

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Application due 07/28/2026

HRSA

Health Resources & Services Administration

Bureau of Health Workforce

Division of Health Careers and Financial Support

Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)

Opportunity Number: HRSA-26-096



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Before You Begin

OpDiv:

Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency:

Bureau of Health Workforce

Subagency:

Division of Health Careers and Financial Support

Opportunity name:

Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)

Opportunity number:

HRSA-26-096

Metadata author:

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Metadata keywords:

R&R Application Guide.

All activities proposed in your application and budget narrative must align with applicable law, including but not limited to statutes, executive orders, federal regulations and applicable judicial holdings. Accordingly, discretionary awards shall not be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate: racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation; denial by the recipient of the sex binary in humans, or the belief that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic; illegal immigration; or any other initiatives that compromise public safety. If an application does not align, the application will not receive funding to the extent permitted by law and applicable court orders.

Step 1: Review the Opportunity

Basic information

Tagline: Grants for health professions schools to offer scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Summary

The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) program increases the health professions and nursing workforce by providing awards to eligible health professions schools for use in awarding scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have a financial need.

Have questions? Go to [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name: Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)

Opportunity number: HRSA-26-096

Announcement version: Initial

Federal assistance listing: 93.925

Key dates

NOFO issue date: 06/26/2026

Informational webinar: [See Webinar Section](#)

Application deadline: 07/28/2026

Expected award date is by: 09/01/2026

Expected start date: 09/01/2026

See [other submissions](#) for other time frames that may apply to this NOFO.

Funding details

Application Types:

New

Expected total available funding in FY:

2026: \$51,079,900

Expected number and type of awards:

80 G (Grant)

Funding range per award:

\$1 - \$650,000

We plan to fund awards in five budget periods. Budget periods 2-5 will start July 1. The period of performance is September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031. Your request for budget years 2 to 5 cannot exceed your year 1 request. You may incur pre-award project costs 90 calendar days before the Federal award date. All costs incurred before we issue the Notices of Award (NoA) must comply with the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) requirements. We are under no obligation to reimburse such costs if for any reason you do not receive an award, costs are in conflict with the Cost Principles, or if the dollar amount of the award is less than anticipated and inadequate to cover such costs.

Eligibility

You can apply if you are an accredited school of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing (as defined in section 801 of the Public Health Service Act), pharmacy, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, public health, chiropractic, or allied health, a school offering a graduate program in behavioral and mental health practice, or an entity providing programs for the training of physician assistants.

For details on which disciplines qualify, see the health professions schools eligibility list.

Types of eligible organizations

These types of *domestic organizations may apply if they otherwise meet the eligibility criteria.

Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

Private institutions of higher education

Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

“Domestic” means the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Additional information on eligibility

Eligible health professions schools include the following: 1. Medicine (Doctor of allopathic medicine, Doctor of osteopathic medicine); 2. Dentistry (Doctor of dentistry); 3. Other health disciplines (Doctor of veterinary medicine, Doctor of optometry, Doctor of podiatry medicine, Doctor of pharmacy, Doctor of chiropractic medicine); 4. Behavioral and mental health (Graduate degree in clinical psychology; Graduate degree in clinical social work; Graduate degree in gerontological counseling; Graduate degree in marriage and family therapy; Graduate degree in mental health counseling; Graduate degree in rehabilitation counseling); 5. Public health (Graduate degree in health administration; Graduate degree in public health); 6. Allied health (Bachelor's and graduate degrees in dietetics; Graduate degree in audiology; Graduate degree in occupational therapy; Graduate degree in physical therapy; Graduate degree in speech pathology; Bachelor's and graduate degrees in dental hygiene; Bachelor's and graduate degrees in medical laboratory technology, Bachelor's degree in radiologic technology); 7. Nursing (Associate, bachelor's, and graduate degrees in nursing (pre-nursing is not eligible)); 8. Midwifery (Certified nursing and non-nursing graduate degrees in midwifery (pre-nursing or pre-midwifery is not eligible)); and 9. Physician Assistant (Graduate degree in physician assistant studies).

Individuals are not eligible applicants under this NOFO.

Other eligibility criteria

Your application must demonstrate you are currently:

- Accredited by the recognized accrediting body for your specific health discipline ([Attachment 1](#)).
- Carrying out a program to recruit and retain students from disadvantaged backgrounds which you can demonstrate by showing you are enrolling and graduating full-time students from disadvantaged backgrounds in your specific degree program, based on the following percentages for the most recent 3-year period:
 - At least 20 percent of the total enrollment of the degree program during academic years 2022 to 2025 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025) were students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and
 - At least 20 percent of the total graduates of the degree program during academic years 2022 to 2025 were from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Newly established schools may apply if students were enrolled for the academic year covering the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. The information provided must demonstrate at least 20 percent of the total enrollment and graduates are from disadvantaged backgrounds.

- New schools must provide:
 - At least 2 years of student enrollment data in the degree program, and
 - At least 1 year of graduation data in the degree program.

Trainee eligibility

To receive support under this program, a student must be:

- Enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) at an eligible health professions or nursing school as a full-time student in a program leading to a degree in health professions or nursing.
- From a disadvantaged background, which can be met by showing the student is from an economically, educationally or geographically vulnerable background as described in [Program requirements and expectations](#).
- Have a financial need for a scholarship, per the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- In addition, a student must be:
 - A U.S. citizen or non-citizen national;
 - An individual lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or
 - Any other “qualified alien” under section 431(b) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L 104-193, as amended.

Completeness and responsive criteria

We will review your application to make sure it meets these basic requirements to move forward in the competition.

We will not consider an application that:

- Is from an organization that does not meet all [eligibility criteria](#).
- Requests funding above the award ceiling shown in the [funding range](#).
- Is submitted after the [deadline](#).

Application limits

You may submit more than one application under the same Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) if each proposes a distinct project. We will only review your last validated application for each distinct project before the deadline.

You may not submit more than one application per health professions degree program. If you submit more than one application, we will only accept the last on-time submission.

While multiple applications from an institution are allowed, only a maximum of three per institution may be funded. Collaborative proposals are not allowed.

Cost sharing

This program has no cost-sharing requirement. If you choose to share in the costs of the project, we will not consider it during merit review. Recipients agree that once committed, cost sharing amounts are enforceable and subject to reporting and auditing requirements under 2 CFR 200.

Maintenance of effort

Federal funds must add to any existing non-federal funds for your proposed activities. If you receive an award, you will have to spend at least as much as you spent in the last fiscal year before the award. Section 797(b) of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. § 295n-2(b)) requires this. We will

enforce these statutory requirements through all available mechanisms. You must provide supporting documentation of your maintenance of effort in your Attachments.

