

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-MAT Expansion

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General Application FAQs:

1. I am having difficulty finding the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – can you direct me to the full application instructions?
 - [Direct link to NOFO](#) (Click on “Package”→”Preview”→”Download Instructions”)
 - To apply: Go to opportunity [HRSA-19-102](#) on Grants.gov and click apply!
 - HRSA’s website also has [a brief summary of the funding opportunity and a link to the NOFO](#).
2. I was unable to attend HRSA’s Technical Assistance Webinar for this funding opportunity. Is the webinar recording available?
 - The full webinar recording is here: <https://hrsaseminar.adobeconnect.com/poyfdq1ky8hh/>
 - The webinar slides are available for download using the above Adobe Connect link (look under file share in the bottom left corner).
 - The audio-only recording is available at: 1-800-731-6043, Passcode: 42519
3. I am having difficulty accessing/navigating grants.gov. How do you recommend I proceed?
 - Applicants should contact the grants.gov support team at: 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov
4. I am having difficulty accessing the System for Award Management (SAM) to register or update my account. How do you recommend I proceed?
 - Contact the Federal Support Desk at <https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/home.do>. They can assist you with creating an account; assigning roles to an account; entity registrations; exclusions; and searching for data in SAM.
 - Please note: you must submit your application electronically by the deadline posted on the NOFO. If you need to request a waiver from the submission requirement, you must request an exemption in writing from DGPWaivers@hrsa.gov within 5 calendar days of the opportunity’s closing date, and provide details as to why you are technologically unable to submit electronically through the Grants.gov portal. Please refer to pages 16-17 of the [SF-424 Application Guide](#).
5. I have a specific question about the Notice of Funding Opportunity that is not answered here.
 - Please review the [TA webinar](#) recording if you haven’t already.
 - HRSA Staff contact email: ruralopiodresponse@hrsa.gov or Kiley Diop at (301) 443-6666. Please note that HRSA staff will answer clarifying questions about the NOFO requirements, but cannot provide guidance on proposed approaches.

Eligible entities and proposed service areas:

6. My organization is a(n) _____ - are we eligible to apply for RCORP-MAT Expansion?
 - The lead applicant must be one of the eligible entities listed in the Eligibility Section of the RCORP-MAT Expansion NOFO (pg. 4).

- Additionally, the lead applicant must be located in HRSA-designated rural area, as defined by <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health/> (pg.4).
 - The proposed service area must be an entirely HRSA-designated rural area. RCORP-MAT Expansion applicants must demonstrate this [using the rural analyzer tool](#) and listing service area counties (for fully rural counties) and/or census tracts (for partially rural counties) in the application (pg. 4).
 - If your organization is not one of the entities listed in the Eligibility Section of the NOFO and/or is not located in a HRSA-designated rural area, then you are not eligible to apply as the lead applicant; however, you may be able to serve as a partner organization/subcontractor on the grant (pp. 2, 7, 15-16).
7. The target population is located in a county that is partially rural. How should my organization address this in the application?
- RCORP-MAT Expansion applicant organizations can determine whether their physical street address is located in a HRSA-designated rural area by visiting here: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health/>
 - Applicants must confirm that the target population is located exclusively in the portions of the county that are considered rural: <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/ruralhealth/resources/forhpeligibleareas.pdf>
 - [A map of eligible rural areas can be viewed at this link:](#) <https://data.hrsa.gov/hdw/tools/MapTool.aspx>
 - Select Rural Health in the left side bar underneath HRSA data.
8. Can applicants apply for this funding opportunity if they have applied for an [FY19 RCORP-Planning grant](#) or [FY19 RCORP-Implementation grant](#)?
- Yes, applicants and/or award recipients of the RCORP-Planning and –Implementation grants are eligible to apply to RCORP-MAT Expansion, as indicated on p.21 Attachment 10, assuming they meet the eligibility criteria described on pg. 4 of the NOFO.
 - In Attachment 10, applicants should make it clear how this grant would be different and not duplicate the activities of the other RCORP grant(s).
9. My organization is not one of the eligible entities listed in the Eligibility Section of the RCORP-MAT Expansion NOFO, but would like to apply on behalf of an eligible entity and serve as the fiscal and administrative agent on the grant. Is my organization eligible to apply?
- No, the lead applicant organization must be one of the eligible entities listed in the Eligibility Section of the RCORP-MAT Expansion NOFO (pg. 4), be located in a HRSA-designated rural area, and be responsible for programmatic and financial reporting and ensuring compliance with grant terms, requirements, and legislation.
 - Please note: The lead applicant can subcontract with an organization to assist with the administrative and financial components of the grant, so long as there is a contract in place that describes the nature of the financial services provided. The lead applicant would still serve as the fiscal agent for the grant, funds would be drawn down from the lead applicant’s bank account, and subcontractors would be paid through the lead applicant.

