



Innovations in Newborn Screening Interoperability

Notice of Funding Opportunity HRSA-20-134

Technical Assistance Webinar

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Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Housekeeping items

- How to access the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Download today's presentation
- Program website: <https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/hrsa-20-134>



How to access the NOFO

- **MCHB Funding Opportunities**
 - <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/fundingopportunities/>
 - Select “Download Notice of Funding Opportunity”

- **Grants.gov**
 - Search HRSA-20-134
 - Select Package
 - Select Preview
 - Download Instructions



Application Guide

HRSA SF-424 Application Guide

- General information about the application process
- Registering in grants.gov and using Workspace
- Budget forms
- Formatting guidelines
- Website: [SF-424 Application Guide](#)



Executive Summary

- **The purpose of this program is to enhance data interoperability in the newborn screening (NBS) system. The recipient will accomplish this by serving as a national leader and resource on health information data interoperability and providing technical assistance, training, and education in data interoperability to state NBS programs.**
- **Interoperability is defined as the ability of different information systems, devices, and applications ('systems') to access, exchange, integrate, and cooperatively use data in a coordinated manner, within and across organizational, regional, and national boundaries, to provide timely and seamless portability of information and optimize the health of individuals and populations globally. ¹**

¹ Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, Inc. (HIMSS). "What is Interoperability in Healthcare?" <https://www.himss.org/what-interoperability>



Program Overview

- **Number of awards: 1**
- **Maximum funding amount: \$1,300,000 per year**
- **Period of Performance: September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023 (3 years)**
- **Type of award: Cooperative Agreement**
- **Application due date: July 1, 2020**
- **Projected start date: September 1, 2020**



Program Goal

- **The goal of this program is to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with heritable disorders in newborns and children by enhancing data interoperability in the NBS system.**
- **Achieving data interoperability will improve the ability of states to conduct screening and report results in a timely manner, which increases the likelihood that infants with one of these newborn screening conditions will receive timely diagnoses and treatment.**

Program Objectives

- **By August 2021, will establish a public facing website for resources and materials on interoperability for use in newborn screening programs.**
 - **By August 2023, 80 percent of newborn screening programs in the United States and territories will report use of resources and materials on interoperability developed by INBSI.**
 - **By August 2023, provide direct technical assistance and support to develop a comprehensive state interoperability plan to at least 20 states.**
 - **By August 2023, 100 percent of the states receiving direct technical assistance and support will report development of a comprehensive plan and timeline for achieving interoperability.**
 - **By August 2023, disseminate nationally a report on its work in supporting newborn screening interoperability, to include information and data collected from the states that use the resources and materials on interoperability that the recipient has developed and posted.**
- ❖ **The recipient is expected to collect and report data annually to HRSA on progress toward meeting the objectives listed above.**



Eligible Applicants

1. A state or a political subdivision of a state
2. A consortium of two or more states or political subdivisions of states
3. A territory
4. A health facility or program operated by or pursuant to a contract with or grant from the Indian Health Service
5. Any other entity with appropriate expertise in newborn screening, as determined by the Secretary

“State” includes, in addition to the several states, only the District of Columbia, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.



Eligible Applicants

#1. A state or a political subdivision of a state

- “State” includes, in addition to the several states, only the District of Columbia, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
- A political subdivision is a separate legal entity of a State which usually has specific governmental functions. The term ordinarily includes a county, city, town, village, or school district, and, in many States, a sanitation, utility, reclamation, drainage, flood control, or similar district.” A political subdivision’s legal status is governmental.



Eligible Applicants

#5. Any other entity with appropriate expertise in newborn screening, as determined by the Secretary

- Program purpose: to enhance data interoperability in the newborn screening (NBS) system
- Serve as a national leader and resource on health information data interoperability and providing technical assistance, training, and education in data interoperability to state NBS programs.
- Approval Factors (page 5)
- Methodology (pages 7-10)



Supplement not supplant

- ❖ **Per statute, funds appropriated under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant other federal, state, and local public funds provided for activities of the type described in this section.**
- ❖ **Accordingly, recipients must ensure that they do use funds made available under this NOFO to supplement and not supplant other federal, state, and local public funds provided for activities of the type described in this NOFO.**



Approval Factors and Assurances

- **Approval Factors:** An application for a grant shall not be approved unless the application contains assurances (as Attachment 7) that the eligible entity has adopted and implemented, is in the process of adopting and implementing, or will use amounts received under such grant to adopt and implement the guidelines and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (ACHDNC) that are adopted by the Secretary and in effect at the time the grant is awarded.
- **Attachment 7: Assurances as detailed in the APPROVAL FACTORS section.** Briefly describe (not more than one page) how program activities support or will support the ACHDNC guidelines and recommendations.



