



8/24/26 RFA

**STATE OF TENNESSEE
HEALTH FACILITIES COMMISSION**

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

FOR

**NURSING HOME CIVIL MONEY PENALTY (CMP) PROGRAM
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

RFA # 31607-27502



REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

STATE OF TENNESSEE

HEALTH FACILITIES COMMISSION

I. INTRODUCTION:

A Civil Money Penalty (CMP) is a monetary penalty the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) may impose against nursing homes that do not meet federal health and safety standards. A portion of CMPs collected from nursing homes are returned to the states in which CMPs are imposed. Through the Nursing Home CMP Program, Tennessee CMP funds are reinvested to support activities that benefit nursing home residents and that protect or improve their quality of care or quality of life.

II. APPLICATIONS:

The purpose for this Request for Applications (RFA) is for Tennessee Nursing Home CMP Program to solicit the submission of CMP proposals from qualified applicants for the use of CMP Funds to benefit individuals residing in nursing facilities in Tennessee. This funding is intended to support initiatives that improve the quality of life and quality of care of residents living in Tennessee nursing homes.

Eligible applicants include but are not limited to licensed and Medicaid-certified nursing facilities, healthcare systems, state agencies, for-profit or non-profit organizations, provider associations, and universities.

For this funding cycle, successful applicants should submit applications related to training to improve quality of care or activities to improve quality of life.

Training to Improve Quality of Care

- Training topics include, but are not limited to:
 - Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia,
 - Wound Care,
 - Patient Safety,
 - Trauma Centered Care,
 - Pain Management,
 - Cultural Sensitivity,
 - Culture Change
 - Person-Centered Care
 - Safe Medication Management
 - Oral Health
 - Non-Pharmaceutical Solutions
 - Falls Education



- **Maximum Project Funding Per Nursing Home Per Year -\$6,000, (max of \$18,000 for a three-year project).**

Activities to Improve Quality of Life

- CMP funds can be used for projects to foster social interaction, movement, and minimize loneliness. Projects include, but are not limited to:
 - Horticulture/Gardening
 - Music Therapy
 - Animal Therapy Including Robotic Pets
 - Activities and games fostering movement and function- This may include activities (e.g., Tai Chi), group games (e.g., bingo with movement components), or technology-assisted games (e.g., Nintendo Wii movement games).
 - Reading and Memory Interventions
 - Crafting
- **Maximum Project Funding Per Nursing Home Per Year for each topic -\$6,000, (max of \$18,000 for a three-year project)**

Resident or Family Councils

- CMP funds may be used for projects by not-for-profit resident advocacy organizations that: Assist in the development of new independent family councils;
- Assist resident and family councils in effective advocacy on their family member's behalf;
- Develop materials and training sessions for resident and family councils on state implementation of new federal or state legislation.
- **Maximum project funding per nursing home-\$6,000 (one-time funding)**

Consumer Information

- CMP funds may be used to develop and disseminate information that is directly useful to nursing home residents and their families in becoming knowledgeable about their rights, nursing home care processes, and other information useful to a resident.
 - For example, developing educational materials (e.g., flyers, brochures, booklets, web-based materials, etc.) to promote awareness of the unnecessary use of psychotropic medications, facility requirements or residents' rights related to discharge, advance care planning, etc.
- **Maximum project funding per nursing home-\$6,000 (one-time funding)**

CMS-approved Budget Spreadsheet. Applicants can refer to the Budget Spreadsheet (Excel) instructions on sheet 1 (tab). This budget spreadsheet will reflect a comprehensive, detailed line-item budget outlining specific cost requirements with justification within each of the budget categories. This section shall contain all information relating to cost, based on a line-item budget.

Note: If an applicant requests funding that exceeds the maximum category funding amount (i.e. budget cap), please include justification in the budget spreadsheet for consideration. Justifications may include, but not limited to, geographic location.



An applicant can submit only one proposal per Request For Application (RFA) opportunity. The project period for each grant may not extend beyond 36 months. Health Facilities Commission (HFC) reserves the right to issue subsequent requests for applications for CMP funds at any time during or after this application process. Applicants must demonstrate evidence of financial stability, utilize evidence-based practices, and show measurable results in their project.

