the NOFO.





#### **HRSA Review Process**

### Key Steps, continued

### KEY STAGES TO THE HRSA APPLICATION PROCESS



Submit your application before the

For most competitive Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs), you will submit your application through Grants.gov.

Early submission may help us alert your organization of potential application or system-related issues.

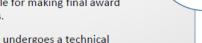
Application
Submission & Receipt



Did your application clearly address the NOFO criteria?

Subject matter experts (SMEs) will review your application, rank it based on NOFO criteria, and send their recommendations to program officials responsible for making final award recommendations.

If your application undergoes a technical review, we will provide you a summary of strengths, weaknesses and comments after we make awards.



Visit How to Apply for a Grant for more information:

https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/apply/index.html

**Technical Review** 



### Screening Application

Is your application eligible, complete, and responsive?



Your application will undergo a screening review for completeness, eligibility, responsiveness, and timeliness per the NOFO.

If we determine your application is ineligible, incomplete, non-responsive, or late, it will not undergo technical review nor will we consider it for funding.



#### Award Determination

We make final decisions on or before the program start date.

Using input from the technical review, we determine which applications will receive funding.

For applications recommended for funding, we ensure compliance with HRSA program requirements, including financial viability.

We then make a final decision on funding.

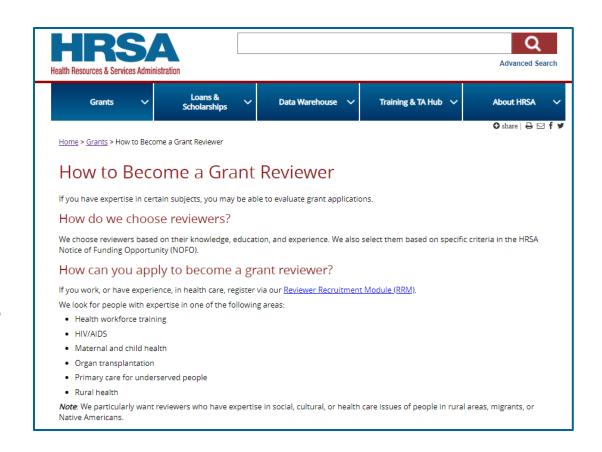






### HRSA Review Process Become a Grant Reviewer!

- We need reviewers to be a part of ORC panels
- Learn more about the grants process
- HRSA has multiple grant program reviews each year
- You must register to be a reviewer
  - https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/reviewers
  - Let us know when you are in the database (so we can select you!)
- Indicate your specialties in the background information (indicate rural!)







### **Application Tips and Common Mistakes The Five "R's"**

### **Submitting Strong Applications**

Do the **Research** 

**Recruit** a

Team

**Respond** to the Guidance

**Review** the Application

**Revise** it as needed





### **Application Tips and Common Mistakes The Five "R's" – Do the Research**

- Learn about the grant program
- Study projects that have been awarded in the past
- Ensure you understand the application requirements
- Consider your organization's capacity (i.e., staffing, fiscal infrastructure, etc.)
- Evaluate the time-cost benefit of applying for the funding opportunity
- Do not ask yourself if the organization needs the funding, but rather whether the organization can commit to the potential project





# **Application Tips and Common Mistakes The Five "R's" – Recruit a Team**

- Internal Team
  - Help draft the application
  - Talk with colleagues and partners
  - Provide honest feedback
  - Have knowledge of the your organization
- Consortium/Network Members
  - Determine the roles and participation levels
  - Obtain written commitments (i.e. MOUs)
  - Consider overall network structure





# Application Tips and Common Mistakes The Five "R's" – Respond to the Guidance

- Use clear and concise language that is easy to read
- Stay focused on the project activities
- Avoid jargon and acronyms
- Describe gaps in current services
- Do not assume reviewers' knowledge of your area/program
- Use current data sources





# **Application Tips and Common Mistakes**The Five "R's" – Review your Application, Revise it as Needed

#### Ask yourself:

- Have I responded to all sections of the NOFO?
- Have I included all required attachments and completed all forms requested?
- Am I applying to the correct funding opportunity number?
- Does my proposed project address the program purpose as specified in the NOFO?
- Does my organization have the technical expertise, the personnel, and the financial capacity to handle this proposed project?