Post-award requirements

Before you apply, make sure you understand the requirements that come with an award.

See [Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award](#) for information on regulations that apply, reporting, and more.

Program description

Purpose

The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) program increases the health professions and nursing workforce by providing awards to eligible health professions schools for use in awarding scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have a financial need.

- Strengthen the health professions and nursing workforce by supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are more likely to practice in primary care and in medically vulnerable communities.

Background

The SDS program aims to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds to increase their access to a health professions degree. Since 2012, 15,054 students successfully graduated with a degree in a health profession after receiving SDS scholarships. In academic years 2024 to 2025, of those graduates with follow-up data, 45 percent worked or trained in medically vulnerable communities one year after graduation and 27 percent in primary care settings^[i]. SDS scholarships help reduce financial obstacles for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, which allows them to practice in rural and vulnerable communities.

Program goal and objectives

Goal: Strengthen the health professions and nursing workforce by supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are more likely to practice in primary care and in medically vulnerable communities.

Objective 1: Increase enrollment and retention of full-time students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Objective 2: Increase the number of graduates practicing in primary care.

Objective 3: Increase the number of graduates working in rural, Tribal, and other medically vulnerable communities.

Program requirements and expectations

Award recipients are required to participate in federally designed evaluations to assess program effectiveness and efficiency upon request.

Your project must meet the following requirements and address them in your application:

Scholarship requirements

- You must provide scholarships to full-time students who are eligible individuals as defined in student eligibility. Such scholarships may be expended only for tuition expenses, other reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses incurred in the attendance of such school.
- Student scholarships must not exceed:
 - \$50,000 per academic year for dental students.
 - \$40,000 per academic year for all other health professions and nursing students.
- Scholarships must be at least half the cost of the student's annual tuition.
- The amount of the scholarship may not exceed the student's financial need.
- You must agree that in providing scholarships, you will give preference to students for whom the cost of attendance would constitute severe financial hardship.
- Funds should not be disbursed in one lump sum.
- Funds should be disbursed at the beginning of each period within the academic year.

Program requirements

- Your school must provide training through clinical placement(s) in at least one of the following:
 - Primary care settings.
 - Medically vulnerable communities.
 - Rural communities.
 - Tribal communities.
 - You are required to state, "This program is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration" on all related documents and marketing materials.
 - You must conduct continuous quality improvement for program evaluation and at completion of the period of performance.

Student requirements

- Students must maintain your schools' standards for full-time enrollment and satisfactory academic standing to remain eligible for a scholarship. Students are ineligible until this criterion is met.
- Students are strongly encouraged to sign an attestation stating they will provide post-graduation information to their school upon request.
- Students must be from a disadvantaged background, which is further defined as either an economically or educationally/geographically vulnerable background.

Steps to determine if a student is economically vulnerable

- Use the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guideline](#) table for 1 year preceding the data submitted on the FAFSA by comparing the appropriate income to the table. Please use 200 percent of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty guideline table. Use the spreadsheet tool to calculate Different Percentages of the Guidelines, 1983 to 2025.
 - Use parental income for students deemed "dependent" by the [U.S. Department of Education guidelines](#).

- Use student income for students deemed “independent” by the [U.S. Department of Education guidelines](#).

Steps to determine if a student is educationally or geographically vulnerable

- Apply the following criteria consistently for all students. It is the responsibility of each applicant to clearly delineate the criteria used to classify student participants as coming from an educationally or geographically vulnerable background.
- Define “low” rates using the below criteria based on your health professions schools’ current student population. Use the most recent data from your state’s Department of Education site, under “[State Report Card](#)” For example:
 - The student graduated from or last attended a high school that has a low overall student average SAT score.
 - The student graduated from or last attended a high school with either a:
 - Low percentage of seniors receiving a high school diploma, or
 - Low percentage of graduates who attend college during the first year after graduation.
 - The student graduated from or last attended a high school with low per capita funding.
 - The student graduated from or last attended a high school where many of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.
 - The student is the first generation in his or her family to attend college. Please follow the instructions to determine the student’s first-generation status using [FASFA’s Parents Education Status questions](#).

Statutory authority

42 U.S.C. § 293a (Section 737 of the Public Health Service Act)

[\[i\]](#) “Health Professions Training Programs” dashboard, Health Resources and Services Administration, 2026

Award information

Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS has adopted [2 CFR Part 200](#), with some modifications included in [2 CFR Part 300](#). These regulations replace those in 45 CFR Part 75.

Policies

- To make an award, funding must be available and allocated for this program and purpose, at which point we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Have clear policies and good financial practices to avoid spending HRSA funds on unallowable activities. Like other award rules, we may audit your policies, procedures, and controls.
- Support beyond the first budget year will depend on:
 - Appropriation of funds.
 - Your satisfactory progress in meeting the project’s objectives.
 - A decision that continued funding is in the government’s best interest.

- If we receive more funding for this program, we may:
 - Fund more applicants from the rank order list.
 - Extend the period of performance.
 - Award supplemental funding.

General limitations

- For guidance on some types of costs we do not allow or restrict, see
 - [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E](#) - General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost.
 - Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities in the [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#).
- All costs must be [reasonable](#), necessary, [allocable](#) to the award, and adequately documented ([2 CFR 200.403](#)).
- You cannot earn profit from the federal award. See [2 CFR § 200.400\(g\)](#).
- Current appropriations law includes a salary limit of \$228,000 as of January 2026 that applies to this program. You may pay salaries at a higher rate if the rate beyond the salary rate limit (Executive Level II) is paid with non-HHS funds. For help calculating salaries under this limit, read more at “salary rate limitation” in [Step 1 of the How to Apply](#) – Application Guide.
- To promote objectivity in research, you cannot have a financial conflict of interest. See [42 CFR 50](#).

Indirect costs

Indirect costs are costs you charge across more than one project that cannot be easily separated by project. For example, this could include utilities for a building that supports multiple projects.

As of October 1, 2025, [2 CFR 300.414](#) indirect costs for training awards cannot exceed 8% of modified total direct costs. To calculate the (MTDC), we exclude from the direct cost base:

- Direct cost amounts for equipment, tuition, fees, and participant support costs
- Subawards and subcontracts exceeding \$50,000.

For modified total direct costs, we use the definition at [2 CFR 200.1](#).

For the SDS Program, the MTDC is only the direct costs of the Project Director (PD) salary and fringe benefits, if requested. See [Project director costs](#).

Consider your indirect costs when developing your [budget](#).

Program income

Program income is money earned as a result of your award-supported project activities. You must use any program income you generate from awarded funds for approved project-related activities. Find more about program income at [2 CFR 200.307](#).