Parent Organization and/or Employment Identification Number (EIN) Questions

10. My organization's parent company is located in an urban area, but has several rural offices that serve rural populations. Is my organization considered rural?
 - Generally, if an organization shares an EIN with its urban parent company, it is considered urban for the purposes of the RCORP-MAT Expansion grant and would not be eligible to apply as the lead applicant. In this instance, the organization could serve as a partner organization/subcontractor on the grant.
 - In cases where a satellite office is located in a rural area, has a unique EIN, and acts autonomously from the parent organization, then that satellite location is considered rural and is eligible to apply as the lead applicant on the grant if it is one of the eligible entities listed in the Eligibility Section of the RCORP-MAT Expansion NOFO (p. 4).

11. My organization is one of the eligible entities listed in the Eligibility Section of the RCORP-MAT Expansion NOFO, but shares an EIN with a parent company that is not one of the eligible entities listed. Is my organization eligible to apply?
 - If your organization is one of the eligible entities listed in the Eligibility Section of the RCORP-MAT Expansion NOFO, acts autonomously from the parent organization, and both your organization and the parent organization are located in HRSA-designated rural areas, then your organization is eligible to apply.
 - **Note that multiple applications where the lead applicant is associated with the same EIN are not permitted under the RCORP-MAT Expansion grant. Only one application per EIN is permissible. This applies to instances where multiple organizations/facilities separately apply for the funding opportunity, but all share the same EIN as a common parent organization. If multiple applications where the lead applicant is associated with the same EIN are submitted, HRSA will only accept the last validated electronic submission, under the correct funding opportunity number, prior to the Grants.gov application due date as the final and only acceptable application (p. 4).**

12. Is an organization allowed to serve as the lead applicant for one application and as a "partner organization" for another application?
 - The RCORP-MAT Expansion NOFO limits organizations from serving as the lead applicant on more than one application. However, an organization would be eligible to apply as a partner organization for multiple applications, just not as the lead applicant for more than one application.
 - **As a reminder, HRSA will not accept multiple applications where the lead applicant is associated with the same EIN under the RCORP-MAT Expansion grant. Only one application per EIN is permissible. This applies to instances where multiple organizations/facilities separately apply for the funding opportunity, but all share the same EIN as a common parent organization. If multiple applications where the lead applicant is associated with the same EIN are submitted, HRSA will only accept the last submitted application associated with that EIN.**

Application requirements and allowable costs:

13. Where can I find the data/information required for the RCORP measures in Appendix D?
 - Per the notice of funding opportunity, applicants should use the most recent available data/information from appropriate sources (e.g., local, state, tribal, federal) and cite any information they provide. Appendix B contains several resources applicants can leverage.
 - If awarded, the RCORP-Technical Assistance provider is available to help identify appropriate data sources for subsequent grantee reporting cycles.
14. Is there an expectation that RCORP-MAT Expansion funding should cover treatment costs for patients who are uninsured/underinsured?
 - The RCORP-MAT Expansion grant should serve as a payer of last resort—i.e., all services covered by reimbursement should be billed and every reasonable effort should be made to obtain payment, but the grant should cover services for individuals who are unable to pay.
15. Can award recipients use RCORP-MAT Expansion funds to treat urban residents who seek care at their facilities?
 - While award recipients should exclusively **target** populations residing in HRSA-designated rural areas, it is acceptable if urban residents also happen to benefit from the RCORP-MAT Expansion grant.
16. Since award recipients will be working closely with an external RCORP evaluator, should I budget for an evaluator to assess the impact of my project?
 - If awarded funds, your organization should be prepared to track, collect and report data to give to the external RCORP evaluator and complete all required qualitative and quantitative reporting requirements as outlined in the NOFO (pp. 31-2; 43-4). If your organization is unable to track and collect these data without an evaluation expert, you can include hours for a consultant or other data specialist to perform these required tasks in your staffing plan and budget and budget narrative.
17. Will I need to complete an A-133 audit for this grant?
 - In general, if an award recipient's federal awards exceed \$750,000 in any given year, they will need to conduct an audit.
 - However, please refer to Subpart F of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards for further guidance: <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=1&SID=4d52364ec83fab994c665943dadf9cf7&ty=HTML&h=L&r=PART&n=pt45.1.75#sp45.1.75.f>
18. Does a partner organization need to receive RCORP-MAT Expansion grant funds in order to be considered full, participating partner organizations for the purposes of this grant?
 - No, it is not necessary to distribute the grant funds across all partner organizations for the RCORP-MAT Expansion funding opportunity. Applicant organizations have discretion regarding how they propose to allocate the total budget, provided that the projected budget complies with all applicable HHS policies and other federal requirements (p.17). Applicants should detail the nature and extent of the partner organizations' financial and programmatic commitment to the proposed project activities in Attachments 4, 5, and, if applicable, 6.

