

Rapid Response Stabilization: RHTP Payments

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 4/29/2026

1. What entities are eligible for program payments?

To be eligible for a program payment, an entity must be a hospital, health care provider (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1397ee(h)(9)), or rural health facility (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1397ee(h)(3)(D)) and meet the definition of “qualified entity” under Section 201-H of the Fiscal Code (72 P.S. § 201-H).

The entity also must:

- Currently operate in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Current operation means that the entity already provides health care services in Pennsylvania and has been in operation since at least December 29, 2025.
- Be in full operation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the date funding is received.
- If required by Pennsylvania law, the entity is licensed or approved by the appropriate Commonwealth of Pennsylvania licensing or regulating authority.
- Be located in Pennsylvania in one of the RHTP-eligible rural counties class 4-8 or located in a Health Resources and Services Administration (“HRSA”)-defined rural census tract of a county of the second class A or third class.

2. Are entities located in a county class 2a or 3 that are not located in a Health Resources and Services Administration (“HRSA”) rural census tract eligible for program payments?

No. Entities must be located in Pennsylvania in one of the RHTP-eligible rural counties class 4-8 or located in a HRSA-defined rural census tract of a county of the second class A or third class to be eligible for a program payment.

3. How do I know if an entity is located in an HRSA rural census tract?

To find whether an entity is located in an HRSA rural census tract: [Quick Maps - Rural Health Areas](#)

4. Is an entity an individual hospital or health care provider, or an entire health system?

To be eligible for a program payment, an entity must be a hospital, health care provider (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1397ee(h)(9)), or rural health facility (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1397ee(h)(3)(D)) and meet the definition of “qualified entity” under Section 201-H of the Fiscal Code (72 P.S. § 201-H).

Each location must complete the eligibility certification. This program payment is limited to one payment per entity.

5. Is the eligibility certification for organizations or clinical level sites?

The eligibility certification must be completed for each location.

6. Where is the eligibility certification available?

The eligibility certification is available online: [rapid-response-stabilization-program-payment-certification.pdf](#)

The eligibility certification along with all required documents must be submitted via email to RA-HHRLHLTHTRNSPLAN@pa.gov.

7. What attachments are required for submission in addition to the eligibility certification?

Required attachments are listed in the eligibility certification. In addition to a complete eligibility certification, the following attachments are required:

- Documentation demonstrating entity status.
- Proof of Pennsylvania registration or incorporation.
- If applicable, proof of licensure or approval.
- Documentation identifying the rural county(ies) served.
- Description of the areas where the entity provides services.
- Description of the program payment’s use not exceeding 2000 words,
- Budget narrative not exceeding 2000 words (template provided).
- Quote or estimate.
- Completed budget worksheet (template provided).
- Anticipated number of people served.
- Funding Disclosure Table listing all related public funding received or pending within the past 24 months.

The template for the budget narrative is available here:

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/rural-health/rhttp-funding/rhttp-payment-budget-narrative-template.docx>

The template for the budget worksheet is available here:

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/rural-health/rhttp-funding/rhttp-payment-budget-worksheet.xlsx>

8. How do the description of the program payment's use not exceeding 2000 words and the budget narrative differ?

The description of the program payment's use provides the opportunity for the entity to describe the project in more detail than the budget narrative, however, the entity can identify the program summary portion of the narrative template as the description of the program payment's use.

9. What documentation verifies the entity's status?

Documentation demonstrating an entity's status includes any documentation that shows an entity is a qualified entity for the purposes of the eligibility certification.

10. What documentation verifies the entity's service area?

An entity can self-attest to verify service area or provide deidentified data of the place of residence of patients.

11. What documentation shows proof of the entity's Pennsylvania registration or incorporation?

A copy of the articles of incorporation or other official documents can demonstrate proof of an entity's Pennsylvania registration or incorporation.

12. What information is required for the funding disclosure table?

The funding disclosure table must list all related public funding received or pending within the past 24 months. This refers only to federal, state, or local funding related to a specific site.

13. Can the entity provide an internal estimate or quote?

Yes. Note that the entity shall submit documentation supporting use of the full amount of the program payment to the Department within 30 days after incurring a cost attributed to this funding. Acceptable documentation includes an itemized receipt or invoice.

The entity shall return any unused funds to the Department if the funding is unspent on June 30, 2027 and return funding by July 31, 2031.

14. How recent does a quote or estimate need to be?

A quote or estimate should be reasonably recent. Entities do not need to submit a more recent quote or estimate if there is already a quote or estimate available for the same project and the entity would not expect a significant change in cost.

15. Can multiple entities submit one joint eligibility certification?

No. Each entity must complete its own eligibility certification to ensure that only eligible entities receive payment.

16. If a headquarters is not in an eligible county or rural census tract, does that preclude the rural service locations from receiving a program payment?

In this case, the entity applying for the program payment should be the rural service location.

17. Can a payment be used for more than one initiative?

No. Although a payment may apply to multiple initiatives, an entity shall use the funding primarily for one of the six initiatives. Please select the initiative that best aligns with the purpose of the program payment.

