

Minnesota Innovations in Perinatal Health RFP: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Updated April 1, 2026.

The question-and-answer period opened on March 2 and closed on March 30, 2026. Responses are shared below. Questions have been organized by topic; they are not in order of how they were submitted.

Letter of Intent (LOI)

1. I'm curious - why is a LOI optional? Does not submitting one somehow count against you?

One of the purposes of the LOI is to help MDH get an estimate number of applicants, so the agency can plan the number of reviewers needed. The LOI is optional because MDH wants to reduce the number of forms/submissions that applicants have to fill out. Not submitting a LOI does not count against you.

2. After considering our LOI, do you think it would be wise for our organization to proceed with developing a full application for this grant opportunity?

Yes, please apply if your organization meets the eligibility requirements on pg. 5 of the [Minnesota Innovations in Perinatal Health RFP](#). The purpose of the LOI is to assist MDH in understanding how many organizations are planning to apply to this funding opportunity, but the LOI is not factored into the application outcome.

Applicants

1. If my organization is a nonprofit, but we are partnered with a for profit, would we still be eligible for this funding?

No, while collaboration is welcomed and encouraged, the main applicant must align with the grant eligibility requirements. For profit organizations are not eligible to apply. However, if a nonprofit organization applies for the grant and uses a for profit organization as a sub-contractor, that is allowable. Again, the applicant applying to the RFP needs to follow the eligibility requirements on page 4 of the [Minnesota Innovations in Perinatal Health RFP](#).

2. Are LLCs eligible for the Minnesota Innovations in Perinatal Health grant program?

An LLC would not be eligible to apply as it is a for-profit organization.

3. Is it a requirement for organizations to have a MN state tax identification number?

Yes, applicants must have state or federal recognition as a formal organization or entity, such as a Federal Employer Identification Number or 501c3 status. However, organizations or groups that do not have state or federal recognition may apply with a fiscal agent.

Submission and Grant Timeline (SWIFT Questions)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the timelines for the grant submission?

RFP released: **March 2**

Information session: **March 10**

Technical Assistance session: **March 12**

Letter of Intent (LOI) due: **March 13 by 5 p.m.** (Letter of Intent is optional).

Questions due: **March 30**

Applications due: **April 3 by 5 p.m.**

Estimated grant start date: **June 1**

2. When will applicants be notified of award status?

Estimated late spring 2026.

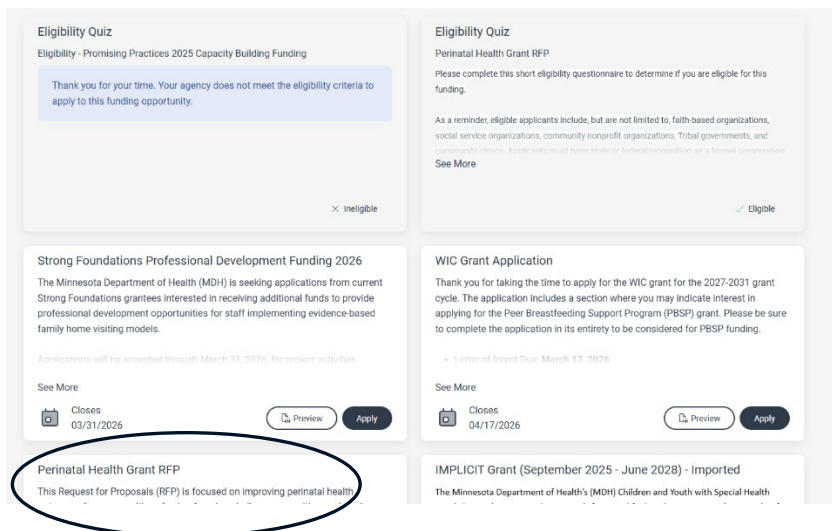
3. When will the grant awards be announced?

Awards will be announced after grant agreements are fully executed.

Foundant

1. I created an account and completed the eligibility quiz, which indicates our agency is eligible to apply for the perinatal health grant. There is no longer a link to complete the application, however. Where do I access this application now?

Once the eligibility quiz is completed, press continue, and you will be taken back to the main screen. If the application is not next to the eligibility quiz, scroll down on your screen until you see Perinatal Health Grant RFP. Click on the apply button. See the image below for reference.



2. Why is Foundant not available through the standard Minnesota Department of Health portal? It looks as if I need a separate credential to use Foundant.

This grant platform is used by the Child and Family Health Division, among other divisions at the Minnesota Department of Health. If you already have a username for Foundant, your organization should use the same credentials.

3. Does the system work with all browsers?

It should. It has been tried on Chrome and Microsoft Edge, and it has worked for both.

4. Can a copy of the application be made at the end of the application?

Yes, essentially. When it is completed, it is saved on your profile. You should be able to see what is completed there. We highly recommend completing answers in a separate document and then copying and pasting them over. That way if there are any technological issues, you will still have a copy of your responses.

5. Can you set up an account/start an application and return to the application if you haven't completed it?

Yes, there is a save application button at the very bottom of the page.