Step 2: Get Ready to Apply

Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the [financial assistance general certifications and representations](#) specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#) and [How to Apply for Grants](#).

Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it online. Go to [Grants Search at Grants.gov](#) and search for opportunity number HRSA-26-096.

After you select the opportunity, click the Subscribe button to get updates.

If you need additional information about getting registered or finding the application package, see Step 2 in the [How to Apply – Application Guide](#).

Application writing help

Visit [HHS Tips for Preparing Grant Proposals](#).

Visit [HRSA's How to Prepare Your Application](#) page for more guidance.

See [Apply for a Grant](#) for other help and resources.

Join the webinar

For more information about this opportunity, Visit the [Bureau of Health Workforce's open opportunities](#) website. The webinar will be recorded.

Have questions? Go to [Contacts and Support](#).

FAQs will be posted on the Bureau of Health Workforce's open opportunities website after the webinar.

Step 3: Build Your Application

Application checklist

There are two types of forms in Grants.gov.

- Some forms allow you to upload components of your application to the form. These include components like your project narrative, budget and budget narrative, and attachments, as applicable.

- Other forms are more typical, fill-in-the-blank forms.

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply.

Narratives

See the instructions for the [project narrative](#), [form](#), and the [budget and budget narrative](#).

Form	Included in page limit*?
☐ Research & Related Other Project Information	Yes*
☐ Research & Related Budget	Yes*

Attachments

See [instructions for attachments](#).

Attachments	Included in page limit*?
☐ 1. Accreditation Documentation	Yes
☐ 2. Project Organizational Chart	Yes
☐ 3. Agreements with other entities	Yes
☐ 4. Staffing Plan and Job Description	Yes
☐ 5. Maintenance of effort documentation	Yes
☐ 6. Funding preference or priority documentation	Yes
☐ 7. Tables and charts	Yes
☐ 8. Letters of Support	Yes
☐ 9. Other relevant document	Yes
☐ 10. Other relevant document	Yes
☐ 11. Other relevant document	Yes
☐ 12. Other relevant document	Yes
☐ 13. Other relevant document	Yes
☐ 14. Other relevant document	Yes
☐ 15. Other relevant document	Yes

Other required forms

See [form instructions](#).

Form	Included in page limit*?
☐ SF-424 (R&R)	No
☐ Project Abstract Summary Form	No
☐ R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s)	Yes*
☐ Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile form	No
☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s)	No
☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	No
☐ Standardized Work Plan (SWP) form	No

☐ Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program Specific Form	No
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* Unless otherwise indicated, only what you attach to a form counts toward the page limit. The form itself does not count.

Application contents and format

Required format

You can find technical guidance for formatting your application documents in [Step 5 of the NOFO](#) and in [Step 5 of the How to Apply - Application Guide](#).

Project narrative

Use the Research & Related Other Project Information form to attach the project narrative. In the project narrative, you will describe all aspects of your project.

Use the section headers and the order as listed.

Introduction

See merit review criterion 1: [Need](#)

Briefly describe the purpose of your project for the specific health discipline.

- Describe your continued commitment to the education of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Describe your continued commitment to increasing the number of graduates who practice in primary care.
- Describe your continued commitment to increasing the number of graduates working in rural, Tribal and other medically vulnerable communities.

Need

See merit review criterion 1: [Need](#)

- Describe your students and their unmet needs this program will address.
- Discuss any relevant barriers to student's access to education and success in your program.
- Provide data on:
 - The percentage of students from disadvantaged backgrounds already receiving financial assistance in the specific health professions disciplines.
 - The average financial aid amount received from students in the specific health discipline program.
- Use and cite demographic data as part of the descriptions and explanations above, as applicable.

Approach

See merit review criterion 2: [Response](#)

- Describe how you will address your stated goal and objectives to meet the [program requirements and expectations](#) described in this NOFO.
- Describe how your project will address the needs of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

- Describe your past successes in recruiting, retaining, and graduating students from disadvantaged backgrounds based on the total number/percentage of full-time enrollment during academic years 2022 to 2025 and new schools for academic years 2023 to 2025.
- Describe how strategic partnership activities will involve federal, state, local, or national organizations, and other colleges and universities.
- Describe how you provide educational support and training opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to successfully complete their health professions degree program.
- Describe how you will increase the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds practicing in primary care, rural, Tribal, and other medically vulnerable communities.
- Describe in detail your proposed program funding and disbursement strategies and processes, including how you will prioritize eligible students who have the greatest financial need and are considered to have a severe financial hardship.
- Describe how you will provide continued scholarships to current SDS scholarship recipients and how you will use available funds to support newly eligible students.
- Describe a plan for how you will comply with the Department of Justice “Guidance for Recipients of Federal Funding Regarding Unlawful Discrimination,” including unlawful proxy discrimination

High-level work plan

See merit review criteria 2: [Response](#) and 4: [Impact](#)

- Describe how you’ll achieve each of the objectives during the period of performance.
- Provide a timeline that includes each activity and identifies who is responsible for each. As needed, identify how key stakeholders will help plan, design, and carry out all activities.
 - Include the extent to which these stakeholders address the needs of the populations and communities served.
- You will also include a more detailed work plan in your Standardized Work Plan (SWP). See [Other required forms](#).

Resolving challenges

See merit review criterion 2: [Response](#)

- Discuss challenges that you are likely to encounter in designing and carrying out the activities in the work plan.
- Explain approaches that you’ll use to resolve them.

Performance management

See merit review criteria 3: [Performance management](#) and 5: [Resources and capabilities](#)

Outcomes

- Describe the expected outcomes (desired results) of the funded activities.
- Performance measurement and reporting. See [Report on Your Grant](#) for performance measure requirements and examples of reporting forms. Look for the performance measures under Health Career Grants: Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS).

- Describe how you will collect, and report required performance data accurately and on time.
- Describe how you will collect students' demographic data.
- Describe how you will collect data about students' economically, educationally, or geographically vulnerable background status as defined in the [Program requirements and expectations](#) section of the NOFO.
- Describe how you will manage and securely store data.
- Include how you will collect and report National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers for students. Students in eligible disciplines must apply for and report on an NPI.
- Describe your process to track students after graduation for up to 1 year to obtain their employment information.
- Describe how you will monitor and analyze performance data to support continuous quality improvement.

Program Evaluation

The evaluation should examine processes and progress towards the program goal, objectives, and expected outcomes. Evaluations must follow the HHS Evaluation Policy, as well as the standards and best practices described in [OMB Memorandum M-20-12](#).

Describe your plan to evaluate the project. Include:

- The evaluation questions, methods, data to be collected, and timeline for implementation.
- The evaluation barriers and your plan to address them.
- The evaluation capacity of your organization and staff. Include experience, skills, and knowledge.
- How you will disseminate results, how you will assess whether your dissemination plan is effective, whether the results are national in scope, and the extent of potential replication.