18. How does an entity submit an eligibility certification?

Entities shall submit the completed program request and eligibility certification, along with all required documents via email to RA-HHRRLHLTHTRNSPLAN@pa.gov. Email attachments are limited to 10 MB, cumulatively, per email, and files may not be sent in any compressed format. Any part of the form or its attachments over that limit must be sent via separate emails, with each labeled “[Name of Entity] Program Request Part X of Y” (total number of emails). The Department will not accept encrypted email for the program request and eligibility certification submission. The program request and eligibility certification will be deemed received as of the date and time of the final email, unless the document is incomplete.

Entities can complete the fields directly in the eligibility certification.

19. Who is allowed to submit an eligibility certification?

Only the entity is permitted to submit an eligibility certification.

20. How many submissions are permitted per entity?

This program payment is limited to one payment per qualified entity.

21. Can an entity include multiple funding needs in the eligibility certification?

Yes, a program payment can be used to address multiple funding needs. For example, a hospital may submit one eligibility certification related to a renovation and also include equipment costs.

22. When will eligibility certifications begin to be accepted?

The Department will begin accepting eligibility certifications at midnight on May 1, 2026. Eligibility certifications received before May 1, 2026 at midnight will not be reviewed.

23. What is a program payment?

Under Section 203-H of the Fiscal Code (72 P.S. § 203-H), the Department of Human Services (“Department”) is authorized to issue program payments to qualified entities under the Rural Health Transformation Program (“RHTP”). This program payment is limited to one payment per qualified entity that is at least \$10,000 and does not exceed \$1,000,000.

A program payment may not be used for costs that have already been incurred or to supplant any other RHTP allocation, stabilization award, federal or state funding, or insurance reimbursement. A program payment may be used to provide supplies, equipment, renovations, or structural improvements.

24. Will the program payment require ongoing monitoring and documentation?

Payments shall not be used for ongoing projects that require monitoring by the Department following incursion of the costs. Additional information on monitoring, audit, and recovery is included in Section IX of the eligibility certification.

25. What can this payment be used for?

The program payment can only be used for the purchase of supplies, equipment, renovations, or structural improvements that stabilize or enhance rural health care access, promote rural well-being, and fall under at least one of the six initiatives outlined in the Department’s federally approved RHTP application.

26. Can a payment support more than one region?

Yes. If an entity has a service area that serves more than one region, the payment will support more than one region. Program payments can only be used for the purchase of supplies, equipment, renovations, or structural improvements.

27. What are examples of an allowable cost?

Definitions and examples of allowable costs are available in the budget narrative template:

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/rural-health/rhftp-funding/rhftp-payment-budget-narrative-template.docx>

The budget narrative template also includes a definition of supplies and equipment.

28. Can a program payment be used to support an existing project?

Yes, a payment can be used to support an existing project as long as the project meets the requirements of the eligibility certification. A program payment cannot not supplant any other RHTP allocation, stabilization award, federal or state funding, or insurance reimbursement.

29. Can a payment be used to purchase software?

Yes. One-time purchase of commercial software is an acceptable use of a program payment.

Definitions and examples of allowable costs are available in the budget narrative template:

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/rural-health/rhftp-funding/rhftp-payment-budget-narrative-template.docx>

30. Can a payment be used for personnel costs?

No. The program payment must be for supplies, equipment, renovations, or structural improvements.

31. What is considered a mobile health unit?

Funding for mobile health units is not an allowable cost of this program payment. Mobile units are outfitted with telehealth equipment (with broadband connectivity) that links to specialty centers, portable diagnostic equipment, and nurses or other appropriate health professionals and focuses on prioritized regional needs (e.g., maternal health, dental care, chronic care management, etc.).

32. What is considered an ambulance enhancement?

Ambulance enhancements include purchasing new equipment for ambulances such as equipping ambulances with 12-lead electrocardiogram machines or providing lift and moving support. Ambulance enhancements do not include the purchase of a new ambulance.

33. Can a payment exceed \$1,000,000?

No. If the funding required for a project will exceed \$1,000,000, entities can request up to \$1,000,000.

34. What is the maximum funding allowable per payment?

This program payment is limited to one payment per qualified entity that is at least \$10,000 and does not exceed \$1,000,000.

35. How will program payments be authorized?

The Department will authorize program payments in the order eligibility certifications are received by the Department, as evidenced by the date and time the email containing the full eligibility certification and receipt of all required documents.

36. When must the entity expend the program payment?

The program payment must be expended before July 31, 2027.

37. How do entities submit the eligibility certification and attachments?

Entities shall submit the completed program request and eligibility certification, along with all required documents via email to RA-HHRRLHLTHTRNSPLAN@pa.gov. Email attachments are limited to 10 MB, cumulatively, per email, and files may not be sent in any compressed format.

Emails should have the subject: “[Name of Entity] Program Request Part X of Y” (total number of emails, if more than 1).

38. Will entities receive confirmation that the submission has been received?

No. Entities will receive authorization for payment or a rejection.

39. Will there be future funding opportunities after the \$25 million is authorized?

Yes. Any future funding opportunities will be listed on the funding opportunities page.

[Pennsylvania Rural Health Transformation Plan \(RHTP\) Funding Opportunities | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

40. Will future funding opportunities have the same eligibility limitations?

Future funding opportunities may have different eligibility criteria and submission requirements.

Funding opportunities will be listed here: [Pennsylvania Rural Health Transformation Plan \(RHTP\) Funding Opportunities | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)