Project Narrative

Application Section	NOFO Pages
Project Abstract	Page 7
Project Narrative <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Needs Assessment• Methodology• Work Plan• Resolution of Challenges• Evaluation and Technical Support Capacity• Organizational Information	Pages 7-12
Budget	Page 12
Budget Narrative	Page 12
Attachments	Pages 13-14



Methodology

1. Establish a National Resource Center on NBS Interoperability

- Support and Maintain a Website
- Environmental Scan of Interoperability in NBS
- Collect and Disseminate Best Practices

2. Technical Assistance and Support to State NBS Programs

- Establish State Teams – minimum 20
- State Readiness Assessments
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Facilitate State Interoperability Plans

3. Sustainability Plan



Evaluation and Technical Support Capacity

- Number of state newborn screening staff participating in training/education sessions on informatics, as it relates to interoperability
- Number of state newborn screening staff that report increased knowledge after participating in training
- Number of states that received technical assistance on development of interoperability plan
- Number of educational resources developed
- Number of webinars, conferences, or educational opportunities offered
- Number of state NBS programs using resources developed by INBSI
- Number of states receiving technical assistance from INBSI
- Number of states developing an interoperability plan using information and resources provided by INBSI



Discretionary Grant Information System (DGIS) Measures

- Review the listing of administrative forms and performance measures for this program at [DGIS Performance Measures](#)
 - Core
 - Grant Impact
 - Quality Improvement
 - Health Equity
 - Capacity Building
 - State Capacity for Advancing the Health of MCH Populations
 - Technical Assistance
 - Impact Measurement
 - Sustainability
 - Products
 - Perinatal and Infant Health
 - Newborn Screening



Budget

- **See Section 4.1.iv of HRSA’s SF-424 Application Guide.**
 - A budget that follows the Application Guide will ensure that you will have a well-organized plan.
 - **Note Salary Limitation: “None of the funds appropriated in this title shall be used to pay the salary of an individual, through a grant or other extramural mechanism, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II.”**
- **Reminder: The Total Project or Program Costs are the total allowable costs (inclusive of direct and indirect costs) incurred by the recipient to carry out a HRSA-supported project or activity.**



Budget

The Innovations in NBS Interoperability program requires funding for the following activities:

- **Budgeting adequate resources to support participating state NBS programs in development of interoperability plans.**
- **Convening annual national meetings of state newborn screening programs.**

Funding Restrictions

Funds under this notice may not be used for the following purposes:

1. Providing cash payments to or on behalf of affected individuals.
2. Providing inpatient services.
3. Purchasing land or making capital improvements to property.
4. Providing for proprietary research or training.



Financial System Integrity

- The applicant must propose a financial system that meets these objectives:
 - Account for all funds approved and disbursed;
 - Provide funds in a timely manner to approved living donor applicants;
 - Assure funds are used for the authorized purpose; and
 - Maintain transaction records for third party audits.



Tips and Reminders

- Total Award Amount \$1,300,000
- The Indirect Cost Agreement should be included with your application. If you do not have an IDC Agreement you can use the De Minimis Rate of 10% if you have never negotiated a rate with the Division of Cost Allocation (please indicate you are using the De Minimis Rate in your budget narrative).
- Applicants must completely breakdown all costs in the Budget Narrative and costs must correspond with the 424A.



Tips and Reminders Continued

Budget Tips from a Grants Perspective:

Personnel-Personnel budget justification must include the name each person, their role and responsibilities, the specific amount of funds requested for their salary and the percentage of time each person will devote to the project.

