

Request for Applications: Conversion/Construction of New Rural Psychiatric and/or Substance Use Beds

Questions and Answers

Submitted by December 16, 2016

Number	QUESTION	ANSWERS
1	Our hospital is in xxxxxx Co., which is designated urban/metropolitan. Will you please clarify the criteria for the last column on the right. We have surrounding counties that have rural designation. Would we be eligible to apply for these funds?	The legislation says the hospital must be in a rural area, that is, a rural county. If that rural hospital wants to convert or construct new beds in an adjoining county that has a population of 60,000 or more, and which beds would be under the same license as the facility in the rural county, the hospital would be eligible to apply.
2	<p>Since the RFA says “Hospitals shall be located in rural (non-metropolitan) county, as defined at “</p> <p>When I go to the census website... both metro and micro locations are identified... am I correct in assuming that only those identified as metro areas are NOT eligible?</p>	<p>Thanks for bringing to our attention the difficulty with using the census bureau link.</p> <p>As you will see, that link has been deleted, and replaced by a map and table in Appendix C.</p>
3	If those counties identified in the metropolitan area on the census excel spreadsheet cannot apply, that includes a lot of counties that I would consider rural, and that the NC Rural Center considers rural ...	We appreciate your concern about some counties not making the list of rural counties. However, the legislation references the US census, and NC DMHDDSAS uses the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Office of Management and Budget as the data source for population info.
4	<p>...but now am confused about the county with 60K+ population located adjacent to a rural county...</p> <p>Can these counties apply??? Can a hospital in [non-rural] county apply? Or does</p>	<p>See answer to question 1 above.</p> <p>The legislation includes language that addresses the hospital license issue. Click on the link to the legislation under 1.0 INTRODUCTION, on p. 3 in</p>

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	<p>this mean a hospital in an adjacent rural county like xxxxx... can apply to locate the an inpatient psychiatric facility in [non-rural] county under the [rural county] Hospital License ???</p> <p>I did not think the hospital's license could cross county lines???</p>	<p>the RFA, then, in S.L. 2016-94, HB 1030, search for Dorothea Dix Property Fund (p. 87). In Section 12F.4.(c) the legislation includes the phrase, "as enacted in section 12G.3." Section 12G.3.(a)-(b) addresses Facilities Included Under Single Hospital License.</p>
5	<p>Page 6, item number 3 of the RFA states that the hospital will convert or construct a sufficient number of beds to establish or increase the hospital's inventory of licensed and operational, short-term psychiatric and/or substance use inpatient beds to 18.</p> <p>Does this requirement mean that hospitals that already have 18 or more psych beds are not eligible?</p>	<p>Any hospital that meets the eligibility criteria described in Section 2.0 Eligibility will be eligible to apply. If a hospital is eligible and develops an application to submit for the Dorothea Dix Property funding, the application will be judged on how well it meets "the intent of the General Assembly to increase short-term, inpatient behavioral health bed capacity in rural areas of the State with the highest need" in general and the requirements outlined in Section 5.0 Scope of Work and its subsections 5.1 – 5.7. A hospital that is eligible to apply and that currently has 18 psychiatric and/or substance use inpatient beds is not disqualified from applying or potentially being selected for an award. http://bit.ly/2hvU8w0</p>
6	<p>The eligibility statement 2.0.4 – does that mean a rural county hospital needs to provide</p>	<p>The proposed new psychiatric/substance use inpatient hospital beds may be</p>

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	<p>licensed beds to an adjacent county with a population of at least 60,000 people who will develop the additional beds – or, can the adjacent county with a population of at least 60,000 develop the additional beds? Specifically, can XXXX county (XXXX Medical Center), which is adjacent to XXXXX, make an application?</p>	<p>in a hospital within rural county, or may be located in the rural hospital's adjoining county with a population of 60,000 or more. However, the Legislation requires that the proposed new beds in the adjoining county must be under the same license as the hospital's facility in the rural county. (See Section 2.0 Eligibility, p. 4, no. 4)</p>
7	<p>How many expected beds to convert are required, is there a minimum and a maximum?</p>	<p>The hospital's application must propose that it will "convert and/or construct a sufficient number of beds to establish or increase the hospital's inventory of licensed and operational, short-term psychiatric and/or substance use inpatient beds to 18." (See Section 5.0 Scope of Work, p. 6, no. 3)</p>
8	<p>To assure a robust therapeutic milieu, will the grant fund the conversion of an entire wing to allow for group rooms, common areas etc. in addition to the actual patient rooms?</p>	<p>The intent of the Legislation and this RFA is to increase the number of beds. Applications will be judged on how closely they meet this intent.</p>
9	<p>Can we decompress an existing psychiatric floor by moving patient rooms to the new unit along with converted beds and will this be funded- again to assure that the milieu is robust with the appropriate amount of patients?</p>	<p>The intent of the Legislation and this RFA is to increase the number of beds. Applications will be judged on how closely they meet this intent.</p>
10	<p>Will the grant fund any outdoor space (ie courtyard) for patient access?</p>	<p>The intent of the Legislation and this RFA is to increase the number of beds. Applications will be judged on how closely they meet this intent.</p>
11	<p>Do we have to convert bed for bed , ie one less licensed med bed for one new psych bed, or if we have physical space can we</p>	<p>The Legislation and the RFA allow for either conversion of existing acute medical beds into psychiatric/substance use inpatient beds or construction</p>

