

2025 Community Clinic Grant Program

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, UPDATED FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Q1. Can our agency apply for more than one grant or apply under more than one option (mental health, oral health, or clinical services for at-risk youth)?

A1. **UPDATED ANSWER:** An organization can only submit one application and should apply in the category that best fits your project.

Q2. I am starting a for-profit women’s health clinic to provide midwife and primary care services to underserved communities. I will have a sliding fee scale policy. Would I be eligible for the Community Clinic Grant?

A2. No, a for-profit clinic would not be eligible. The authorizing statute, [Minnesota Statute 145.9268](#), lists eligibility criteria as:

- Nonprofit clinics established to provide preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services to low-income or rural population groups.
- A government entity operating a clinic which provides preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services.
- An Indian Health Services unit or Indian tribal government operating a clinic which provides preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services; or,
- A consortium of these entities.

All applicant organizations must also have a policy or procedure to ensure no person will be denied services due to inability to pay (e.g., sliding-fee scale).

Q3. Is our nonprofit organization eligible if we don’t have a “clinic” but we do have a licensed and credentialed mental health provider that provides services to residents?

A3. To be eligible for this grant, an organization must be a government entity, Indian Health Services unit or Indian tribal government, or nonprofit clinic established to provide preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services to low-income or rural population groups. If you are a nonprofit that is operating a clinic providing preventive, medical, dental, or mental health services, you would be eligible. You only need to provide one of these types of services to be eligible.

Q4. We provide mental health services to children (primarily ages 0-8) and their families (including parents/caregivers). Would we be eligible to apply for the mental health option, or do we need to serve all ages?

A4. Yes, your organization is eligible to apply if you provide mental health services. You do not need to serve all ages to be eligible. Programs may serve any age range of patients.

Q5. Can we use grant funds for physical structure renovations and/or new physical structure builds located on facility property or attached to the current facility?

A5. Yes, capital expenditures are allowable costs to create a new or renovate a clinical space.

Q6. Can these funds be used to hire/recruit for mental health staff and/or providers? For example, can the funds be used to pay recruitment fees for the new provider and/or advertise for an open provider position? Can the funds be used to advertise as well as market the newly hired provider through marketing media sources (newspaper, radio, social media, newsletters, mailings, etc.)? Can the funds be used to pay salaries and benefits for a provider?

A6. Yes, all these costs would be allowable expenditures using grant funds.

Q7. The grant description mentions government entities operating clinics. We have a program that is a government-run initiative that provides prenatal support and parenting education, but it does not operate as a clinic itself. Instead, it collaborates with local health providers, such as local clinic. Could you clarify if programs like this, which are government-run but not clinics, are eligible for this grant?

A7. The government entity would not be an eligible entity unless it also operates a clinic, which is required by the authorizing legislation. However, the government entity could encourage their clinical partner who meets the eligibility criteria to apply and write a letter of support for the clinical partner's application. The partner clinic could apply under any of the three categories.

Eligible entities include:

- Nonprofit clinics established to provide preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services to low-income or rural population groups.
- Your An Indian Health Services unit or Indian tribal government operating a clinic which provides preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services; or,
- A consortium of these entities.

All applicant organizations must also have a policy to ensure no person will be denied services due to inability to pay (e.g., sliding-fee scale).

For purposes of the Community Clinic Grant Program, the term clinic means an outpatient or ambulatory setting for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or the maintenance of health. Clinics may be stationary or mobile and must not be solely for the purpose of urgent nor emergent care. Eligible health services include preventative, medical, dental and mental health. Clinics may provide one or more of these services and are not required to provide all.

Q8. Our program focuses on prenatal and early parenting support. Could services aimed at improving maternal and child health be considered for funding, even if they don't directly provide medical care or mental health services? Would this type of preventive service be eligible under the grant's focus on mental health or clinical services?

A8. If your program provides no clinical preventive health services, then the activities would not be eligible grant expenditures.

