

Rapid Response Stabilization Program – Round 2
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated: August 11, 2026

Entity Eligibility

1. What are the differences between the first round of the Rapid Response Stabilization Program Payments and this round of Rapid Response Stabilization Program Payments?

Please read all instructions in full and review all templates before submitting for this round of Rapid Response Stabilization Program Payments.

Instructions are available here: <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/rural-health/rhttp-funding/rapid-response-stabilization-round-2/2026-07-29-rapid-response-stabilization-program-payment-certification-round-2.pdf>

Templates are available here: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/programs-services/healthcare/rural-health/rhttp-funding-opportunities>

Although the first round of Rapid Response Stabilization Program Payments and this round of Rapid Response Stabilization Program Payments are very similar, there are some differences.

For example, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (“CMS”) imposes a twenty percent annual cap on funding for capital expenditures and infrastructure. Due to this cap, no funding for renovations and structural improvements is available through this funding opportunity.

The Department has also made improvements to make it easier for entities to submit the eligibility certification form. A webform will be available on Monday, August 17th, at 7:45 AM so that entities can submit materials online rather than filling out a PDF. The Department also created an attachment checklist to make it easier to know if a submission is complete.

Additionally, entities are able to submit for multiple locations in one request. Each location is still required to have an eligibility certification form, and the Budget Narrative and Budget Worksheet can be combined for all locations. Please make note of the level of detail the Department requests to ensure the shared resources are fully understood by the Department.

There are also many things that are unchanged. The same entity types are eligible for payment and there are the same rural location requirements between the first round of the Rapid Response Stabilization Program Payments and this round of Rapid Response Stabilization Program Payments.

Please read all of the instructions before submitting the eligibility certification and attachments.

2. Why would an entity be ineligible for payment?

An entity could be ineligible for payment for a few reasons. This list is not exhaustive of the reasons an entity may not be eligible for payment.

- The entity did not complete the eligibility certification form. For example, if the entity does not check the box to certify that the entity will be in operation on the date payment is received, the entity would not be eligible for payment. The eligibility form must be complete for an entity to be eligible for a program payment.
- The entity did not submit the required attachments. Required attachments are listed in Section X – Document Checklist of the eligibility certification form.
- The entity did not provide sufficient information to verify eligibility. For example, if the Budget Worksheet is not itemized, the Department would not have sufficient information to verify eligibility.
- The entity is not located in an eligible rural area. Eligible rural areas are defined in Section V of the eligibility certification form.
- The use of funds is not allowable under CMS program guidance.
- The location was already approved for a payment under the first Rapid Response Stabilization funding opportunity announced in the public notice at 56 Pa.B. 2336 (April 25, 2026).

The Department, in its sole discretion, will reject the program request or direct the entity to provide the missing information or documents. If the Department elects to direct the entity to provide the missing information or documents, the program request will not be deemed received until the entity provides the completed eligibility certification form and all required documents to the Department. Prior to submission, entities should carefully and thoroughly review their program requests and eligibility certifications to confirm they are fully completed and that all required documentation is included

3. What entity types are eligible to receive this funding?

To be eligible for a program payment, an entity must be a general acute care 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.

4. Are EMS agencies eligible for funding?

An EMS agency would be eligible entity for funding if it is a health care provider (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1397ee(h)(9)), which defines “health care provider” as “a provider of services or supplier who is enrolled under this subchapter, subchapter XVIII, or subchapter XIX.”

Those subchapters include the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, Health Insurance for Aged and Disabled, and Grants to States for Medical Assistance Programs.

5. If an entity will receive funding through the Rapid Response Stabilization Program payment that was available from May 1st to June 1st, can the entity receive funding through this funding opportunity?

If an entity will receive funding through the Rapid Response Stabilization Program payment that was available from May 1st to June 1st, the entity may only receive funding through this opportunity if submitting an eligibility certification form for a location or locations that did not receive funding through the first round of payments. The list of entities that will receive funding through the Rapid Response Stabilization Program payment that was available from May 1st to June 1st can be found here: [Rural Health Eligible Projects | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#).

6. If an entity will receive funding through the Rapid Response Stabilization Program payment that was available from May 1st to June 1st, can the entity receive funding through this funding opportunity for a separate location?

Yes. If an entity is applying for multiple locations, the request must explicitly **exclude** locations that were authorized for an RHTP Rapid Response Stabilization Program Payment though the funding opportunity announced in in the public notice at 56 Pa.B. 2336 (April 25, 2026). If an ineligible location is included, the entity will not be eligible for the program payment.

7. What are the rural location requirements for this funding opportunity?

The entity 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.

The list of eligible rural counties and the associated region can be found in Attachment E of the project narrative: [Rural Health Transformation Project February 2026](#).

If located in a county of the second class A or third class, please use the HRSA tool to look up your address: [Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer](#).

8. If an entity moves locations and the new location is not in an eligible rural area, is the entity eligible for funding?

No. A location must be in an eligible rural area to receive funding.

9. May an entity include a rural service location established after December 29, 2025, provided that the entity was operating in Pennsylvania before December 29, 2025, and the location is fully operational when funding is received?

Yes.