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	add psych beds without reducing licensed medical bed?	of new beds, or both. (See Section 2.0 Eligibility, p. 4)
12	The RFA states that hospitals should increase bed inventory to 18. If we already have 33 licensed psych beds can we expand with less than 18 beds?	The hospital's application must propose that it will "convert and/or construct a sufficient number of beds to establish or increase the hospital's inventory of licensed and operational, short-term psychiatric and/or substance use inpatient beds to 18." (See Section 5.0 Scope of Work, p. 6, no. 3). An application that proposes exceeding an 18-bed inventory is not disqualified from applying or potentially being selected for an award.
13	The RFA states that hospitals must be accredited by Joint Commission. We are accredited by DNV. Are we eligible to apply?	Yes, any accreditation program for hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, and critical access hospitals that is currently approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is acceptable for this RFA.
14	Although we reviewed the link included in the RFA, can you verify which of the following hospitals/locations qualify?	Prior to receipt of the hospital's application, DMHDDSAS will not advise the hospital on its eligibility to apply. In order to apply, a hospital simply must meet the eligibility criteria specified in Section 2.0 Eligibility (p. 4).
	Is there any penalty to decline after awarded?	No. A hospital that is offered an award may decline to accept the award prior to signing a DHHS - proffered contract. Once a contract has been executed, the hospital would be committed to the requirements of that agreement.
15	Can beds be converted within this project in more than one hospital/geographic area of the region?	An applicant hospital may propose to convert or construct beds in the hospital's rural county and/or in an adjoining county with a population of

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		60,000 or more, as long as the beds in the adjoining county are under the same hospital license as the beds in the rural county.
16	Can the minimum number of operating beds of 18 include currently operated psychiatric beds at a facility? Is there a regional cap at 18?	The hospital's application must propose that it will "convert and/or construct a sufficient number of beds to establish or increase the hospital's inventory of licensed and operational, short-term psychiatric and/or substance use inpatient beds to 18." (See Section 5.0 Scope of Work, p. 6, no. 3). An application that proposes exceeding an 18-bed inventory is not disqualified from applying or potentially being selected for an award.
17	At what point will the actual available dollars be made known? (I.e. Are there any projected fund amounts for each award? Or for the 3 regions?)	The Anticipated Notice of Award is March 3, 2017 (p. 1 of the RFA) There are currently no projected fund amounts for each award or for the 3 regions.
18	Since there is no description available re: award dollar amounts - what happens if the funds requested in the budget submitted cannot be provided? Will there be any discussion? If we planned to expand services in 2-3 areas and those dollars are submitted, will there be discussion re: available funds/decreasing projected locations?	Applications should be submitted and will be judged and scored for individual hospitals; that is, <u>one application per single hospital, not one application for multiple hospitals within an organization or corporation.</u> The Assessment of Need(s) is intended to address the needs and information specific to an individual hospital and its surrounding community. The awards will be made to and based on the merits of applications by individual hospitals.
19	On page 13 - C. 4: "Brief overview of all services	Section 12.0 Application Content and Instructions

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	provided by the Contractor within the last five years". Does this refer only to Behavioral Health services?	C.3 seeks a description of "contractor's experience with providing psychiatric and substance use assessment or treatment..." C.4 seeks a description of all other services that have been provided per any contractual agreements.
20	If awarded, would we be obligated to continue services, once the beds are funded and operational? For example, what if we decide to close funded beds if deemed to be unsustainable?	The application must address the hospital's plan for sustaining the beds beyond the award period. See Section 12.0 Application Content and Instructions (p. 15, I.) a. Must describe the financial and staffing resources that will sustain the operation of the new psychiatric and substance use beds. b. Must include the <u>written commitments</u> regarding future admissions to the new beds, as identified in 5.1 Programmatic Requirements and Priorities.