See the [reporting](#) section for more information.

Sustainability

See merit review criterion 4: [Impact](#)

We expect you to sustain key project elements that improve practices and outcomes for the target population. Propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends.

- Highlight key elements of your projects. Examples include recruiting and retention methods or strategies that have been effective in improving practices.
- Describe the actions you will take to obtain future sources of funding.
- Determine the timing to become self-sufficient.
- Discuss challenges that you will likely encounter in sustaining the program. Include how you will resolve these challenges.

Organizational information

See merit review criterion 5: [Resources and capabilities](#)

- Briefly describe your mission, structure, and the scope of your current activities. Explain how they support your ability to carry out the program requirements. Include a project organizational chart in [Attachment 2](#).
- Discuss how you will follow the approved plan, account for federal funds, and record all costs to avoid audit findings.
- Describe how you will assess the unique needs of the students you serve.
- Include a staffing plan and job descriptions for key faculty and staff in [Attachment 4](#).
- Describe the organizations you will partner with to fulfill the program goal and meet the program objectives. Include key agreements in [Attachment 3](#) and letters of support in [Attachment 8](#).
- Include biographical sketches for key staff using the Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile form. Key staff include, at minimum the project director and financial aid representatives who will be involved in the program. See [Other required forms](#).
- Include a plan to ensure participants and stakeholders are aware that SDS funding is provided by HRSA.

Budget and budget narrative

See merit review criterion 6: [Support requested](#)

Your **budget** should follow the instructions in budget narrative: detailed instructions section of the [R&R Application Guide](#) and any specific instructions listed in this section.

HHS now uses the definitions for [equipment](#) and [supply](#) in [2 CFR 200.1](#). The new definitions change the threshold for equipment to the lesser of the recipient's capitalization level or \$10,000 and the threshold for supplies to below that amount.

The total project or program costs are all allowable (direct and indirect) costs used for the HRSA activity or project. This includes costs charged to the award and nonfederal funds used to satisfy any matching or cost sharing requirement (which may include maintenance of effort, if applicable).

Reminder: Indirect costs for training awards cannot exceed 8% of modified total direct costs.

The **budget narrative** supports the information you provide in the Research and Related Budget Form. The merit review committee reviews both. Your budget should show a well-organized plan.

The budget narrative includes an itemized breakdown and a clear justification of the requested costs. As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are reasonable, allowable and allocable, and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- Restrictions on spending funds. See [Funding policies and limitations](#).
- The overall amount requested per year, which should equal your program's three-year average disadvantaged background student enrollment (using data from Section D of the Program Specific Form), multiplied by your three-year average student financial need (using data obtained from your Financial Aid Office).

- The overall requested amount includes an allowable maximum of 25% Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for the Project Director (PD) salary, fringe benefits and 8% indirect costs based on the PD salary and fringe amount. The total amount requested must not exceed \$650,000.

You must submit one-year budgets for each of the subsequent budget periods within the requested five-year period of performance at the time of application. Your request for budget years 2 to 5 cannot exceed your year 1 request.

To create your budget justification narrative, see budget narrative instructions in [Step 3 section of the How to Apply – Application Guide](#).

Participant and trainee support costs

In your budget narrative:

- List tuition, room and board, fees, health insurance, stipends, travel, subsistence, and other costs.
- Identify the number of participant scholarships.
- Separate these costs from others so we can identify them easily.
- Include a sub-total entitled “Total Participant and Trainee Support Costs” with the summary of these costs.
- Ensure scholarships must be at least half of the cost of the student’s annual tuition.
- Ensure student scholarships must not exceed \$50,000 per academic year for dental students or \$40,000 per academic year for all others health and nursing professionals.
- Ensure the cost is based on the average financial need for all eligible participants for the specific health professions.
- Ensure the amount of a scholarship does not exceed:
 - A participant’s tuition expenses.
 - Other reasonable educational expenses.
 - Reasonable living expenses incurred in attendance at the health professions or nursing school.
- Program specific limitation: Child-care expenses are not allowable.

Project Director Costs

You may request direct costs for the Project Director’s salary and fringe benefits not to exceed 25% FTE.

- Salary and fringe benefits are only allowable for the Project Director.
- Salary and fringe benefits for other staff are not allowed.

Attachments

See section [3.2 of the HRSA R&R Application Guide](#).

Place your PDF attachments in order in the Attachments form. See [application checklist](#) to determine if they count toward the page limit.

Unless the instructions below require it, do not submit organizational brochures or other promotional materials (for example, slides, films, clips).

Attachment 1: Accreditation documentation

You must provide documentation of your health professions discipline accreditation, or provisional accreditation. Please do not provide only the web link to the accreditation body's website. HRSA will not open any links included in the application.

Acceptable forms of proof are certificates or letters with dates that are in effect prior to the start of the budget/project period during which support will be received.

If accreditation is pending or not yet granted:

A letter of reasonable assurance, from or on behalf of the health professions discipline accrediting body, must be submitted along with the application stating that the program will meet the accreditation standards effective prior to the start of the budget/project period during which support will be received.

Attachment 2: Project organizational chart

Provide a one-page diagram that shows the full project's organizational structure. Include all aspects, not just for your organization.

Attachment 3: Agreements with other entities

Provide any documents that describe working relationships between your organization and other organizations and programs you refer to in the proposal. Documents that confirm actual or pending contracts or agreements should clearly describe the roles of contractors and any deliverables. It is not necessary to include the entire contents of lengthy agreements, so long as the portions you include describe the working relationship between you and the other organization. Make sure letters of agreement are signed and dated.

Attachment 4: Staffing plan and job descriptions

See Section 3.1.7 of the [R&R Application Guide](#).

Include a staffing plan that shows the staff positions that will support the project and key information about each. Justify your staffing choices, including education and experience qualifications and your reasons for the amount of time you request for each staff position.

For key personnel, attach a one-page job description. It must include the role, responsibilities, and qualifications.

Attachment 5: Maintenance of effort documentation

You will include non-federal funds that support proposed activities. These include cash, in-kind, and other contributions. Do not include any federal funds. See [Maintenance of Effort](#) requirement.

Use the sample format below to provide the Maintenance of Effort documentation.

FY before application: Actual nonfederal expenditures	First FY of award: Estimated nonfederal expenditures
\$	\$

Attachment 6: Funding priority documentation

To receive a funding priority, include a statement that you are eligible for a funding priority and identify the priority. Points will be calculated using the data submitted via the Program Specific Form and the information included for Priority Point 4 (HPSA). See [Funding Priorities](#).

