

2025 Operational Readiness Awards (ORA)

Frequently Asked Questions

The 2025 [Medical Reserve Corps \(MRC\)](#) ORA aims to build the operational readiness capabilities of MRC units to meet the emergency preparedness and response needs of their local, regional, or statewide stakeholders. The awards are intended to be flexible to meet the needs of all MRC units, support efforts to build MRC capabilities, strengthen stakeholder awareness of MRC capabilities, and identify or sustain integration of the MRC into local, state, and/or regional emergency response plans. This FAQ document is broken into the following four sections: [funding intent and other general questions](#), [budget questions](#), [online application questions](#), and [SAM.gov questions](#).

Application Period: September 30th, 2024, 8:00 AM ET- December 6, 2024, 8:00 PM ET

Application: [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\) - \(secure-platform.com\)](#)

RFA: [2025 Request for Applications](#)

I. Funding Intent & Other General Questions

1. Where can I find the list of application questions?

The list of application questions can be downloaded at [this link](#).

2. What differentiates the two award tiers?

Tier 1 (\$5,000) - Provides funding for units to build capabilities to meet local response needs. This funding may support units that are smaller in size, have a specific/targeted need, a newly formed unit, or a unit that is focused on rebuilding their MRC unit if previously inactive or underutilized.

Tier 2 (\$10,000) - Provides funding for units to strengthen current capabilities for evolving response missions. This funding is intended for units that have an established volunteer management structure, have the capacity to further expand their unit response capabilities, have a demonstrated record of supporting public health emergency responses, or have a record of supporting multiple natural disaster response missions.

3. Are projects evaluated differently for each of the funding tiers?

Yes. Projects will be evaluated differently for each of the funding tiers based on the scope of the project relative to the funding level.

4. Can I submit multiple award applications for one unit?

No. You can only submit **one** award application per MRC unit.

5. How many awards will be issued?

The number of awards issued will be determined based on the number of qualified applications per funding level and the total amount of funding available. NACCHO's goal is to provide as many awards as possible in each of the funding tiers to meet the needs of MRC units.

6. When will I know if I was chosen to receive an award?

Awardees will be notified the week of January 8, 2024.

7. Do I need to update my unit profile on the MRC website prior to applying?

Yes. MRC units must update their unit profiles on the MRC Program Office website (<https://mrc.hhs.gov/login>) prior to applying with an activity that occurred between **September 6 and December 6, 2024**.

8. I received a 2024 MRC ORA and have not completed the third deliverable (the Final Project Evaluation). Am I eligible to apply for and receive a 2025 MRC ORA?

Yes. The Final Project Evaluation for the 2024 MRC ORA will be emailed to unit leaders in January 2025. Please complete the evaluation then to maintain your eligibility for future NACCHO awards.

II. Budget/Use of Funds Questions

9. Can ORA funds be used to purchase refreshments for a recognition reception?

No, they cannot. We recommend approaching a local business about sponsoring the cost of refreshments at events like these. Additionally, ORA funds cannot be used to purchase promotional items, giveaways, gift cards, donations, or entertainment. Allowable items per [2 CFR Part 200, Chapter II, Subpart E Cost Principles](#) include:

- Conferences (200.431)
- Equipment (200.439)
- Materials, Supplies and Computing Devices (200.453)
- Professional Services (200.459)
- Publication & Printing Costs (200.461)
- Training & Education (200.472)
- Travel (200.474)

10. Can ORA funds be used to purchase refreshments for attendees of an in-person training event?

Sometimes. ORA funds can only be used to purchase refreshments and/or food for in-person training events that are 8 hours or longer.

11. Can ORA funds be used to compensate volunteers for their time?

No, they cannot. Please also note that the [Volunteer Protection Act](#) does not apply to *compensated* volunteer acts.

12. Can ORA funds be used to purchase equipment/ deployment supplies?

Usually, but keep in mind that the ORA application should be geared towards building volunteers' capabilities, and not solely focused on the items being purchased.

Per Federal grant regulations, award funds cannot be used on equipment, defined as tangible personal property that has a useful life of more than a year and a purchase price of **\$5,000 or more per unit** (CFR 200.33). Again, please see [2 CFR Part 200, Chapter II, Subpart E Cost Principles](#) for more information on allowable items.

III. Online Application Questions

13. Will I be able to save my application and continue later?

Yes. Your application progress will be saved periodically. To save your progress and return later, simply click “Save” at the bottom of your screen. You can see your in progress (“incomplete”) and completed applications by signing into your [MyNACCHO](#) account and clicking on “My Applications” on the left-hand side of the screen. From there you can view/print applications you have submitted or “Edit” applications you have not submitted yet.

After you have completed all portions of your application, you will be asked to “Save” or “Save and Finalize” your application. After you have reviewed your answers and are ready to submit, you can select “Save and Finalize” to fully submit your application.

14. How can I confirm that my application was submitted?

Following the instructions listed in question 13, you can verify that your application was submitted if you will see the word “Complete” in the status column.

15. Can I edit my application after I’ve clicked “Save and Finalize”?

If you need to make changes to a submitted application before December 6, 2024, 8:00 PM ET, please email mrc@naccho.org.

16. What if I my application responses are longer than the specified word limit?

Please ensure that your application responses stay within the response word limit. NACCHO strongly recommends that you compile your application responses in Microsoft Word first and then copy/paste it into the online application.

17. What if I have more questions?

If you have more questions after reviewing this document, please contact NACCHO’s MRC team at mrc@naccho.org.

IV. SAM.gov Questions

18. I am having administrative issues with my SAM.gov account (log in, permissions, etc.), can NACCHO help?

Unfortunately, we cannot. Please review the [“Help” section on SAM.gov](#) for answers to many common questions or reach out to SAM.gov help agents by signing into your account and selecting “Create an Incident” or “Live Chat.” Please notify NACCHO at mrc@naccho.org if you have reached out to SAM.gov staff for help and your issue is ongoing or may not be resolved by December 09th.

19. What is acceptable proof of active SAM.gov registration?

Two acceptable examples are pictured on the next page, though other formats that feature the same information can also suffice. Please ensure that “Registration Status” is “Active” and the “Unique Entity ID” is clearly visible.

Once you have registered on SAM.gov, it may take a few weeks for the status to change to “Active,” so please refrain from submitting an application until that time. If your sponsoring agency has not yet begun the process of registering on SAM.gov, please do so ASAP to allow enough time for the status to be active by December 09, 2023.



Organizations registering for the first time on SAM.gov may consult [this guide](#) and/or the [SAM.gov help site](#) for assistance setting up a new SAM account. Organizations that have previously set up an account may benefit from reviewing [this FAQ](#) for assistance checking the status of their entity and updating their account. Organizations must update their SAM information at least every 12 months to maintain an active account.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS

DUNS Unique Entity ID 877155762	<i>Registration Status</i> Active	<i>Expiration Date</i> Jan 22, 2022
SAM Unique Entity ID SRH7DCCTU3G7	<i>Purpose of Registration</i> All Awards	
<i>CAGE/NCAGE</i> 34JU2	<i>Mailing Address</i> 1201 Eye ST NW 4TH FL Washington, District Of Columbia 20005-5905, United States	
<i>Physical Address</i> 1201 Eye ST NW 4TH FL Washington, District Of Columbia 20005-5905, United States	<i>Mailing Address</i> 1201 Eye ST NW 4TH FL Washington, District Of Columbia 20005-5905, United States	

*The DUNS number is currently the official Unique Entity ID