Required Letter of Support. If the organization applying for a CMP project is not a nursing home, letters of support are required from all participating nursing homes. Each letter of support must include the following items:

Required Element	Description
Letterhead	Name of Facility, address, title phone number and email
CMS Certification Number (CCN)	The nursing home's official CMS Certification number
Project Title	The exact title of the proposed project
Time Frame	Complete duration/timeline of the proposed project
Budget Cap Acknowledgement	Statement acknowledging that funding counts against the nursing home's maximum cap/per category
Project Commitment	Statement acknowledging participation of the entire duration, understanding the review process
Authorized Signature	Must be signed by an individual authorized to commit the nursing home

CMS will accept a letter of support from a nursing home corporation or chain, provided that each participating nursing home facility acknowledges receipt through its Nursing Home Administrator. This includes the administrator's signature and complete contact information. The documentation ensures that each nursing home within the chain or corporation has agreed to participate and has provided direct point of contact. Applications will not be approved if the applicant indicates plans to approach or recruit nursing homes after funding has been granted. Nursing homes cannot indicate specific years they would like to participate in the project; the applicant must ensure that they are committed to the entire duration of the project.

Project approval will be based on available funding. All awarded CMP funds must be spent in furtherance of the proposed program and may not be utilized for activities not approved by the State and CMS.

Funds issued through the CMP Program may not be utilized for the following uses:

- For non-nursing home residents;
- For capital improvements to a nursing home, or to build or redesign a nursing home;
- For nursing home services or supplies that are already the responsibility of the nursing home (e.g. linen, food, staffing costs, medical equipment, resident transportation, resident beds, or telemedicine services);
- For refreshments;
- For incentives (e.g., for attending training or completing a survey—this includes items such as payments or gift cards);



- For Palliative Care Services;
- For complex technology; and
- For research projects.

For more information on allowable and prohibited uses of CMP Funds, please review the CMS Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment Program Application Handbook.

To respond to this Request for Application, please complete the CMS Civil Monetary Penalty Grant Application, RFA competitive requirements, and grant budget. Only CMS-approved application forms will be accepted.

III. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

The following is the anticipated schedule for awarding grants for the Nursing Home CMP Program Funding Opportunity. The State reserves the right to adjust the schedule as it deems necessary.

EVENT	Time (Central Time)	Date (All dates are state business days)
1. RFA Issued		August 24, 2026
2. Pre-response webinar	1:00 p.m.	August 31, 2026
3. Written “Questions & Comments” Deadline	1:00 p.m.	September 2, 2026
4. State Response to Written “Questions & Comments”		September 8, 2026
5. Deadline for Applications	2:00 p.m.	September 25, 2026
7. Evaluation Notice Released		October 23, 2026
8. Estimated effective Start Date of Contract		March 1, 2027

IV. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

Pre-response Teleconference:

A Pre-response teleconferencing will be held at the time and date detailed in the Schedule of Events to answer questions concerning the funding opportunity. The information for the Pre-Proposal Teleconference is below. Any applicant desiring to submit an application in response to



this RFA is encouraged to have at least one (1) representative on the teleconference; however, attendance is not mandatory.

Meeting Name: Tennessee Nursing Home CMP RFA Overview

Meeting passcode: kpMfMVat523

Meeting Link: <https://tn.webex.com/tn/j.php?MTID=ma9aee2e9ad46acfef6b2e2e3ec8c3700>

Questions and Answers:

All questions concerning this RFA must be submitted to https://stateoftennessee-cvlyz.formstack.com/forms/cmp_teleconference_questions in writing, on or before the deadline for Written Questions and Comments as detailed above in the Schedule of Events.

Deadlines stated above are critical. If documents are submitted late, they will be deemed to be late and cannot be accepted. The clock-in time will be determined by the time of the online submission. No other clock or watch will have any bearing on the time of application receipt.