Q9. Our county contacts with the local hospital and clinic system to provide public health services. We, the hospital and clinic system, are collaborating with a dental company to establish a mobile dental clinic. The hospital and clinic system would be the fiscal agent acting on behalf of the county public health. Does this type of project between 3 entities fit the criteria for the grant? Can we as the hospital and clinic system apply as a "government entity" under this grant?

A9. This project does fit the criteria for the Community Clinic Grant.

If the hospital and clinic system intends to be the fiscal agent, then they should apply as long as they are also a nonprofit clinic and meet other eligibility criteria. You could get letters of support from the county and the dental organization to document the partnership. In this case the hospital and clinic system would apply under the nonprofit clinic category.

If you applied as a government entity, the fiscal agent and applicant would be the county that contracts with the hospital system for public health services. The funds would go to the county who would then contract with the hospital and clinic system to do the work.

Q10. Page 4 of the Community Clinic Grant Program RFP under additional criteria for Option C states "Applicants must serve youth in any age range combination up to age 25." If we are planning to only serve youth ages 11-14 and 14-18, would our program be eligible? Or must programs serve any youth up to age 25?

A10. You may serve youth of any age, in any combination, up to age 25. Your project to serve ages 11-14 and 14-18 would be eligible.

Q11. Our Public Health Clinic provides the following services: CTC exams, health screenings, Led testing, HGB testing, WIC, Breastfeeding support and education, TB testing, pregnancy tests, prenatal support, safe sleep and car seats, and Immunizations. We also host a free monthly dental clinic. Do these services qualify for preventative care? Our clinic is run through the county and funding is from the CHB. Would be qualify?

A11. Yes, these services would be eligible activities with grant funds. The county is eligible to apply as a government entity operating a clinic that provides preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services.

Q12. I would like clarification on whether community schools are eligible to apply, particularly if they are partnering with a School-Based Health Center (SBHC).

Our school collaborates closely with an SBHC to provide preventative, medical, dental, and mental health services to our community. Given the program's eligibility requirements, I want to ensure we align with the criteria before proceeding with any application.

Could you please clarify if community schools, in partnership with SBHCs, can apply directly, or if the SBHC would need to serve as the primary applicant?

A12. Community schools would not be eligible to apply unless they also operate a clinic. The School-Based Health Center, would be eligible to apply as long as they are a nonprofit clinic that provides preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services. The community school could provide a letter of support to demonstrate the partnership.

Q13. Our organization operates as a non-profit clinic for primary care with some specialty services, among other entities, though it's not a dental clinic. Our project will provide dental services through partnerships with other entities. Are we eligible to apply?

A13. Your organization would be eligible to apply as long as you are a nonprofit clinic that provides one of the following services: preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services. Although you do not provide dental services, your project can be a dental project based on your providing the space for the mobile dental clinic and the fact that you are partnering with other organizations who will provide the dental services.

Q14. Are we able to use the funds for contracting staff/help for a provider since the need is so great in our area with lack of Providers. Could we use it on SWAG for promotional purposes during Suicide Awareness Month while promoting a Contracted Staff Provider. Are we able to bring in a Speaker (contracted with our facility) but speak to the public/schools? Can the funds be used for her expenses to get to our area (travel/food/lodging)?

A14. Contracting for staff to provide health services is an allowable expense. Purchasing swag or other incentives to promote Suicide Awareness Month would not be an eligible expense. In order to use grant funds for incentives, you would have to be providing the incentives for participation in a program screening or treatment plan. Funding for a speaker to present to the schools would not be an eligible expense under this grant.

Q15. One page 4 of the RFP, you have language that states "All applicant organizations must have a policy or procedure to ensure no person will be denied services due to inability to pay (e.g., sliding-fee scale)." Our organization does currently have a

sliding fee scale (see attached), but our sliding fee scale doesn't go down to \$0. Our current sliding fee scale also only covers individual therapy with clinical interns—we are unable to offer reduced rates for either group therapy sessions or individual therapy with licensed practitioners.

Would it be permissible for us to use grant funds to revise our sliding fee scale so that we could provide at least some group and therapy services free of charge? But—if we had more demand for free services than we would support with MDH funds, we'd still likely need to deny people services based on their ability to pay. Would this disqualify us?

