



FY 2026 Rural and Underserved Clinical Rotations Grants

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Program Description

- The Rural and Underserved Clinical Rotations grant program is authorized by Minnesota Statutes [Sec 144.1505](#)
- Grants to augment existing clinical training programs to add or expand rural and underserved rotations or clinical training experiences, such as credential or certificate rural tracks or other specialized training
- For physician and dentist training, the expanded training must include rotations in primary care settings such as community clinics, hospitals, health maintenance organizations, or practices in rural communities

Funds Available

Funding	Estimate
Estimated Amount to Grant	\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000
Estimated Number of Awards	4-6
Estimated Maximum Award	\$400,000
Estimated Minimum Award	N/A

- Funding is allocated through a competitive process
- No expenditures may be incurred before the grant agreement is fully executed and the start date arrives

Eligible Applicants

The following types of clinical training programs, which may be part of institutions of higher education, hospitals, or other entities located in Minnesota, are eligible to apply:

- Advanced Practice Registered Nursing Program
- Dental Program
- Dental Therapy Education Program or Advanced Dental Therapy Education Program
- Mental Health Professional Program
- Pharmacy Program
- Physician Residency Training Program
- Physician Assistant Program

See section 1.4 of the RFP for details on required accreditation or candidacy for accreditation.

- **Program Goals:** Strengthen Minnesota’s health care workforce and improve access to care for rural and underserved communities by expanding clinical training opportunities in these communities.
- “Rural community” means a statutory and home rule charter city or township outside the 7-county metro
- “Underserved community” means a MN area or population designated by HRSA as a health professional shortage area, medically underserved area, or medically underserved population

Grant outcomes will include:

- An increase in the number of clinical training opportunities in rural and underserved Minnesota communities.
- An increase in the number and percentage of graduates from clinical training programs practicing in rural and underserved Minnesota communities.
- Greater access to primary care, including mental health care, in rural and underserved Minnesota communities.

Other competitive priorities:

- Programs serving rural communities will receive priority.
- Programs that advance health equity in other impactful ways will receive priority.
- Programs with a strong model of team-based primary care will receive priority.

Grant Project Requirements

- Proposals to add or expand a clinical rotation or clinical training experience in rural and underserved communities must describe the new training sites and number of training slots added
- Successful proposals will demonstrate:
 - Strong partnerships with clinical sites (letters of commitment from training sites, evidence of longer-term partnerships)
 - Ongoing commitment to clinical training in rural and underserved communities (past work, planning for this project, plans for sustaining work beyond grant period)
 - Meaningful contributions to health care workforce (number and % of program graduates practicing in rural and underserved communities)

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses include:

- Establishing or expanding rotations and clinical training;
- Recruitment, training, and retention of students and faculty;
- Connecting students with appropriate clinical training sites, internships, practicums, or externship activities;
- Travel and lodging for students;
- Faculty, student, and preceptor salaries, incentives, or other financial support;
- Development and implementation of cultural competency training;
- Evaluations;
- Training site improvements, fees, equipment, and supplies required to establish, maintain, or expand a training program; and
- Supporting clinical education in which trainees are part of a primary care team model.

Indirect expenses are allowed at a grantee's federally negotiated rate or up to 10% of direct costs. See RFP Part 4 for further details.

Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Solicitating donations
- Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services
- Lobbyists, political contributions
- Bad debts, late payment fees, finance charges, or contingency funds

Eligibility for Grant Extension

Grants may be extended for up to five years, if funding is available and grantees meet annual requirements. Grantees that meet requirements will be eligible for an amendment each year to add funds and extend the time period of their grants. Annual funding amounts may vary.

Grantees seeking an annual amendment of their grant should demonstrate the following:

- Strong enrollment numbers.
- Fulfillment of program objectives.
- Successful evaluation results, including from partner clinical sites.
- Progress toward sustainability plan, including securing other funding sources.
- Timely invoicing and appropriate spend-down of funds.
- Detailed and timely progress reports.
- Fulfillment of all other grant requirements.

General Information

- There is no match requirement for this grant
- Project Dates:
 - **Applications are due to MDH by 4:30 pm Central Time on July 25, 2025**
 - Grant distribution announcement: Late August 2025
 - Grant period (estimated): November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026
 - Grants may be extended for up to five years, if funding is available and grantees meet annual requirements.
- **Collaboration:** Applicants are required to submit letters from clinical training sites demonstrating the sites' commitment to partnering with the applicant organization on the rural and underserved rotations or clinical training experiences.