Each applicant shall assume the risk of the method of dispatching any communication or application to the State. The State assumes no responsibility for delays or delivery failures resulting from the method of dispatch.

V. Submission of Applications:

Please submit the completed application with all attachments by online submission via the CMP Proposal Submission link no later than the deadline specified in Section III, Schedule of Events in the form and detail specified in this RFA.

CMP Proposal Submission Link:

https://stateoftennessee-cvlyz.formstack.com/forms/cmp_application_submission

Any application that is incomplete or contains significant inconsistencies or inaccuracies shall be rejected. Both the State and CMS reserve the right to waive minor variances or reject any or all applications. The State and CMS reserve the right to request clarifications from all applicants.

VI. Application Evaluation:

Successful applications will be subject to a four-tiered application evaluation process.

Tier One (1): (Pass/Fail) Applications submitted no later than the deadline specified in Section III, Schedule of Events in the form and detail specified in this RFA will move forward to evaluation (tier 2). If an application is submitted after the deadline, the application will fail and not move forward for evaluation.

Tier Two (2): Application Scoring Application scoring will be completed by the evaluation committee for review. The scoring rubric used to assess the applications is based on the following criteria:



- **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES (10 Points):**
 - Provide a summary of the organization's experience, expertise, and quality improvement work that demonstrates the organization's capacity to execute the proposed project.
- **EXPECTED OUTCOMES (40 Points):**
 - **Statement of Need (15 points):** Describe the problem, gap, or the nursing home need that the project is aiming to address.
 - **Project Goals (10 points):** Describe clear, realistic project goals that align with the overall purpose of the initiative. A goal represents a broad, long-term outcome the project aims to achieve.
 - **Project objectives (10 points):** Describe specific, measurable objectives that outline the actions the applicant will take to achieve the stated goal. Each objective should, minimally include the target, method, and metric used to measure success, and demonstrate a direct impact on resident care or quality of life. Objectives must be achievable within the project timeline and aligned with the intended outcomes.
 - **Implementation timeline (5 points):** Describe the plan to implement the project, including implementation timeline.
- **RESULTS MEASUREMENT (20 Points):**
 - **Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Sustainability:** Describe how the project's performance will be monitored and evaluated throughout its duration (including specific outcome metrics that will be used to assess the progress towards the goals). This section should describe the organization's plan for sustaining the project or its outcomes beyond the conclusion of the project.
- **BENEFITS TO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS (20 Points):**
 - **Improving Quality of Life and Care:** Project describes the manner in which it will directly benefit and enhance the well-being of nursing home residents.
- **FUNDING (10 Points):**
 - **Budget:** The CMS approved budget spreadsheet should reflect a comprehensive, detailed line-item budget outlining specific cost requirements (with justification) within each of the following budget categories (not inclusive): Personnel, Travel, Equipment purchases and rentals, Contractual, Other direct costs, Total indirect costs, and cost-sharing.

Tier Three (3): State Survey Agency (SSA) Determination: Proposals meeting the minimum threshold in tier-2 will be reviewed by Health Facilities Commission Nursing Home CMP Program. Applicants will receive a notification detailing which organizations will have their proposal submitted to CMS for final approval.



Tier Four (4): CMS Decision: CMS will review proposals and determine final approval or denial. The Nursing Home CMP Program will notify applicants of CMS's final decision. If CMS denies an application, there is no appeal process.

VII. SAMPLE TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Following the State's evaluation, grant contracts will be prepared as shown in the Sample Grant Contract.

It is imperative that each applicant review the entire Sample Contract with their legal counsel prior to submitting an application for a HFC Nursing Home CMP Program grant award and notify the State in advance if it cannot accept any terms or conditions. The HFC Nursing Home CMP Reinvestment Program grant award asks you to list any terms or conditions that your organization cannot accept. Taking any exceptions to State contract language may result in the application being deemed non-responsive and rejected. The grant contract is also subject to approval by the State Central Procurement Office; to the extent that a modification is required due to state policy, prospective grantees will be notified. Any later requests for contract changes will not be considered.