See the [selection process](#) section for information about how these documents are used.

Attachment 7: Tables and charts

Provide tables or charts that give more detail about the proposal. These might be Gantt, PERT, or flow charts.

Attachment 8: Letters of support

You may provide letters of support from other organizations or departments involved in the proposed project.

Letters of support can also be from individuals within your institution who hold the authority to speak for the organization or department such as a CEO or chair.

Recommenders should indicate an understanding of and commitment to the project, and what their contribution to the project will be. You should reference letters of support in the applicable section of the project narrative.

Recommenders must sign and date their letter of support for the document to be considered.

Attachment 9: Other relevant document

You may use attachments 9 through 15 to add other relevant documents.

Attachment 10: Other relevant document

You may use attachments 9 through 15 to add other relevant documents.

Attachment 11: Other relevant document

You may use attachments 9 through 15 to add other relevant documents.

Attachment 12: Other relevant document

You may use attachments 9 through 15 to add other relevant documents.

Attachment 13: Other relevant document

You may use attachments 9 through 15 to add other relevant documents.

Attachment 14: Other relevant document

You may use attachments 9 through 15 to add other relevant documents.

Attachment 15: Other relevant document

You may use attachments 9 through 15 to add other relevant documents.

Other required forms

You will need to complete some other forms. Upload the following forms at Grants.gov. You can find them in the NOFO [application package](#) or review them and any available instructions at [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Forms	Submission Requirement
SF-424 R&R (Application for Federal Assistance) form	With application.
Project Abstract Summary Form	With application.
Research & Related Other Project Information	With application.
Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)	With application.
R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form	With application.
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	With application.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable, with the application or before award.
Standardized Work Plan (SWP) form	With application.
Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program Specific Form	With application.

Form instructions

In addition to the requirements for the [budget narrative](#), [project narrative](#), and [attachments](#), following are instructions for each of the other forms required by this NOFO. See the [application checklist](#) for a full list of all application requirements.

SF-424 (R&R) application for federal assistance

This is your application for federal assistance. Follow the instructions in [Step 3 section of the How to Apply – Application Guide](#).

Important: public information

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

We share what you put there with [USAspending](#). This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends their money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

[See instructions and examples](#).

Project abstract summary form

Complete the information in the Project Abstract Summary form. Include a short description of your proposed project. Include the needs you plan to address, the proposed services, and the population groups you plan to serve.

When writing your summary:

- Use 4,000 characters or fewer.
- Make sure it's clear, accurate, short.
- Do not refer to other parts of the application.

- Do not include [personally identifiable information \(PII\)](#) in abstract form.

If you receive an award, we'll put your project abstract on public websites and databases, including [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov).

Research & related other project information

In addition to the requirements in the [project narrative](#) section, you will provide some additional information in this form.

- Complete sections 1 through 6.
- Upload a blank document in item 7: Project Summary/Abstract to avoid a cross-form error with your Project Abstract Summary Form.
- Upload your project narrative in item 8.
- Leave items 9, 10, and 11 blank.

Research & related senior/key person profile (expanded)

Include biographical sketches for people who will hold the key positions.

- Try to use no more than 2 pages per person.
- Do not include non-public [personally identifiable information](#).
- If you include someone you have not hired yet, include a letter of commitment from that person with their biographical sketch.
- Upload sketches in the Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile form.
- Include:
 - Name and title
 - Education and training – for each entry include Institution and location, degree and date earned, if any, and field of study.
 - Section A, Personal Statement. Briefly describe why the individual's experience and qualifications make them well-suited for their role.
 - Section B, Positions and Honors. List in chronological order previous and current positions. List any honors. Include present membership on any federal government public advisory committee.
 - Section C, Other Support. This section is optional. List selected ongoing and completed projects during the last three years. Begin with any projects relevant to the proposed project. Briefly indicate the overall goals of the projects and responsibilities of the person.
 - Other information. If they apply, include language fluency and experience working with populations that are culturally and linguistically different from their own.

R&R subaward budget attachment(s) form

You will also complete the R&R Subaward Budget Attachment Form for each subaward you propose. These include subcontracts. You will do this using the R&R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form.

Use the following instructions:

- Once you open this form, you can select “Click here to extract the R&R Subaward Budget Attachment”.
- Save the file and then open it to complete it.
- Once you save the file you can upload it within the form.
- Repeat the steps for each subaward.

If you have more than 10 subawards, you may upload the extra budget forms in the Research and Related Other Project Information form in Block 12 “Other Attachments”.

Project/performance site location(s)

Follow the form instructions in [Grants.gov Forms](#). Use the “Next Site” option rather than “Additional Location(s)” to add more than one project/performance site location.

Disclosure of lobbying activities (SF-LLL) form

Follow the form instructions in [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Standardized work plan form

Does not count toward the page limit

In addition to the requirements in [project narrative, high-level work plan](#), follow these instructions:

- Submit your workplan through the SWP Form. Provide a detailed work plan that demonstrates your experience or ability implementing a project of the proposed scope.
- Follow the instructions in the SWP Form.
- Select your organizational priorities that best fit the objective.
- As specified in the NOFO, [program goal and objectives](#) must be copied as stated.

SDS Program Specific Form

Follow the form instructions in [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Step 4: Understand Review, Selection, and Award

Application review

Initial Review

We will review your application to make sure that it meets [eligibility](#) criteria, including the [completeness and responsiveness criteria](#). If your application does not meet these criteria, we will not fund it. If this is the case, we will notify your authorized official.

We will not review any pages that exceed the page limit.

Merit review

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. You can find more about the merit review process in [Step 4 of the How to Apply – Application Guide](#). The members use these criteria.

Criterion	Total number of points = 100
1. Need	20 points
2. Response	35 points

Criterion	Total number of points = 100
3. Performance management	15 points
4. Impact	10 points
5. Resources and capabilities	10 points
6. Support requested	10 points

Criterion 1: Need (20 points)

See the project narrative [Introduction](#) and [Need](#) sections.

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Describes the program needs and contributing factors stated in the “Need” section of your project narrative.
- Discusses the purpose of the proposed project and how it meets the program goal and objectives.
- Identifies a commitment to increasing the number of graduates practicing in primary care, rural, Tribal, and other medically vulnerable communities.
- Identifies a commitment to educating students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Identifies students from disadvantaged backgrounds already receiving financial assistance.
- Provides data on the percentage of students from disadvantaged backgrounds receiving financial assistance in the specific health professions disciplines.
- Provides the average financial aid amount received from students in their specific health discipline.

Criterion 2: Response (35 points)

See the project narrative [Approach](#), [High-level work plan](#), and [Resolving challenge](#) sections.

