

**Building Workforce Capacity of Rural and Frontier Local Health Departments
to Respond to Covid-19
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Updated 11/13/2020**

The following are responses to questions received about the grant opportunity, Building Workforce Capacity of Rural and Frontier Local Health Departments to Respond to Covid-19. This FAQ document will be updated as relevant additional questions are received by NACCHO.

Potential applicants may access a recording of this informational webinar, the RFA, and the application document on the NACCHO website: <https://www.naccho.org/programs/public-health-preparedness>. Additional questions may be sent to preparedness@naccho.org.

Eligibility

- 1. Can other organizations who partner with a local health department apply, or be the lead applicant?**

No. NACCHO recognize that there are many kinds of partnerships and coalitions with a demonstrated history of partnering with local health departments in support of public health workforce issues. However, this opportunity is only eligible for LHDs to apply, and we encourage those cross-sectoral partners to collaborate with their local health department to strengthen their application.

- 2. Can local health departments in neighboring jurisdictions each submit application with activities that involves the other health department?**

No, while NACCHO encourages regional approaches, as indicated on page 1 of the RFA, only one award will be made per site or LHD and that “An LHD may be a part of one submitted application only, whether they are the application lead or a support agency included in the application.”

- 3. Can multiple agencies work cooperatively across multiple applications to leverage economies of scale for technical assistance and training efforts, for example. While the application would be separate, there would be coordination around tools/strategies developed?**

No – see the response to question #2 above.

- 4. We serve as the public health authority in four counties, with physical office locations in three of those counties. Two of our counties (both with local offices) would qualify under the RUCA 4-10 code eligibility requirement. However, our main contract tracing and disease investigation operation is based out of the third office, which is not physically located in a RUCA qualifying area. Are we eligible to apply for this funding opportunity given those nuances?**

If the applicant indicates that their contact address is within a Rural/Frontier RUCA Code (4-10), they are eligible for this opportunity despite having offices and/or operations outside of RUCA qualifying areas.

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5. Can a public health network be considered a local health department in this RFA?

Applicants must be designated local health departments to qualify for this RFA. If the applicant has all of the contractual responsibilities of an LHD, they are operating in its stead and can thus be considered for this RFA. Applicants must apply for this opportunity as the LHD and not as a network/consortium (though they are permitted to work with the consortium in their efforts).

Funding and Budget Requirements

6. What can the funding be used for?

This funding can to support grant activities included on page 3-4 of the RFA. These activities include a post-award TTA assessment, engaging in virtual peer learning sessions and bi-monthly TA sessions, and the development of action and sustainability plans. As stated on page 7 of the RFA, "Allowable Expenses Funds may not be used for equipment purchases. Per HHS requirements, funds awarded under this RFP are prohibited from being used to pay the direct salary of an individual at a rate in excess of the federal Executive Schedule Level II (currently \$197,300)."

7. If our organization is funded by the CDC, is this opportunity appropriate?

CDC grantees (current or past) are not allowed to receive funding for the same activity twice. In order to be eligible, applicants that are CDC grantees (current or past) would need to demonstrate that the scope of the strategy/activity proposed for the project is not currently/was not supported by CDC funds.

Applicants are responsible for reporting if this application will result in programmatic, budgetary, or commitment overlap with another application or award (i.e. grant, cooperative agreement, or contract) submitted to another funding source in the same fiscal year. Programmatic overlap occurs when (1) substantially the same project is proposed in more than one application or is submitted to two or more funding sources for review and funding consideration or (2) a specific objective and the project design for accomplishing the objective are the same or closely related in two or more applications or awards, regardless of the funding source. Budgetary overlap occurs when duplicate or equivalent budgetary items (e.g., equipment, salaries) are requested in an application but already are provided by another source. Commitment overlap occurs when an individual's time commitment exceeds 100 percent, whether or not salary support is requested in the application. Overlap, whether programmatic, budgetary, or commitment of an individual's effort greater than 100 percent, is not permitted.

8. Is there a membership/yearly cost?

No, applicants are not required to be members of NACCHO to be eligible for this opportunity and membership status will not be factored into the scoring of applications. Grant funds cannot be used for NACCHO membership dues.