- Note the Salary Cap is \$197,300

Fringe Benefits- You must include the means by which these fringe benefits were calculated and what is included in the fringe benefits.

Travel-Travel expenses can be divided by Local and Long Distance.

For Local travel, the mileage rate, number of miles, reason for the travel, estimated number of staff members attending the meetings, and other transportation or meeting related expenses must be explained and justified for each anticipated travel event planned.

For Long Distance travel break down expenses as listed above plus include any additional meeting expenses (hotel/airfare, etc).



Tips and Reminders Continued

Equipment- Is tangible, non-expendible property charged directly to an award having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition value of \$5,000 or more per unit or whatever value your organizations capitalizes equipment.

Each item of equipment requested must have its specific cost per unit listed and its need explained/justified.

Supplies-All tangible personal property other than equipment. Examples of supplies are office supplies, printed materials, and educational materials. Each item being requested in supplies must have its specific cost listed and its need explained/justified.

Contractual-Each contractual agreement must have a detailed explanation and associated cost for the item or service in the budget. Note, Federal Procurement Guidelines must be followed on all goods and services purchased with federal funds.

Other- Each item or service being requested in the Other budget category must have its specific cost listed and the need explained/justified.

Indirects- Please remember to include your rate agreement or indicate in the budget narrative you are claiming the De Minimis Rate.



Review Criteria

- **Need (10 points)**
 - **Response (35 points)**
 - **Methodology (20 points)**
 - **Work plan (10 points)**
 - **Resolution of Challenges (5 points)**
 - **Evaluative Measures (20 points)**
 - **Impact (10 points)**
 - **Resources/Capabilities (15 points)**
 - **Support Requested (10 points)**
- ❖ **Application review information can be found on pages 16-20 of NOFO.**



How to apply

- Register in three different systems
- SF-424 Application Guide, pages 10-12

System	Purpose	Website
Obtain a Data Universal Number System (DUNS)	Unique 9-digit number that identifies an organization; adopted by the Federal Government to track how grant money is distributed	http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/
Register with System for Award Management (SAM)	Central repository for organizations doing business with the Federal Government; designate E-Biz POC	https://www.sam.gov
Create a Grants.gov Account	Apply for grants online	http://www.grants.gov/



Submit application in grants.gov

SF-424 Application Guide, pages 13-15

Create, Complete, and Submit a Workspace Package in grants.gov

- Sign and Submit
- Grants.gov Tracking Number

❖ HRSA suggests submitting applications to Grants.gov at least 3 calendar days before the deadline to allow for any unforeseen circumstances!



Application Planning

- **Where should you begin?**
 - Check registrations in DUNS, SAM, and grants.gov!
 - Have you read the NOFO carefully and completely?
 - Is your organization eligible to apply?
 - Does your organization have the technical expertise, the personnel, and the financial capacity to implement the project?
 - Are your stakeholders supportive?
 - Is your organization prepared to implement the project within the budget proposed?
 - [How to Prepare Your Application](#)



Tips for Writing a Strong Application

- **Goals and objectives**
 - Define them clearly
 - Be specific
- **Need**
 - The need for the service or activity that the grant will support
 - Your organization's track record in fulfilling that need
- **Response and impact**
 - Show how you plan to achieve the program's purpose
 - Include supporting data whenever possible
- **Resources and capabilities**
 - Elaborate on your organization's knowledge, staffing, and fiscal stability
 - Explain how these ensure you can carry out your proposal and meet the goals of the program
- **Budget**
 - A realistic plan that matches your goals and objectives
 - Include a narrative that justifies the costs



Top Tips for Applying

1. Start preparing the application early.
2. Follow the instructions in the NOFO carefully.
3. Keep your audience in mind.
4. Be brief, concise, and clear.
5. Be organized and logical.
6. Show evidence of fiscal stability and sound fiscal management.
7. Attend to technical details.
8. Be careful when using attachments.
9. Proofread and review the application to ensure accuracy and completion.
10. Submit all information at the same time.

❖ HRSA Website: Apply for a Grant, <https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/apply-for-a-grant>



Contact Information

Programmatic questions:

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Budget/Fiscal questions:

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