



Rural Healthcare Initiatives Q&A Session for Potential Applicants

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November 1, 2024

Purpose

This initiative aims to leverage existing healthcare training structures and expand apprenticeship and Workforce Development Initiatives (WDI) to strengthen the pipeline of healthcare professionals in rural communities.

Applicants are encouraged to build upon existing talent pipelines to healthcare occupations by connecting talent to opportunity and focusing on the following:

- state and local partner engagement
- retaining talent
- recruiting new talent
- growing existing talent
- supporting career changers
- removing barriers and allowing flexibility

Funding Information

Seed Funding Period: February 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

This period will provide initial funds to support program planning and early implementation, including infrastructure development, program marketing, and community outreach.

Contract Performance Period: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Funds will support the full-scale implementation of the program. Annual evaluation metrics will track the success of apprenticeships, retention, recruitment, and talent development.

Funding Categories

Category A: Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Expansion of State Approved Apprenticeship and/or State Certified Pre-Apprenticeship (see ApprenticeshipTN for more information) For information contact: Shalondria.Shaw@tn.gov	\$2,746,270.00
Category B: Workforce Development Initiatives Adult Education Workforce Development Initiatives (WDI), Work-Based Learning (WBL), and Work Experience (WEX), Integrated Education & Training, Workplace Specific, Adult Education Post-Secondary Pathways and Post-Secondary Dual Enrollment opportunities For information contact: Zack.Dime@tn.gov (adult) and Matthew.Spinella@tn.gov (k-12)	\$2,674,730.00
Category C: Supportive Services Support apprentices by covering ancillary costs like transportation, childcare, supplies, scrubs, certification fees, examination fees, initial background checks and drug screens.	\$184,000.00

The following FOA Documents are available on the website:



[Rural Workforce Initiatives Website](#)



Rural Healthcare FOA Frequently Asked Questions



Rural Healthcare FOA Excel Budget Pages



Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Grant Application Guide



A question-and-answer form for prospective applicants can be found on the TDLWD website ([click here for link](#)) or use the QR code to submit questions. This link is live October 28 to November 8, 2024

Applications Due: December 2, 2024

Submit application via email to the following:

Attention: Rural Workforce Initiatives Rural.Workforce@tn.gov

CC: Teresa Smith TL.Smith@tn.gov

Subject: Rural Healthcare Funding Opportunity Number: FOA-TN-RHCI-25-01

Question-and-Answer Form

A question-and-answer form for prospective applicants can be found on the TDLWD website ([click here for link](#)).

Form will be live and able to receive questions
October 28 - November 8, 2024.

TDLWD will post answers at minimum once per week during the Q&A period.



Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:



Alignment with identified healthcare workforce needs



Projected impact on rural healthcare



Feasibility and scalability of the proposed program



Demonstrated capacity to deliver effective apprenticeship and training programs.



Strength of partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and educational institutions



Clear metrics for monitoring success and impact



Is there a match requirement?



No. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development does not require matching funds for this grant.

Rural Healthcare Budget

Contract Period: July1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

			Funding Request
Category A: Apprenticeship and Pre Apprenticeship			\$ -
Category B: Workforce Development Initiatives			\$ -
Category C: Supportative Services			\$ -
	Total Funding	\$	-

Total Grant Funding			
Category A	\$ 250,000.00	100%	% Total Contract

Admin (Max 10%)		% of Budget	Budget Amount
Total Admin	\$ 25,000.00	10%	
	Salaries		\$ -
	Benefits		\$ -
	Travel		\$ -
	Supplies		\$ -
			\$ -
Budget Check	\$ -	Sub Total	

Instructional		% of Budget	Budget Amount
Total Instructional	\$ 125,000.00	50%	
	FT Salaries & Benefits		\$ -
	FT Salaries		\$ -
	FT Benefits		\$ -
	PT Salaries & Benefits		\$ -
	PT Salaries		\$ -
	PT Benefits		\$ -

Budget Notes

The budget narrative must align with the parameters and guidelines provided in the proposed program design and targeted rural areas.

A maximum of 10% of the total budget may be used for administrative costs.

Attach the Excel budget pages (download official budget pages from website)

The amounts in green are examples and not a required amount.

Please adjust these numbers to reflect the amount you are requesting.

Amount should not exceed \$250,000 over the three categories.

Formulas are built into the sheet.

Additional Fiscal Requirements

(if awarded)

- 1) Must be current vendor with the State of Tennessee, please visit the Edison Supplier Portal Page and complete the process.
- 2) Completion of the following documents:
 - a) [Supplier Direct Deposit Authorization Form](#)
 - b) [W-9](#)
 - c) Budget Template
- 3) Refer to the [Edison Supplier Portal Registration Manual](#) for additional guidance.
- 4) SmartSimple
 - a) If you are currently a vendor with the State of Tennessee and have a SmartSimple account, please submit the required documents in your SmartSimple account.
 - b) If you do not have a SmartSimple account, you will need to submit an email request to grants.budgets@tn.gov and a SmartSimple link will be sent to you to register as a **new organization**
 - c) Submit approved application into SmartSimple

Example Layout

Part 1 - Cover Page

Part 2 - Grant Proposal Narrative and Expected Outcomes

- Organization Background
- Program Design
- Partnerships
- Sustainability Plan
- Budget Narrative & Budget Worksheets

Part 3 - Letters of Support

Q&A



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