19. Since award recipients will receive the full award amount in the first year of the grant, are they required to spend it over the three-year period of performance?
- Yes, RCORP-MAT Expansion award recipients are required to allocate the award amount over a three-year period of performance and submit budgets and budget narratives for each of the three years of the grant.
20. Are minor renovations an allowable cost for this grant?
- Certain minor renovations are allowable under the RCORP-MAT Expansion grant. These can include:
 - Reconfiguring space to facilitate co-location of SUD, mental health, and primary care services teams;
 - Adapting space to deliver virtual care that supports accurate clinical interviewing and assessment, clear visual and audio transmission, and ensures patient confidentiality;
 - Adapting or improving spaces for patients to participate in counseling and group visit services, and to access and receive training in self-management tools; and
 - Modifying examination rooms to increase access to pain management options, such as chiropractic, physical therapy, acupuncture, and group therapy services.
 - The following activities are **not** categorized as minor alteration/renovation and are unallowable under RCORP-MAT Expansion:
 - Construction of a new building,
 - Acquisition of real property,
 - Installation of a modular building,
 - Building expansions,
 - Work that increases the building footprint, and
 - Significant new ground disturbance.
 - RCORP-MAT Expansion grant funds for minor renovations may not be used to supplement or supplant existing renovation funding; funds must be used for a new project.
 - Pre-renovation costs (Architectural & Engineering costs prior to 90 days before the budget period start date) are unallowable.
 - **Successful RCORP-MAT Expansion award recipients proposing minor renovation projects will be required to submit a prior approval request to HRSA upon receipt of award and refrain from implementing the minor renovations until the request has been approved.**
21. Can my proposed project focus on individuals with other SUDs other than OUD?
- The primary focus of the RCORP-MAT Expansion grant should be on individuals with OUD. However, recognizing that many individuals with OUD are polysubstance users or have other co-occurring conditions, your consortium may address the related SUD needs of this population.
22. Are participant support costs allowable for this grant?
- Participant support costs—i.e., direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects—are allowable costs under the RCORP-MAT Expansion grant.
23. My organization will not have hired all of our project staff by the time the application is due. How do I account for this in my application?
- In Attachment 2 (“Staffing Plan”), it is appropriate to write TBD under “Name” if the

individual has not yet been hired. However, you should include a description of the process and timeline for hiring staff. Note that award recipients are expected to be able to operationalize their work plans **immediately** upon receipt of award.