Approach (15 points)

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Proposes a project that responds to the program’s purpose.
- Provides detailed steps to achieve the program goal and objectives that meet the program requirements and expectations of the SDS program.
- Provides evidence of effective recruitment activities and resolutions for any gaps SDS funds can reduce or close.
- Describes success in recruitment of students from disadvantaged backgrounds (based on the total number/percentage of full-time enrollment during academic years 2022 to 2025 and new schools for academic years 2023 to 2025).
- Demonstrates success in retaining and graduating students from disadvantaged backgrounds based on the total number/percentage of full-time enrollment during academic years 2022 to 2025 and new schools for academic years 2023 to 2025.

- Includes a strategic plan for outreach and collaborative efforts to involve key stakeholders (federal, state, local, national organizations, and/or other colleges and universities).
- Describes the way SDS funds will reduce barriers to student's access to education and graduation.
- Describes how you will provide educational support and training opportunities to encourage students to serve in primary care, rural, Tribal, and other medically vulnerable communities.
- Describe in detail how your proposed program funding and disbursement strategies and processes, including how you will prioritize eligible students who have the greatest financial need and are considered to have severe financial hardship.
- Describe how you will provide continued scholarships to current SDS scholarship recipients and how you will use available funds to support new eligible students.
- Describe a plan for how you will comply with the Department of Justice "[Guidance for Recipients of Federal Funding Regarding Unlawful Discrimination](#)," including unlawful proxy discrimination.

High-level work plan (15 points)

The panel will review your application for how well it:

- Describes activities that will address the problem and meet project objectives.
- Provides a detailed work plan that demonstrates your ability to implement a project of the proposed scope.
- Provides a timeline that includes planned activities and identifies the responsible individual(s) for each activity. As needed, identify how key stakeholders will help plan, design, and carry out all activities.
- Explains how you plan to achieve each objective during the period of performance.
- Includes a more detailed work plan in your Standardized Work Plan (SWP). See [Other required forms](#).

Resolution of challenges (5 points)

The panel will consider the extent to which your application:

- Discusses challenges that you are likely to encounter in designing and carrying out the activities in the work plan, including potential challenges with recruitment and retention.
- Explains approaches that you will use to resolve them.

Criterion 3: Performance Management (15 points)

See the project narrative [Performance reporting and evaluation](#) section.

The panel will review your application for:

Evaluation

5 points

- Overall approach and methodology to evaluate project results against goals and objectives and gain insights into program outcomes and impact.

Performance measurement

10 points

- A clear plan to collect and manage data to ensure accurate and timely performance.
- Demonstrate how you anticipate evaluation obstacles and propose how to address those obstacles.
- A process to collect, manage, store, and report NPI numbers for eligible participants.
- The ability to track trainees after program completion for up to one year.

Criterion 4: Impact (10 points)

See the project narrative [High-level work plan](#) and [Sustainability](#) sections.

The panel will review your application for:

- How effective the proposed project is likely to be.
- How strong of a public health impact it is likely to have.
- How likely the project results could be national in scope.
- How easy it will be to replicate project activities.
- How well it describes the challenges in sustaining the program. This includes the quality of your plan to resolve challenges.
- How likely the program will continue beyond the federal funding.

Criterion 5: Resources and capabilities (10 points)

See the project narrative [Organizational information](#) and [Performance reporting and evaluation](#) sections.

The panel will review your application to determine the extent to which:

- Project staff have the training or experience to carry out the project.
- It demonstrates your capabilities to fulfill the needs of the proposed project, including following the approved plan, accounting for federal funds, and recording all costs to avoid audit findings.
- It identifies adequate faculty and staff available to fulfill the needs of the proposed project.
- It proposes a plan to make sure participants and stakeholders are aware that SDS funding is provided by HRSA.
- You will partner with organizations to fulfill the program goal and meet the program objectives.
- You have the capacity to gather, manage, and use data.

Criterion 6: Support requested (10 points)

See the [Budget and budget narrative](#) section.

The panel will review your application to determine:

- How reasonable the proposed budget is for each year of performance.
- How reasonable the costs are and how well they align with the project's scope.
- Whether key staff have enough time to work on the project to meet project goal and objectives.

We do not consider **voluntary** cost sharing during merit review.

Risk review

Before making an award, we review your award history to assess risk. We need to ensure all prior awards were managed well and demonstrated sound business practices. We:

- Review any applicable past performance.
- Review audit reports and findings.
- Analyze the budget.
- Assess your management systems.
- Ensure you continue to be eligible.
- Make sure you comply with any public policies.

We may ask you to submit additional information.

As part of this review, we use SAM.gov Entity Information [Responsibility/Qualification](#) to check your history for all awards likely to be more than \$250,000 over the period of performance. You can comment on your organization's information in SAM.gov. We'll consider your comments before making a decision about your level of risk.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see [2 CFR 200.206](#).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- The amount of available funds.
- Assessed risk.
- Alignment with [HRSA Mission and Strategic Priorities](#).
- Merit review results. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.

We may:

- Consider the larger portfolio of agency-funded projects, including project type and geographic distribution.
- Consider the funding priorities, funding preferences, or special considerations listed.
- Fund out of rank order.
- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.

- Decide not to allow a recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

Additionally, we may not make an award if you are delinquent on two or more Single Audit Reports.

You cannot appeal a denial, or the amount of funds awarded.

Funding priorities

This program includes one or more funding priorities, based on Section 737(c) of the PHS Act. A funding priority adds points to merit review scores if we determine that the application meets the listed criteria. Qualifying for a funding priority does not guarantee that your application will be successful.

Refer to the Scholarships For Disadvantaged Students Program Specific Form located in grants.gov application package for specific directions.

HRSA staff will review the funding **priority** submission and report the results to the peer review committee. Applications that meet the criteria for **priority**, will have additional points added to the final score assigned by the peer review committee. Applicants may qualify for one or more of the following priority points.

Priority 1: Proportion of graduates going into primary care (2 Points)

We will give you a funding priority if:

at least 15 percent of graduates were practicing in primary care during academic years 2022 to 2025.

- For allopathic and osteopathic medicine: Use graduate data from academic years 2018 to 2021.
- For dentistry, dental hygiene, graduate nursing, certified nursing and non-nursing graduate degrees in midwifery, physician assistants, and mental and behavioral health practitioners: Use graduate data from academic years 2021 to 2024.

Priority 2: Proportion of graduates working in rural, Tribal, and other MUCs (2 Points)

We will give you a funding priority if:

at least 10 percent of graduates are practicing in rural, Tribal, and other medically vulnerable communities during academic years 2022 to 2025.

