



### **COVID-19 Mississippi Local Provider Innovation Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is the COVID-19 Mississippi Local Provider Innovation Grant Program?**

Senate Bill 2820, adopted by the Mississippi State Legislature in its regular 2022 session, authorized the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) to establish the COVID-19 Mississippi Local Provider Innovation Grant Program. The program is intended to grant funding to local health care providers to strengthen and improve the health care system and to increase access to health care services to help communities achieve and maintain optimal health by providing transitional assistance to providers. The program is administered by the Mississippi Office of Rural Health and Primary Care (MORHPC).

#### **APPLICATION PROCESS & ELIGIBILITY**

##### **Who is eligible for program participation?**

A local health care provider is a facility licensed, certified, and operating in Mississippi. Skilled nursing facilities, direct primary care clinics, provider owned clinics, rural health clinics, academic medical centers, community health centers, and/or independent physician practices are all eligible for program participation.

##### **Where should I submit the application?**

Applications must be submitted electronically and will be accepted and processed through MSDH's electronic application site.

##### **When are the application submission deadlines?**

The application submission deadline for Round One of the grant funding is August 31, 2022, on or before 5:00 pm. A subsequent round will be announced once fund availability is assessed.

##### **How much is the application fee?**

An application fee is not required for this funding.

## **FAQs**

### **What is the application evaluation criteria?**

Each applicant's application packet will be evaluated using MORHPC's rating system. This rating system will help determine how much funding each applicant will receive.

### **What is the maximum award amount?**

Depending on fund availability, each applicant may be awarded up to \$250,000.

### **How will the Department determine exactly which businesses are subsidiaries or affiliated versus separate entities? For example, if a provider owns a majority share in one facility and minority shares in multiple other facilities, how exactly will this affect each of these facilities' application?**

Only one award can be distributed per provider. However, funding may be used across a provider's multiple facilities. Applicants should follow the standard IRS determination process to complete their attestation.

### **How many applications can my hospital/hospital system submit?**

Grant applicants are limited to one (1) application per business entity as determined by the applicant's attestation and their business filing status with the Secretary of State. Subsidiaries of the entity are not eligible to submit separate applications. Health systems that affiliate, own or control multiple clinics are only eligible to submit one (1) application under the parent entity.

### **What should I do after my application is submitted?**

Upon receipt of an application, a review will be completed by program staff. Additional information, if needed, will be obtained via email or telephone. If the application is approved, a sub-grant agreement will be executed between MSDH and the applicant. Applicants will be notified in writing of all decisions.

### **What information is required for the subgrant agreements?**

The components of a cost-reimbursement sub-grant agreement include, but are not limited to, a unique entity identification (UEI) number, a detailed scope of work, a detailed budget justification, and a conflict of interest form.

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Any entity receiving funding from the Mississippi State Department of Health must be registered in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). The Unique Entity ID is the 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by SAM.gov after the registration process is complete.

### **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

#### **When is a site visit deemed necessary?**

Site visits will be conducted as needed to monitor compliance with program requirements. Failure to submit the six-month progress report constitutes a monitoring finding and may result in a site visit. During the site visit, implementation of the proposed projects will be verified, progress will be assessed, and technical assistance will be provided.

#### **What type of technical assistance will be provided?**

Technical assistance in the form of resources, guidance, and training will be available if any corrective action is found during program monitoring.

#### **What are examples of “new technological tools and infrastructure”?**

Telemedicine delivery methods, development of health information exchange platforms to electronically share medical records, electronic health record optimization, purchasing connected devices, upgrading digital devices, improving broadband connectivity, public health reporting, and implementing online or mobile patient appointment management applications.

#### **What is the closeout report?**

The closeout report is required by MORHPC for program monitoring. The report details how funding was used, financial expenditures made, and any other information deemed necessary by MORHPC and MSDH.

### **PAYMENTS**

#### **Who to contact for vendor registration?**

All entities receiving payments from State government agencies, unless specifically exempted, must be registered in Mississippi's Accountability System for Government Information and Collaboration (MAGIC) system. The system is designed to streamline

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payment interactions between vendors and State government agencies and provide an online portal for registration.

For vendor registration and payment account updates, please contact the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration via [mash@dfa.ms.gov](mailto:mash@dfa.ms.gov). You may find additional information for suppliers and vendors using the following link: [DFA :: Mississippi Suppliers \(Vendors\) \(ms.gov\)](#)

### **When is my reimbursement requests due?**

Reimbursement requests must be submitted to MORHPC by the 15th of each month. Payment requests may be submitted to [MSLPI.Grant@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:MSLPI.Grant@msdh.ms.gov).

### **What documentation is required for payment?**

Requests for reimbursement must include an invoice cover letter signed by the provider and on the provider's letterhead and any supportive documentation associated with the reimbursement. Supportive documentation may include paystubs, invoices and billing statements from services rendered by third parties, and receipts of any equipment or supplies purchased.

Payment delays may result if submissions for reimbursement requests are inaccurate, supporting documentation is missing, the provider has a missing or incomplete vendor registration, and/or the provider's payment address is inaccurate. Please note that the address listed on file with the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) must be the address listed on the reimbursement request cover letter.

### **What activities are considered eligible expenses?**

Eligible participants may use the funds for "transitional assistance". Transitional assistance is defined as any assistance related to changing a provider's current health care delivery model to a model more appropriate for the community the provider serves.

Eligible activities include conducting a market study of health care services needed and provided in the community, acquiring and implementing new technological tools and infrastructure, and supporting the implementation of health management.

### **Who should I contact for more information?**

Any questions regarding program eligibility or application requirements should be directed to the Mississippi Office of Rural Health and Primary Care.

Phone: (601) 576-7216

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Email: [MSLPI.Grant@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:MSLPI.Grant@msdh.ms.gov)