RFP Information and Technical Assistance Sessions

1. Will PowerPoints be made available to attendees?

Yes, MDH will post the PDF’s of the slides on the RFP webpage [Minnesota Innovations in Perinatal Health - MN Dept. of Health](#) under the section on RFP Information and Technical Assistance Sessions.

2. Are the TA sessions recorded?

No, MDH will post PDF’s of the slides from the TA sessions on the RFP webpage [Minnesota Innovations in Perinatal Health - MN Dept. of Health](#) under the section on RFP Information and Technical Assistance Sessions.

3. Will the webinar be posted from the other day?

No, just the PDF slides will be on the RFP webpage [Minnesota Innovations in Perinatal Health - MN Dept. of Health](#) under the section on RFP Information and Technical Assistance Sessions.

Proposal Questions

1. Must a grant amount be divided equally between the "years," or may it be organized as needed?

No, you may organize your budget as needed for your organization. However, each applicant can only be awarded **up to** \$20,000 per year, with \$40,000 total for two years. The estimated grant start date is June 1, 2026. Year 1 is estimated to end on September 29, 2026, and Year 2 is from September 30, 2026 – September 29, 2027. For example, Year 1 request could be \$10,000 and Year 2 request could be \$20,000. However, Year 1 or Year 2 request cannot be more than \$20,000. Total grant award for both years cannot be over \$40,000. The funding for the entire grant program is \$160,000 distributed across awardees.

Funding	Estimate
Estimated Total Amount to Grant	\$160,000 total for two years; \$80,000 per year

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Funding	Estimate
Estimated Number of Awards	4
Estimated Award Maximum	\$40,000 total for two years; \$20,000 per year
Estimated Award Minimum	\$10,000 total for two years, \$5,000 per year

2. If we're planning to apply for the maximum two-year funding of \$40,000, should we split the budget proportionally (28.6% or \$11,428 for year one, and 71.4% or \$28,571 for year two), or should we split it 50/50, allocating \$20,000 to each grant year? Alternatively, we could front load the program, so that half of it is completed by September 29th, 2026 if that would be preferred?

We recommend splitting 50/50 because each applicant can only be awarded **up to** \$20,000 per year, with \$40,000 total for two years. Year 1 or Year 2 request cannot be more than \$20,000.

3. Is free meal delivery and nutrition education services for BIPOC mothers or birthing people during pregnancy an appropriate project for this grant application?

Yes, this is an appropriate project. This RFP will fund innovative activities specific to community engagement and communications focused on improving perinatal health and supporting the implementation of the perinatal health strategic plan. Reference: [Perinatal Health Strategic Plan](#).

Eligible projects may include but are not limited to:

- a. Community Engagement
 - i. Convene community listening sessions to better understand birthing people's experiences.
 - ii. Host a culturally specific peer support group for pregnant and postpartum people.
 - iii. Develop partnerships with organizations working towards perinatal health outcomes.
- b. Communications
 - i. Develop culturally specific communications (media services may include formats like online and social media, radio, television, and print) and translations to inform community on the implementation of the Perinatal Health Strategic Plan.
 - ii. Create a podcast highlighting birthing people's experiences in pregnancy.
 - iii. Implement a social media campaign focused on maternal health lived experiences with near misses and/or maternal death.

4. What are examples of eligible projects?

Refer to page 8 of the 2.2 Eligible Projects in the [Minnesota Innovations in Perinatal Health RFP](#).

5. Does community engagement include peer support activities, as well as a mental health curriculum?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Yes, peer support activities and mental health curriculum could be community engagement activities. Activities and projects should be within the scope of the RFP. This RFP is focused on improving perinatal health outcomes for communities of color, American Indian communities, and rural communities.

This RFP will fund innovative activities in community engagement and communications focused on improving perinatal health and focused on supporting the implementation of the perinatal health strategic plan. Reference: [Perinatal Health Strategic Plan](#).

- 6. My colleagues and I are part of the [40-Day Project](#), an initiative within the UMN Extension Department of Family Health and Wellbeing. We would like to know if we are eligible to apply for the [Minnesota Innovations in Perinatal Health](#) grant as a UMN project. Any insight is appreciated.**

Yes, this proposed activity aligns with the eligibility requirements and example projects.

- 7. I am looking at the RFP for the Innovations in Perinatal Health grant application checklist and I cannot find attachment B: “Grant Applicant Cover Sheet”.**

The grant application cover sheet is on pg. 23-24 of the RFP:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/womenshealth/perihealthrfp.pdf>

On Foundant, the grant application cover/face sheet is the first section that you will be asked to fill out after the eligibility quiz.

- 8. In reviewing the FAQ, a question response indicates that a meal delivery program for postpartum women is an eligible project. However, in the RFP, food is listed as an ineligible expense. Can you clarify whether programs that include meal deliveries to support postpartum health are eligible for this funding opportunity?**

Food is not an allowable expense through this RFP. In terms of the meal delivery program, if funds are used, for example, to setup the program, purchase needed equipment for food storage, reimburse staff for mileage, those would all be allowable expenses. The funds cannot be put towards directly purchasing the food. The meal delivery program does fit the scope of the RFP.

Workplan

Budget

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3650.