Grant Contractual Obligations

- Work may not start prior to the full execution of the grant agreement and the project start date (expected to be November 1, 2025)
- Approved grant activities and budget will be outlined in Exhibits A & B of the grant agreement
- Grantees report quarterly on financial and programmatic activities
 - January 20, April 20, July 20, October 20
- Grantees receiving \$50,000 or more have one grant monitoring visit and financial reconciliation per grant period
- Grantees receiving \$250,000 or more have one grant monitoring visit and financial reconciliation per year through the grant period

Review Process

- MDH determines initial eligibility
- Review committee scores applications on the criteria in RFP Attachment A:
 - Organization Background and Capacity
 - Project Narrative and Work Plan
 - Budget Narrative
- Review committee and MDH determine grant awards
- MDH conducts due diligence and past performance review prior to entering into grant agreements

Application Submission

- All applications will be completed and submitted via the online [ORHPC Grants Management System](#)
- Applications are due July 25, 2025 at 4:30 pm Central Time

Submitting Questions

- All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted via email to Health.ORHPC.WorkforceGrants@state.mn.us.
- Answers will be posted within 5 business days on the [ORHPC Grants and Funding website](#).
- Please submit questions no later than 4:30 p.m. Central Time on July 16, 2025

Creating/Managing Users

Logon Page

Email Address*

Password*

Log On Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the MN Department of Health's Office of Rural Health and Primary Care's online grant portal.

FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR MN HEALTH CARE LOAN FORGIVENESS OR STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM: Please click on the "Create New Account" button to set up an account to enter into the grant portal.

ALL CURRENT USERS: Please click on the "Forgot your Password?" link to create a new password for the account that has already been set up for you.

- Existing Users: log in or use the forgot password button
- New Users: verify whether your organization already has a profile; create a new profile if not
- If you are unsure of organization's status, reach out to MDH

Starting an Application

- On the home page of the portal, find the FY2026 Rural and Underserved Clinical Rotations Grant
- Click Apply

The screenshot shows the MN Department of Health portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'm' logo, a home icon, and an 'APPLY' button. The user is logged in as 'Anna Applicant'. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and a list of grant programs. The first program is 'Rural Primary Care Residency Training Grant Program - FY 2026 Accepting Submissions from 06/23/2025 to 09/05/2025'. The second program is 'Rural and Underserved Clinical Rotations Grant - FY26 Accepting Submissions from 06/04/2025 to 07/25/2025', which is highlighted in yellow. Each program card includes a 'Preview' button and an 'Apply' button. The 'Apply' button for the highlighted program is the one to be clicked.

This is a close-up of the highlighted program card from the previous screenshot. It shows the title 'Rural and Underserved Clinical Rotations Grant - FY26 Accepting Submissions from 06/04/2025 to 07/25/2025' and an 'Apply' button. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text: 'Please refer to the [Request for Proposal](#) for further information about this grant program which includes information about the application process and requirements, the program statute, and award criteria.' At the bottom of the card, there is a 'Preview' button.

Application Sections

> Application Instructions

> Section 1: Organization and Applicant Information

> Section 2: Project Information

> Section 3: Organization Background and Capacity

> Section 4: Project Narrative and Work Plan

> Section 5: Budget and Budget Narrative

> Section 6: Required Attachments

> Section 7: Applicant Conflict of Interest

> Certification

- 7 sections to complete
 - Section 1: Organization and Applicant Information
 - Section 2: Project Information
 - Section 3: Organization Background and Capacity
 - Section 4: Project Narrative and Work Plan
 - Section 5: Budget & Budget Narrative
 - Section 6: Required Attachments
 - Section 7: Applicant Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Refer to RFP for instructions on narrative questions
- Complete at your own pace
 - Save button vs Submit button

- Basic information about your organization
- Important to note that applicant will be the individual to whom reports are assigned
- Collaboration is possible: can add others as collaborators in portal
- SWIFT information is very important – this is how MDH contracts
 - If unsure – contact SWIFT help desk: 651-201-8100 or swifthelpdesk.mmb@state.mn.us

Section 3. Organization Background and Capacity

- Program Type
- Organization Overview
- Graduates Practicing in Rural/Underserved Areas
- Commitment to Rural/Underserved Training
- Collaborating Partners
 - Letters of commitment are required from clinical site partners

Section 4. Project Narrative and Work Plan

- Adding or Expanding
- Statement of Need
- Number of Trainees
- Proposed Program
- Clinical Training Site(s)
- Team-Based Primary Care
- Recruitment and Retention
- Program Outcomes
- Program Evaluation
- Program Sustainability
- Challenges and Support
- Work Plan

Section 5: Budget & Budget Narrative

- Provide details on expected project expenses
- For each budget item, indicate grant funding requested and amounts/sources of other funding
- Budget categories:
 - Salaries
 - Fringe
 - Travel
 - Supplies
 - Contracted Services
 - Equipment
 - Other
 - Indirect

Application Section 6: Required Attachments

- Audited Financial Statements
- Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate
- Due Diligence Form
- Proof of Accreditation
- Letters of Commitment from Clinical Sites

Application Section 7: Conflict of Interest

- Complete prior to submission
- Should you be aware of any conflict of interest, this may not disqualify you for funding, but requires a mitigation plan to collaborate with MDH
- Reach out with any questions regarding conflict of interest

Questions?

Thank You!

Erik Larson, MSW

Health.ORHPC.WorkforceGrants@state.mn.us

651-201-4178