- For allopathic and osteopathic medicine: Use graduates from academic years 2018 to 2021 and are currently practicing in primary care after their residency (2022 to 2025).
- For all other disciplines: Use graduates from academic years 2021 to 2024.

Priority 3: Proportion of graduates who are underrepresented minority students (URMs) (2 Points)

We will give you a funding priority if:

at least 5 percent of full-time students are underrepresented minority students (URMs) during academic years 2022 to 2025. (Please note scholarships cannot be disbursed to students based on their race or ethnicity, rather they must be awarded to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and to students for whom the costs of attending the schools would constitute severe financial hardship.)

Priority 4: Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA) (2 points)

We will give you a funding priority if:

your institution is located within a HPSA. You must provide the address of your institution and submit documentation confirming your location within a designated HPSA (Attachment 6). Use the [Health Workforce Shortage Areas website](#) to verify HPSA status.

Table: Funding Priority Table

Priority Type	Priority Points
Graduating Students Practicing in Primary Care To be eligible for this priority, applicants must have a certain percentage of their graduates enter service in primary care.	2 points for 15 percent or more graduates entering primary care
Graduates Working in rural, Tribal, and other medically vulnerable communities To be eligible for this priority, applicants must have a certain percentage of their graduates enter service in a medically vulnerable community.	2 points for 10 percent or more serving in a medically vulnerable community
Underrepresented minority (URM) To be eligible for this priority, applicants must have a certain percentage of underrepresented minorities in their student population.	2 points for 5 percent or more URMs
Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) To be eligible for this priority, applicants must be located in a HPSA.	2 points

Other

Special Consideration

HRSA will distribute SDS program funding in a manner consistent with the promotion of career entry into health professions projected to experience the most severe national and subnational workforce shortages, as determined by the National Center of Health Workforce Analysis. This program includes special considerations imposed by statute and to meet health workforce needs ([Federal Register](#)).

HRSA will apply the following special considerations in allocating SDS program funding:

- Not less than 16 percent of funds shall be distributed to schools of nursing.
- Not more than 30 percent of funds shall be distributed to graduate programs in mental/behavioral health.

- Not more than 15 percent of funds shall be distributed to allied health programs.
- No less than \$5,000,000 of funds shall be distributed to nursing and non-nursing midwives' programs (minimum funding), as directed by the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026.

Qualifying for special consideration does not guarantee that you will receive funding. To achieve the distribution of awards as stated, we may need to fund out of rank order.

Award notices

We issue Notices of Award (NOA) on or around the start date listed in the NOFO. See “how we make awards” in [Step 4 of the How to Apply – Application Guide](#) for more information.

By drawing down funds, you accept the terms and conditions of the award.

Step 5: Submit Your Application

Application submission and deadlines

Your organization's authorized official must certify your application. Make sure you have everything you need. See [Step 5 in the How to Apply – Application Guide](#) for more detailed information on submitting your application.

Font: A readable font like Arial, Courier, CG Times, or Times New Roman

File format: We only accept the following document formats:

- .PDF - Adobe Portable Document Format
- .DOC/.DOCX - Microsoft Word
- .RTF - Rich Text Format or .TXT - Text
- .WPD - Word Perfect Document
- .XLS/.XLSX - Microsoft Excel
- .VSD - Microsoft Visio

Size: 12-point font

Footnotes, charts, graphics, and budget tables may be 10-point or higher.

Ink color: Black

Spacing: Single-spaced, including all text and tables

Alignment: Left

Headings: Bold all headings and align left.

Size: 8.5 x 11 (Make sure the print area is set and allows printing to 8.5 x 11.)

Margins: 1-inch on all sides

Footer: On each page as the footer, include your organization's name and page numbers. If a competing continuation or competing supplement, also include your 10-digit award number.

Page numbering:

- Do not number the standard OMB-approved forms.

- Number each attachment page sequentially (that is, 1, 2, 3).
- Reset the numbering for each attachment.
- Treat each attachment as a separate section.

File names: You can find guidance for naming your files in the [How to Apply – Application Guide](#).

Application deadline

You must submit your application by 07/28/2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives applications.

If you need a deadline extension, see “[requesting a deadline waiver](#)” in [Step 5 of the How to Apply – Application Guide](#).

Submission method

Grants.gov

You must submit your application through Grants.gov. You may do so using Grants.gov Workspace. This is the preferred method. For alternative online methods, see [Applicant System-to-System](#).

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Make sure that your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks, or we may not get it. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files.

If Grants.gov rejects your application due to errors, you must correct and resubmit before the deadline.

If you want to know more about [correcting errors or tracking your application](#), you can refer to [Step 5 in the How to Apply in the Application Guide](#).

Have questions? Go to [Contacts and Support](#).

Other submissions

Intergovernmental review

This NOFO is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. No action is needed.

Step 6: Learn What Happen After Award

Post-award requirements and administration

Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you need to know if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award.
- The regulations at [2 CFR 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, modifications at 2 CFR 300, or any superseding regulations.
- The [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#). This document is incorporated by reference in your Notice of Award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.

- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements.
- See the requirements for performance management in [2 CFR 200.301](#).
- All anti-discrimination laws: By applying for or accepting federal funds from HHS, you certify compliance with all federal antidiscrimination laws and these requirements. Complying with those laws is a material condition of receiving federal funding streams. You are responsible for ensuring subrecipients, contractors, and partners also comply.

Required Alignment with HRSA Mission and Strategic Priorities

Recipients must use funds awarded under this NOFO to implement program goals or agency priorities in accordance with the HRSA [vision, mission, core values, and strategic priorities](#), where authorized by law.

In administering programs under this and all funding announcements, HRSA prioritizes:

- **Evidence-based healthcare:** Funding activities supported by rigorous scientific evidence, particularly for programs serving children and adolescents, where HRSA is committed to approaches that reflect the highest standards of clinical care and child safety.
- **Biological and physiological integrity:** Recognizing the relevance of biological sex to health outcomes, HRSA encourages applicants to account for sex-based health factors in program design, data collection, and service delivery where scientifically appropriate.

HRSA will implement these priorities consistent with applicable laws, regulations, court orders, and all required administrative procedures. Applicants are encouraged to describe how their proposed programs align with these priorities in their project narratives.

Funded activities must advance HRSA's vision of protecting and improving the health and well-being of Americans. The particular focus is on those who are medically vulnerable, or live in areas with limited access to care. HRSA's duty is to serve wisely, effectively, and with measurable results that justify every taxpayer dollar invested.