10. Must each service location's physical address be within an HRSA-designated rural census tract, or may a location qualify when the equipment will be used predominantly to provide services to RHTP-eligible rural populations?

The location must be 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.

Use of Funds

1. What can the funding be used for?

This funding can only be used to purchase supplies and equipment. that stabilize or enhance rural health care access, promote rural well-being, fall under at least one of the six initiatives outlined in the Department's federally approved RHTP application, and is used in accordance with federal and state law.

A program payment may not be used for capital expenditures, educational awards, Pennsylvania Patient Provider Network Health Information Organization (P3N HIO) onboarding, or the purchase of electronic health record systems, mobile health units, ambulances, or ambulance enhancements.

2. What is the difference between supplies and equipment?

CMS defines equipment as tangible nonexpendable personal property, including exempt property, charged directly to the award having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit.

CMS defines supplies as all tangible personal property with an acquisition cost of less than \$10,000 per unit.

3. Can funding be used for infrastructure repairs that are necessary for a hospital to function?

No. CMS imposes a twenty percent annual cap on funding for capital expenditures and infrastructure. Due to this cap, no funding for renovations and structural improvements is available through this funding opportunity.

4. Renovations and structural improvements are not included in this funding opportunity due to limits on capital expenditure funding. How are renovations and structural improvements defined?

Renovations and structural improvements include anything that falls under CMS' definition of capital expenditures and infrastructure.

Please refer to the following fact sheet: [capital-expenditures-fact-sheet-category-j-payments.pdf](#)

5. How does the Department distinguish between equipment-related expenses and renovation or structural improvement expenses?

Renovations and structural improvements include anything that falls under CMS' definition of capital expenditures and infrastructure.

Please refer to the following fact sheet: [capital-expenditures-fact-sheet-category-j-payments.pdf](#)

6. Is the purchase of medical and clinical equipment and supplies necessary to establish operations at a new location a permissible use of funding?

Yes, if the entity already provides health care services in Pennsylvania and has been in operation since at least December 29, 2025 and in full operation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the date funding is received and is not at risk of closure, purchase of medical and clinical equipment for a new location is permissible.

7. For deployment of supplies and equipment, are software licenses/subscriptions, implementation services, and initial user training associated with such a platform be considered allowable costs?

Yes. However, ongoing costs, such as subscriptions or reoccurring fees, that require monitoring by the Department following incursion of the costs are not an allowable use of funds.

8. Would replacement of an air conditioner be considered a renovation or structural improvement or would it be an allowable cost under this funding opportunity?

Replacement of an air conditioner would **not** be an allowable cost since it would fall under CMS' definition of a capital expenditure and infrastructure.

9. Are installation, configuration, connectivity, utility, or infrastructure costs necessary for the operation of eligible equipment considered allowable expenses?

Yes, however, if these costs would be considered a capital expenditure under CMS guidance, they would not be permissible.

Please refer to the following fact sheet: [capital-expenditures-fact-sheet-category-j-payments.pdf](#)

To assist with CMS approval of the funding, please provide information about how the costs will expand access to services.

10. If a quote for equipment includes an additional cost such as a warranty, is the total quoted cost allowable?

Yes, however, ongoing costs, such as subscriptions or reoccurring fees, that require monitoring by the Department following incursion of the costs are not an allowable use of funds.

11. If an entity requests no funding for construction, renovation, structural improvements, or leasehold improvements, and the request is limited solely to eligible supplies and equipment for a new location, is that an eligible use of funding?

Yes, if the entity already provides health care services in Pennsylvania and has been in operation since at least December 29, 2025 and in full operation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the date funding is received and is not at risk of closure, this is an eligible use of funding.

12. For mobile healthcare services, such as courier operations that support patient access to laboratory services, would the purchase of a new vehicle be considered an eligible equipment expense under the program?

Yes. The entity needs to clearly explain how the purchase expands or enhances access to care.

13. Are vehicles used to facilitate access to healthcare services eligible if they are not mobile health units, ambulances, or ambulance enhancements?

Yes. The entity needs to clearly explain how the new vehicle expands or enhances access to care.

14. May an otherwise qualified EMS agency request portable satellite phones and related equipment to maintain emergency communications in areas where cellular service is unavailable or unreliable?

Yes. The entity needs to clearly explain how the purchase is necessary for appropriate care availability.

15. 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.

16. Are furnishings, signage, accessibility-related items, therapeutic environment enhancements, and other patient-support equipment eligible when they support access to care or service expansion?

Yes.

Submission Instructions

1. Is a project narrative or description a required attachment?

Required attachments are included in [Section X – Document Checklist](#).

2. Where are the forms and attachment templates available?

The forms and attachments are available on: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/programs-services/healthcare/rural-health/rhfp-funding-opportunities>

Rapid Response Stabilization — Round 2

- **Application Dates:** August 17, 2026, at 8:00 AM to August 24, 2026, at 11:59 AM, or until or until the authorized funding cap has been met, whichever is sooner
- **Total Available Funding:** \$35 million; \$1 million per eligible location
- **Qualified Entities:** Hospitals, health care providers, or rural health facilities within specific regions

Rapid Response Stabilization Round 2 Documents and Resources



Rapid Response Stabilization — Round 2 Certification Webform



This form will be available on August 17, 2026 at 7:45 AM.