# **Application Tips and Common Mistakes Top 10 Tips for Applicants, 1**

### 1. Start preparing the application early.

- Time is needed to:
  - Ensure registration
  - Assemble team
  - Review materials
  - Outreach to funder
  - Participate in Technical Assistance calls/webinars
  - Respond to the NOFO
  - Submit before the deadline





## Application Tips and Common Mistakes Top 10 Tips for Applicants, 2 – 3

### 2. Follow the instructions in the NOFO carefully.

- All information should be placed in the order requested.
- A careful and ordered response is key because it:
  - Allows an applicant ease of review before submission; and
  - Eliminates the possibility of Reviewers having to look for information or possibly overlooking information.

### 3. Keep your audience in mind.

- Reviewers cannot include outside information and will review what is in your proposal.
- Responses should speak to the program requirements.
- Assume nothing, and keep the review criteria in mind.





## Application Tips and Common Mistakes Top 10 Tips for Applicants, 4 – 5

### 4. Be brief, concise, and clear.

### 5. Be organized and logical.

- Applications that fail to project a complete and thorough thought process run the risk of receiving low scores during the review process.
- Completeness is key in thought as well as required attachments.





# **Application Tips and Common Mistakes Top 10 Tips for Applicants, 6**

# 6. Show evidence of fiscal stability and sound fiscal management.

- Review your internal fiscal operations.
- Do you have the capacity to handle federal funds?
- Cite past experiences where and when possible.
- Where does your organization sit financially after the project is completed?
- What percentage of your annual operating revenue would be the potential award?





## Application Tips and Common Mistakes Top 10 Tips for Applicants, 7 – 8

#### 7. Attend to technical details.

- Top Grants.gov Failures:
  - Invalid UEI Numbers
  - SAM.gov Expirations
  - File Type Associations

#### 8. Be careful in the use of attachments.

- Do not use attachments for information required in the narrative.
- Cross reference tables and attachments to the appropriate section of the application.
- Upload required forms in the proper order.





# **Application Tips and Common Mistakes Top 10 Tips for Applicants, 9 – 10**

- 9. Print out and carefully proofread and review your electronic application to ensure accuracy and completion.
- 10. Submit all information at the same time.





# **Application Tips and Common Mistakes Common Mistakes**

- Not registered with Grants.gov
- Missing or incorrect UEI on application
- Expired SAM registration
- Application is rejected for errors and applicant did not leave enough time to correct before the deadline
- Rejection email is in spam folder
- AOR is not approved by E-Biz Point of Contact
- AOR is not available to submit the application
- Applying to the wrong announcement number
- Application exceeds page limits





#### **Contact Information**



Suzanne Snyder, MSW
Public Health Analyst
Hospital State Division
ssnyder1@hrsa.gov
301-443-0178





## **Questions?**







#### **Connect with HRSA**

Learn more about our agency at: www.HRSA.gov

Rural Health Questions? Email: RuralPolicy@HRSA.gov



**FOLLOW US:** 















# **Appendix A: Funding Opportunity Forecast**





# **Relevant Funding Opportunities**

#### **Funding Opportunity Forecast (Pending Appropriations)**

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Rural Health Care Coordination	NOFO <mark>Available NOW</mark> Project Period 9/15/2023		
Rural Health Care Services Outreach			NOFO Available TBD Project Period Start 5/1/2025
Rural Health Network Development	Project Period Start 7/1/2023		
Rural Health Network Development Planning	Project Period Start 7/1/2023	NOFO Fall 2023 Project Period Start 7/1/2024	NOFO Fall 2023 Project Period Start 7/1/2025
Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement			
Delta Health Systems Implementation	NOFO <mark>Available NOW</mark> Project Period Start 9/30/2023		
Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies	NOFO Available Spring 2023 Project Period Start 9/1/2023		NOFO Available Winter 2024 Project Period Start 9/1/2025