Consistent with HRSA's priorities, in carrying out any project funded under this NOFO, the recipient must adhere to the following principles, where they are consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

- **Gold standard science:** Design and deliver services using gold standard evidence-based and evidence-informed approaches, establish measurable performance goals, and use data to monitor outcomes and drive continuous improvement.
- **Program integrity and fiscal stewardship:** Recipients must:
 - Administer funds in accordance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and award conditions.
 - Maintain strong internal controls.
 - Prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.
- **Partnership and local leadership:** Coordinate with state, tribal, territorial, local, and community partners, as appropriate, and tailor services to meet community-identified needs while respecting local decision-making authority.

Recipients must manage any project awarded under this NOFO in accordance with the following objectives in programs authorized to advance them:

Make America Healthy Again (MAHA): HRSA prioritizes the health and well-being of all Americans by supporting common-sense, evidence-based health policies that promote:

- Personal responsibility.
- Strong families and communities.
- Proper nutrition.
- The prevention and management of chronic disease, while ensuring access to high-quality, affordable physical and mental health care.

Child protections, biological integrity, parental rights, and lawful use of funds: HRSA prioritizes safeguarding children's health and safety by:

- Not supporting medical interventions for gender dysphoria in minors that lack a strong evidence base.
- Applying sex-based definitions grounded in biological reality.
- Supporting parental authority, transparency, and choice in education, including school-based health centers that respect parental rights and religious upbringing.
- Ensuring taxpayer funds are not used to promote or support elective abortions, consistent with federal law and the Hyde Amendment.

Advancing evidence-based, merit-driven, and ethically grounded health care: HRSA will prioritize unbiased, transparent science; merit-based workforce opportunities; and programs that demonstrate measurable outcomes, while deprioritizing organizations with:

- Conflicts of interest.
- "Harm reduction" models.
- Housing-first approaches.
- Activities that facilitate illegal drug use or unsafe medical practices.

Promoting public safety, lawful use of federal funds, and national health priorities: To the extent permitted by law, HRSA will align funding with administration priorities by:

- Supporting ending the HIV epidemic through authorized, evidence-based care.
- Reserving benefits for eligible individuals.
- Discouraging illegal immigration and unsafe community practices.
- Prioritizing recipients that enforce public safety, address serious mental illness and substance use through treatment and recovery, and reduce homelessness responsibly.

To the extent allowable by law, under awards, HRSA will give priority to states and municipalities for programs to:

- Enforce prohibitions on open illicit drug use.
- Enforce prohibitions on urban camping and loitering.
- Enforce prohibitions on urban squatting.
- Enforce, and where necessary, adopt, standards that address individuals who are a danger to themselves or others and suffer from serious mental illness or substance use disorder,

or who are living on the streets and cannot care for themselves. The approach must be through assisted outpatient treatment or by moving them into treatment centers or other appropriate facilities through civil commitment or other available means, to the maximum extent permitted by law.

HRSA will implement these priorities consistent with applicable laws, regulations, court orders, and any required procedures.

The recipient must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these priorities, in all programs that are authorized to advance them, through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation.

Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with the applicable requirements may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, or other actions consistent with federal grant regulations at [2 CFR Part 200](#) and the terms and conditions of this award. This includes termination under [2 CFR § 200.340\(a\)\(4\)](#) if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.

Cybersecurity

- If awarded, you must develop plans and procedures, modeled after the NIST Cybersecurity framework, to protect HHS systems and data. See [details here](#).

Successful applicants under this NOFO agree that:

Where award funding involves:	Recipients and subrecipients are required to:
Implementing, acquiring, or upgrading health IT for activities funded by any entity	Use health IT that meets standards and implementation specifications adopted in 45 CFR 170, Subpart B, if such standards and implementation specifications can support the activity. Visit to 45 CFR 170, Subpart B learn more.
Implementing, acquiring, or upgrading health IT for activities by eligible clinicians in ambulatory settings, or hospitals, eligible under Sections 4101, 4102, and 4201 of the HITECH Act	Use health IT certified under the ONC Health IT Certification Program if certified technology can support the activity. Visit https://www.healthit.gov/topic/certification-ehrs/certification-health-it to learn more.

If standards and implementation specifications adopted in [45 CFR part 170, Subpart B](#) cannot support the activity, recipients and subrecipients are encouraged to use health IT that meets non-proprietary standards and implementation specifications developed by consensus-based standards development organizations. This may include standards identified in the ONC Interoperability Standards Advisory, available at <https://www.healthit.gov/isp/>.

Reporting

If you are successful, you will have to follow the reporting requirements in Section 4 of the [R&R Application Guide](#). The NOA will provide specific details.

- Progress report(s) each year

- Annual performance reports.
- All HRSA recipients must collect and report performance data so that HRSA can meet its obligations under the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRMA) and the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018.
- The Annual Performance Report (APR) collects data on all academic year activities from July 1 to June 30. It is due to HRSA on July 31 each year. If award activity extends beyond June 30 in the final year of the grant, HRSA may require a Final Performance Report (FPR) to collect the remaining performance data. The FPR is due within 120 calendar days after the period of performance ends.
- You can find examples of APRs at [Report on Your Grant](#) on the HRSA website. Performance measures and reporting forms may change each academic year. HRSA will provide additional information in the Notice of Award (NOA).

Contacts and Support

Agency contacts

Program and eligibility

Tamara Barbee

Public Health Analyst, Health Careers Pipeline Branch

Attn:

Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)

Bureau of Health Workforce

Health Resources and Services Administration

SDSProgram@hrsa.gov

301-443-6752

Financial and budget

Reginal Baker

Grants Management Specialist Division of Grants Management Operations Office of Financial Assistance and Acquisition Management (OFAAM) Health Resources and Services Administration

Rbaker@hrsa.gov

301-945-3937

HRSA Contact Center

Open Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET, except for federal holidays.

Call: 877-464-4772 / 877-Go4-HRSA

TTY: 877-897-9910

[Electronic Handbooks Contact Center](#)

Help with systems

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. You can call 800-518-4726, search the [Grants.gov Knowledge Base](#), or [email Grants.gov for support](#). Hold on to your ticket number.

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can call 866-606-8220 or live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

Helpful websites

- [How to Apply – Application Guide](#)
- [HRSA Grants page](#)
- [HHS Tips for Preparing Grant Proposals](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Applicant Training](#)

The following definitions apply to the program for Fiscal Year 2026.

- **Financial need** is the cost of attendance minus Student Aid Index minus Pell Grants. [Calculate Financial Need | Federal Student Aid](#)
- **Independent** The designation determined from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). [Independent Student | Federal Student Aid](#)
- **Nonprofit** refers to the status of an entity owned and operated by one or more corporations or associations no part of the net earnings of which inures, or may lawfully inure, to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

program-specific definitions

Footnotes

[\[1\]](#) “Health Professions Training Programs” dashboard, Health Resources and Services Administration, 2026