Attachment 1 Entity Location List



Attachment 2 RHTP Payment Budget Narrative Template



Attachment 3 RHTP Payment Budget Worksheet



Attachment 4 FFATA Data Sheet



Attachment 5 Funding Disclosure Table



Public Notices on PA Bulletin



Rapid Response Stabilization Program Payment Certification Round 2



3. When will the webform open?

The webform will open at 7:45 AM on Monday, August 17th.

4. How does an entity with multiple locations complete their submission?

There must be an eligibility certification form for each location.

If the supplies and equipment are shared between multiple locations under one corporate structure, each location must meet the requirements outlined in Section IV and each location shall complete the Program Payment Request and Eligibility Certification form. The purpose of each location completing the Program Payment Request and Eligibility Certification form is for the Department to confirm eligibility and verify where the supplies and equipment will be utilized. If equipment and supplies are shared between locations, the entity shall submit one Budget Narrative and Budget Worksheet to the Department. The Budget Narrative must explain why and how the supplies and equipment will be shared. The Budget Worksheet must provide the supplies and equipment that will be shared between eligible locations and identify each of the

eligible locations. If there are supplies and equipment in the request that are not shared and are intended for a single location, the expense must be documented and assigned to the applicable location, so the Department has a clear understanding of funding distribution.

5. If an entity has multiple projects for the same location, should that be included in one Budget Worksheet and Narrative?

Yes.

6. How recent does a quote need to be?

There is no set timeframe for when an entity received a quote. The entity must reasonably believe that the actual cost will not deviate significantly from the quoted amount.

7. If an entity is replacing equipment that is at the end of life, what information should the entity include in the Budget Narrative?

The entity should include how the new equipment is different from the existing equipment and how the new equipment expands or enhances access to care.

8. For Attachment 1 Entity Location List, what is the Service Location Number in column H?

The service location number is listed on either the license or certificate of compliance. There may be multiple service locations under one license or certificate of compliance. It is also a field in PROMISe used for billing. If you are unable to identify your service location number, reach out to your licensing body to confirm the appropriate service location number.

9. Is it permissible to submit a combination of eligible equipment and supplies within a single submission, as long as the total request does not exceed the \$1 million funding limit per location?

Yes. Ensure that all supplies and equipment are justified in the Budget Narrative with how the equipment and supplies expand or enhance access to care.

10. If a medical group operates multiple locations, is each location eligible to submit its own funding request?

Yes. However, if the medical group will share equipment and supplies between multiple locations, each location must meet the requirements outlined in Section IV and each location shall complete the Program Payment Request and Eligibility Certification form. The purpose of each location completing the Program Payment Request and Eligibility Certification form is for the Department to confirm eligibility and verify where the supplies and equipment will be utilized. If equipment and supplies are shared between locations, the entity shall submit one

Budget Narrative and Budget Worksheet to the Department. The Budget Narrative must explain why and how the supplies and equipment will be shared. The Budget Worksheet must provide the supplies and equipment that will be shared between eligible locations and identify each of the eligible locations. If there are supplies and equipment in the request that are not shared and are intended for a single location, the expense must be documented and assigned to the applicable location, so the Department has a clear understanding of funding distribution.

11. If an entity will receive funding through the Rapid Response Stabilization Program payment that was available from May 1st to June 1st but is applying for Round 2 with a new eligible location, is the new eligible location used when completing the Entity Name as found in Section III-Entity Information on the Rapid Response Stabilization Program Payment Certification form?

Yes.

12. For a licensed EMS agency operating multiple stations or service locations under one EMS agency license, does each Department of Health-recognized four-digit service-location number constitute a separate “location” eligible for a payment of up to \$1 million?

Yes.

13. If an entity has more than one service line at a location, does that constitute more than one location?

No.

14. If a single entity submits one request covering several eligible locations that all sit in the same region, does that request count as one payment against that region's two payment limit until all regions have two payment authorizations, or as one payment per location?

It will count as one payment to the region.

15. Does the \$1 million cap apply separately to the amount allocated to each eligible location?

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

16. If equipment will be shared among multiple eligible locations, how should the cost be allocated against each location's \$1 million cap? May the applicant allocate the cost based on anticipated utilization, or must it be divided equally among the participating locations?

The cost can be allocated based on utilization or divided equally.

17. Under Section VI Payment eligibility criteria- are the sub-bullets listed under Aging and Access, EMS and transportation, Behavioral Health, Maternal Health, and Technology and Infrastructure requirements or suggested projects?

The sub-bullets are examples.

18. For an established EMS agency, would a current Pennsylvania EMS agency license and active PROMISe or Medicare enrollment be sufficient to document healthcare provider status?

Yes.

19. How should an entity identify the rural counties it serves?

The entity can use its location and the residence of patients.

20. What is the deadline for entities to submit questions?

The deadline on the eligibility certification form was incorrectly listed as Wednesday, August 7th at noon. These FAQs are responsive to questions received by Friday, August 7th at noon.