Regarding budgeting for this grant—you state that personnel costs are allowable. Would we be able to charge a billable rate per hour of services provided? That would better align with how we manage our budget for clinical services.

A15. [Minnesota Statute 145.9268](#), which authorizes the Community Clinic Grant funding, requires that organizations utilize a sliding fee scale or other procedure to determine eligibility for charity care or to ensure that no person will be denied services because of inability to pay. If your sliding fee scale does not allow for services to be provided regardless of ability to pay, you would not be eligible for the grant. Said another way, if anyone is denied services due to inability to pay, the organization would not be eligible for this grant.

With regards to the salary costs, you would be able to charge to the grant the actual cost of the provider's salary. So, if your billable rate per hour is just the provider's salary cost, you can charge that to the grant. If the billable rate includes overhead and other costs in addition to the provider's salary, then you can only bill the grant for the amount of the clinician's salary in the salary line item. You can claim fringe benefits in the fringe line item. Indirect costs would be detailed in the indirect line item.

Q16. Would hosting a lecture series for social workers about pediatric mental health as well as providing education for teachers and school staff on ADHD and how medications work, be considered an eligible expense?

A16. These would not be eligible activities as the intent of the legislation is to provide clinical services or improve capacity to provide services.

Q17. We are a pharmacist-led ambulatory clinic in a pediatric non-profit health system, providing comprehensive medication management with pharmacogenomic testing for pediatric patients to improve medication experiences for mental health. Due to limited insurance coverage of pharmacogenomic testing, we are interested in funding from this grant to help support the cost of pharmacogenomic testing coverage for underserved individuals with Medicaid, other PMAP insurances, or no insurance with low income to expand services to these patients who would not otherwise have access to pharmacogenomic testing and assist their prescribers in personalizing recommendations for medication dose or selection for pediatric patients with mental health medications. Are we eligible to apply?

A17. You are eligible to apply under the nonprofit clinic category as long as you are a nonprofit clinic established to provide preventative, medical, dental, or mental health services to low-income or rural population groups and you have a policy or procedure to ensure no person will be denied services due to inability to pay (e.g., sliding-fee scale). These services would be eligible expenses using grant funds.

Q18. What is the definition of MN health care programs for the application question, “what percentage of patients at your clinic are on Minnesota health care programs?”

A18. Minnesota Health care programs include the following programs: Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare, Minnesota Family Planning Program, Home and Community-Based Waiver Program, and Medicare Savings Programs. More information can be found at:

[Minnesota Health Care Programs overview / Minnesota Department of Human Services.](#)

Q19. Can our county public health organization contract with a vendor to administer vaccines at schools as we do not have capacity internally to administer them?

A19. Yes, it would be allowable to contract with a provider to administer the vaccines in schools.

Q20. Are we required to use the Governing Board Resolution template in the RFP or can we use a format preferred by our board?

A20. Please use the Governing Board Resolution Form as provided in the RFP template.

Q21. Our county Health and Human Services department has a new Therapeutic Service Unit that provides Diagnostic Assessments and CTSS to individuals who are internally referred. Services are provided at the Government Center and in the community. Does this make us eligible to apply?

A21. Yes, if you're a government entity that's running a clinic offering preventative, medical, mental health or dental services, then you would be eligible to apply.

Q22. Is the grant for primary care services only, or could one use funds for school located vaccine clinics?

A22. The grant is community clinics that provide for medical, preventive, dental, or mental health primary care services, which can include school-based vaccine clinics.

Q23. Can a non-profit hospital that is a branch of local government, who is building out mental health services, apply to build out this service line?

A23. Yes, a nonprofit hospital that is a branch of local government would be eligible to apply if they are applying to support a clinic as defined in the RFP.

Q24. Our school-based clinics bill, but we are interested in funding to offset any patient responsibility. Can this grant be used for that (essentially a patient care fund)?

A24. Yes, grant funds may be used in this way.

Q25. Could an eligible service include funding to assist uninsured individuals and underinsured individuals with accessing mental health services?

A25. Yes, this could be an eligible expense.