24. Can I use RCORP-MAT Expansion grant funds to purchase Naloxone (i.e. NARCAN), Vivitrol, and/or buprenorphine?
 - Yes, these are all allowable costs under the RCORP-MAT Expansion grant.
25. Can I use RCORP-MAT Expansion grant funds to purchase syringes?
 - The purchases of syringes is unallowable in all phases of the program.
 - Please refer to [HRSA's SF424 Application Guide](#) (pp. 26-27) for guidance around syringe purchases using grant funds: "Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no funds appropriated in this Act shall be used to purchase sterile needles or syringes for the hypodermic injection of any illegal drug: Provided, That such limitation does not apply to the use of funds for elements of a program other than making such purchases if the relevant State or local health department, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, determines that the State or local jurisdiction, as applicable, is experiencing, or is at risk for, a significant increase in hepatitis infections or an HIV outbreak due to injection drug use, and such program is operating in accordance with State and local law."
26. What is the FTE requirement for the Project Director?
 - The RCORP-MAT Expansion NOFO not specify a minimum FTE requirement for project directors and other key program staff. That said, Project Directors cannot bill more than 1.0 FTE across federal grants.
 - Additionally, per the review criteria (pg. 28), applicants will need to demonstrate the extent to which the staffing plan has a direct link to the activities proposed in the work plan; the Project Director has the capacity to serve as the point person on the award, and make staffing, financial, or other adjustments to align project activities with the project outcomes; and the resumes and biographical sketches detail the qualifications and relevant experience for each proposed staff member.
27. Will there be an in-person meeting for grantees to attend? If so, should we include that in our proposed budget?
 - Yes, please include travel expenses for 2 staff members to attend one 2-3 day meeting per year in Rockville, Maryland. These expenses should be reflected in the SF-424 form and the budget narrative. Additional details for the timing of those meetings will be provided by HRSA when they are available.
28. Can RCORP-MAT Expansion funding be used to cover prevention, treatment, and recovery costs for patients who are uninsured/underinsured?
 - Yes. Award recipients who plan to use funds in this manner should ensure that the RCORP-MAT grant serves as a payer of last resort—i.e., all services covered by reimbursement should be billed and every reasonable effort should be made to obtain payment from third-party payers. Only after grant recipients receive a final determination from the insurer regarding lack of full reimbursement can the RCORP-MAT Expansion grant be used to cover the cost of services for underinsured individuals. RCORP-MAT Expansion grant funds can also be used to cover the cost of services for uninsured patients.
 - **RCORP-MAT Expansion funds cannot be used for the following purposes:**
 - To supplant existing funding sources;
 - To pay down bad debt. Bad debt is debt that has been determined to be uncollectable, including losses (whether actual or estimated) arising from uncollectable accounts and other claims. Related collection and legal costs arising

from such debts after they have been determined to be uncollectable are also unallowable.

- To pay the difference between the cost to a provider for performing a service and the provider’s negotiated rate with third-party payers (i.e., anticipated shortfall).
29. What are the guidelines for RCORP-MAT Expansion applicants and consortium members who wish to use RCORP-MAT Expansion funds to subsidize prevention, treatment, and recovery services for the un- or under-insured?
- **For all applicants and consortium members (regardless of charity care or sliding fee policy):**
 - RCORP-MAT Expansion funds can be used to pay the co-insurance, out-of-pocket expenses, and/or co-payment for patients who are unable to pay for prevention, treatment, and recovery services provided by the RCORP-MAT Expansion grant.
 - Applicants must include a line item(s) in the RCORP-MAT Expansion budget under “Other” for subsidized care with a detailed description of how the estimate was derived. For each project year, the justification should include the anticipated number of patients and encounters that would be covered by the grant; the payer mix of the patient population; the type and average cost of services that would be subsidized; and a rationale for why grant funds are needed to subsidize the cost of services.
 - If the funds will be used by consortium members that are subcontractors on the RCORP-MAT Expansion grant to subsidize care, then applicants must include line item(s) under “Contractual” for these costs. The budget narrative must provide a detailed justification for how each consortium member arrived at their estimate based on the above guidance.
 - **For providers that have a charity care policy**—i.e., a policy to provide health care services free of charge (or where only partial payment is expected not to include contractual allowances for otherwise insured patients) to individuals who meet certain financial criteria:
 - You must include the provider’s documented charity care policy as an attachment to the application;
 - RCORP-MAT Expansion funds can only be used as a last resort to cover care for uninsured patients, or underinsured patients eligible for charity care (after the hospital has made every reasonable effort to obtain payment from third-party providers).
 - **For hospitals or non-hospital providers that do not have a charity care or sliding fee policy:**
 - RCORP-MAT Expansion funds can only be used as a last resort to cover care for uninsured patients, or underinsured patients with a documented financial need who cannot pay for services.
 - **For Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs):**
 - FQHCs must adhere to health center requirements around Sliding Fee Discounts.

National Health Service Corps:

30. Does the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) consider telehealth to be patient care?
- Telehealth is considered patient care (when meeting the noted parameters), and is not limited to 8 hours. Patient care requirements for most NHSC clinicians is 32 hours in a 40 hour, full-time schedule. For more information, please reference the [SUD Workforce Loan Repayment](#)

[Program Application and Program Guidance.](#)

- While not required, the NOFO encourages applicants to leverage telehealth and recruitment mechanisms like the National Health Service Corps (see pp. 2 & 8).