# **Relevant Funding Opportunities**

#### Funding Opportunity Forecast (Pending Appropriations), continued

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
RCORP-Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health	NOFO <mark>Available NOW</mark> Project Start Date: 9/1/2023		
RCORP-Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome	Project Start Date: 9/1/2023		
RCORP-Overdose Response	Project Start Date: 9/1/2023	NOFO Available: Fall 2023 Project Start Date: 9/1/2024	
RCORP-Psychostimulant Support		NOFO Available: Fall/Winter 2023 Project Start Date: 9/1/2024	
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Rural Residency Planning and Development Grants	Project Start Date: 8/1/2023	NOFO Available: Late Fall 2023 Project Start Date: 8/1/2024	





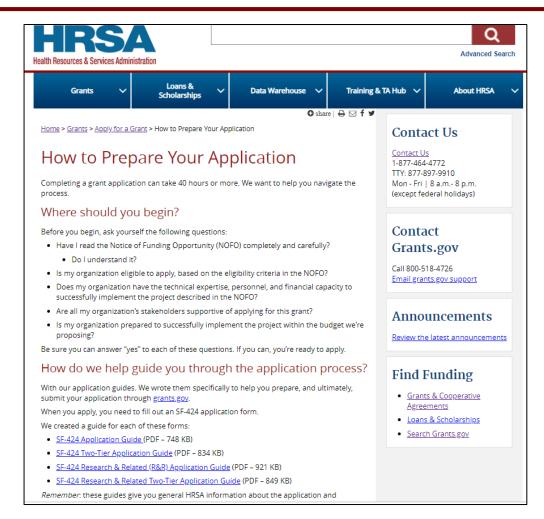
# Appendix B: Additional Resources





## HRSA Grant Technical Assistance Resources, 1

- HRSA Grants Technical Assistance (TA) Webpage http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/apply/
- One-stop-shop for potential applicants on how to apply for HRSA Federal assistance.
- Applicants will find valuable information on how to apply for HRSA grants, including webcasts, videos, and other technical assistance guidance and a wealth of other relevant and useful information and links tailored to HRSA-specific process and requirements.







### HRSA Grant Technical Assistance Resources, 2

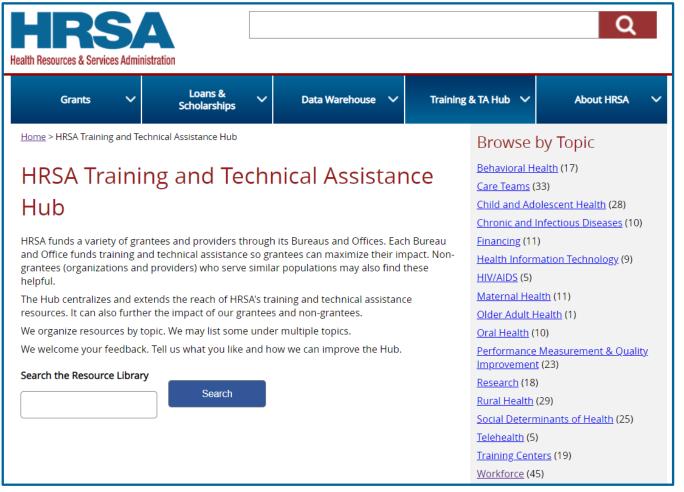




http://data.hrsa.gov



### **HRSA Grant Technical Assistance Resources**









### **HRSA Grant Resources, 3**

- Grants Policy Update
- Effectively Managing Your Grants
- Grant Budgeting
- Understanding and Managing your Award
- Changes in Financial Reporting and Payment Management
   System Updates
- Healthy Workforce Resiliency
- Answers to Common EHB Questions
- HRSA IEA- Connecting and Supporting HRSA Grantees
- A Healthy Single Audit
- Improving the Federal Grants Experience
- Improving the Health of Underserved Populations
- Promoting Effective Communication in Healthcare



Presented as a Web Series



https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/manage-your-grant/training/workshops



# Questions or Comments





# Post-Polling Questions

I am \_\_\_ in my understanding of the federal grant application process, from searching for a federal grant to submitting a successful application.

I am \_\_\_ that I will apply the knowledge gained from this educational training to help leverage federal resources within my rural community.



### Contact Information

Bethany Adams	Program Director	(859) 806-2940	badams@ruralcenter.org
Sally Buck	Chief Executive Officer	(218) 216-7025	sbuck@ruralcenter.org
Latraiel Courtney	Clinic Consultation Program Specialist	(218) 216-7039	lcourtney@ruralcenter.org
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