Q26. Can you clarify if it is only for rural locations?

A26. It is not only for rural locations. The Community Clinic grant supports eligible organizations who either serve low-income populations or serve people living in rural areas.

Q27. Is substance abuse treatment considered a part of mental health treatment?

A27. This depends on the services offered. If the clinic is offering mental health services as part of the substance use disorder treatment then those would be eligible under the grant. Yes, substance abuse treatment is a mental health treatment service that would be eligible for grant fund use.

Q28. Can grant funds be utilized for a restorative circle program between clinic and school? Restorative circle programs address harm and conflicts with a focus on mental health, particularly in relation to the social drivers of health, such as community, economic stability, and social support. These circles provide a space for open dialogue, allowing individuals to express their feelings, understand the impact of actions, and work together to repair relationships. By fostering empathy, accountability, and emotional support, the programs help promote mental well-being, reduce stress, and address the broader social factors that influence health, emphasizing restoration and mutual respect over punishment.

A28. If the clinic offers these as a mental health service then it would be an eligible project.

Q29. We have a signed partnership with a for-profit school offering free mental health and physical well being treatment to the homeless if we can pay for the supplies. We are nonprofit. The treatments are from the Ayurveda institute. Would this type of collaboration be eligible?

A29. If your organization is a nonprofit operating a clinic, you would be eligible to apply. The for-profit school would not be an eligible applicant.

Q30. We were awarded a School-Based Health Center grant from MN Dept of Health in 2024. Can we still apply for this grant? Next question, is this for rural?

A30. Yes, if you meet the other eligibility criteria for this grant, you can apply. Eligible organizations are clinics serving low-income populations anywhere in the state and/or rural populations.

Q31. Is there federal money in this grant? Can this grant be impacted by the federal executive orders?

A31. This is not a federally funded grant.

Q32. We are a chartered school partnering with a school based health clinic. Are we eligible to apply?

A32. If a charter school is a government entity and if you are operating a clinic, you would be eligible to apply. If the clinic you are partnering with to provide school-based health services is a nonprofit organization, government entity, or Tribal government or Indian Health Services unit that operates a clinic, then they could apply and the charter school could provide a letter of support.

Q33. Are you intending to fund projects evenly across the three areas?

A33. Awards will be split among the three categories of mental health, oral health, and clinical services for at-risk youth. Final awards depend on the number of applications received in each area, overall scores, and reviewer recommendations for funding.

Q34. Can you clarify if grant funds can be used for mental health crisis services if a clinic cannot have a primary purpose of urgent or emergency care?

A34. If the clinic provides services in an outpatient or ambulatory setting for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or the maintenance of health and falls under one of the eligible entities listed in the RFP then it would be eligible, even if one of the services provided is mental health crisis services. Clinics that only provide urgent or emergency care are not eligible.

Q35. Can a nonprofit collaborate with a for profit and still be eligible?

A35. Yes, although the for profit organization could not be the applicant.

Q36. Could we apply for a new EHR system that will support all hospital / clinic services lines, but for the purpose of this application, will support a new mental health service line?

A36. Yes, electronic health record systems are eligible expenses under this grant.

Q37. Would adding a mental health professional to another service like targeted case management be an eligible expense?

A37. Yes, adding a mental health professional would be an eligible expense.

Q38. Can a public health agency apply? We provide preventative services such as vaccines, child and teen check ups, hearing and vision screenings, etc. does that meet the criteria for preventative health?

A38. A public health agency can apply if you are a government entity operating a clinic. Vaccines, child and teen check ups, hearing and vision screenings would be eligible preventive services.

Q39. Should Letters of Support only be submitted from program partners/collaborators or do you encourage letters from service recipients, local community organizations, and/or others not directly associated with the program or project?

A39. You may submit whatever letters of support you feel would be beneficial for reviewers to consider.

Q40. Can we apply as a nonprofit vs government agency as we are hospital based and contracted by the county (nonprofit public health)

A40. Either organization can apply if they are a nonprofit clinic or government entity operating a clinic that provides preventive, medical, dental, or mental health services. You could also apply as a consortium but one organization must act as the fiscal host and sign the grant agreement.

Q41. Will MDH allow up to the new 15% federal de minimus rate for indirect (guidance changed in October 2024) or stay at the 10% de minimus?

A41. **UPDATED ANSWER:** The 10% de minimis rate for indirect is what is allowed under Minnesota state policy and procedure for state-funded grant opportunities unless you have a federally negotiated indirect rate.

Q42. Our organization is a nonprofit health system that operates clinics and is contracted by the local county to provide all public health services. Our project is focused on the work we do as the contracted public health agency. When we answer the question, "What percentage of patients at your clinic are on Minnesota

Health Care Programs” and “What percentage of patients at your clinic utilize sliding-fee payment options,” should we answer as the nonprofit health system operating clinics or as local public health?

A42. The applicant organization should answer these questions using their own data. However, in the organization description and/or and target population questions, the applicant can provide information on how their partners would answer this question.

Q43. A motivated mental health group wants to start a peer recovery specialist initiative in our community. They would be one of the first here in the county. They are looking for funding to help with the start-up. If the group is a non-profit organization that provides peer support services to those in need, would they be eligible to apply for the community clinic grant?

A43. To be eligible, an organization needs to be a nonprofit clinic that was established to provide health services to low income or rural population groups; provides medical, preventive, dental, or mental health primary care services.

For purposes of the Community Clinic Grant Program, the term clinic means an outpatient or ambulatory setting for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or the maintenance of health. Clinics may be stationary or mobile and must not be solely for the purpose of urgent or emergent care. Eligible health services include preventative, medical, dental and mental health. Clinics may provide one or more of these services and are not required to provide all.

Q44. We are a nonprofit established to provide supportive housing and therapeutic services to the homeless. We are supported by a school that teaches Ayurveda that will provide free medical and mental health treatments to the homeless if we coordinate intake, consent and transportation as well as cover the cost of medicinal herbs used in the treatment. We do not accept Medicaid payment as it is not applicable to what we do. The school does not accept Medicaid payment as it is not applicable to what they do.

A44. If you are applying under the Mental Health option, you must accept Medicaid patients and bill Medicaid for services provided to those patients. If you do not accept Medicaid patients or do not bill Medicaid for the services, your entity would not be eligible.

Q45. We are in the process of becoming a non-profit, we are still waiting approval from the government. Because we are still being reviewed, is it possible to apply for the grant without the 501c3?

A45. You may apply while waiting for your 501(c)(3) status to be approved, but if you are recommended for an award, you must have your nonprofit status approved before the grant start date of 6/1/25 to be eligible to accept the award.

Q46. In what budget category should we list social media or other advertising costs to let community members know of services?

A46. Please list these types of cost in the “other” budget category.

Q47. If we are contracting with another organization to provide services at our clinic facility, can we still budget indirect for the grant?

A47. Yes, you may include indirect in your budget.

Q48. Our nonprofit’s board has delegated authority to two staff members the ability to apply for grants. May one of these staff people sign the governing board resolution form?

A48. Yes, the individuals with authority to write grants may sign the Governing Board Resolution form. Please note on the form that they have delegated authority to submit applications.

Q49. Regarding the following questions:

Percentage Minnesota Health Care Programs*

What percentage of patients at your clinic are on Minnesota health care programs?

Percentage Sliding-Fee Users*

What percentage of patients at your clinic utilize sliding-fee payment options?

Our organization has multiple programs. Should we use client data in all programs or only outpatient programs? If only outpatient data is required, should we include our outpatient SUD clients?

A49. Please answer these questions for your entire organization, not just the outpatient programs.

Q50. Would dementia services/dementia prevention services and/or cognitive testing be covered under this grant? May we hire an independent contractor licensed mental health therapist to see patient under our Dementia-Informed Counseling program?

A50. Preventive and medical services for dementia would be eligible under this grant. Contracted staff to provide eligible services (preventive, medical, oral health, or mental health services) are eligible expenses.

Q51. Does the \$45,000 budget max include indirect costs or is it just direct costs?

A51. The \$45,000 grant max includes the indirect costs.

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