



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Mississippi Rural Hospital Loan Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Rural Hospital Loan Program?

House Bill 365, adopted by the Mississippi State Legislature in its regular 2022 session, authorized the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) to establish the Mississippi Rural Hospital Loan Program (MRHLP). The program is a revolving loan fund for rural hospitals in Mississippi with the overall goal of providing needed direct health care services in rural areas. The program is administered by the Mississippi Office of Rural Health and Primary Care.

APPLICATION PROCESS & ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible for program participation?

Eligible applicants for MRHLP are licensed hospitals that have fifty (50) or fewer licensed general acute, non-specialty beds. The applicant must also be in good financial condition prior to application submission.

What information is required prior to application submission?

An eligible applicant must submit a current financial audit showing good financial condition, a Letter of Good Standing from the Secretary of State's Office, and an official Letter of Intent stating the applicant's intent to apply for the program.

The Letter of Intent should include a detailed description of the project and purpose for applying for the loan to determine program eligibility, the proposed financing structure and collateral requirements, and any other terms of the applicant's proposed project.

Where should I submit the application?

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

FAQs

What is the submission deadline?

Depending on fund availability, applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.

How much is the application fee?

An application fee of \$1,000 is due at the time of submission of the completed application. The application review will be postponed until receipt of full payment.

How may I submit the application fee?

The application fee may be directly mailed to the address listed below:

Attn: Mississippi Office of Rural Health and Primary Care
Mississippi State Department of Health
570 East Woodrow Wilson Drive
P.O. Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39215-1700

What is the application evaluation criteria?

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria: geographic location, hospital affiliation status, percentage of full-time employees, number of total licensed beds, and financial need.

Who is considered a full-time employee?

A full-time employee is a person employed by the rural hospital for a minimum of thirty-five (35) hours per week. Temporary, temp-to-hire workers, part-time workers, or traveling medical professionals are NOT considered full-time employees.

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

Only one award can be distributed per provider; however, funds may be used across multiple facilities. Applicants should follow the standard IRS determination process.

How many applications can my hospital/hospital system submit?

Grant applicants are limited to one (1) application per business entity as determined by the applicant's attestation and their business filing status with the Secretary of State.

FAQs

Subsidiaries of the entity are not eligible to submit separate applications. Health systems that affiliate, own or control multiple clinics are only eligible to submit one (1) application under the parent entity.

What should I do after my application is submitted?

Upon receipt of the application and fees, program staff will submit a staff analysis and the loan documents to the Advisory Committee to make a final recommendation for loan approval. Additional information, if needed, will be obtained via email or telephone. If the application is approved, a loan agreement will be executed between MSDH and the applicant. Applicants will be notified in writing of all decisions.

Upon approval, a commitment letter will be emailed to the borrower using the RHLP@msdh.ms.gov email address.

What information is required for the MSDH agreements?

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

Loan Terms

What are the eligible costs for the program?

Funds may be used to maintain or upgrade rural hospital facilities, maintain or increase current staff, or provide services not currently available to citizens. One hundred percent (100%) of the project costs must be incurred within one (1) year of the loan approval.

The loan may not be used to pay costs incurred before the approval of the loan application and may not be refinanced. Eligible spending may begin after approval of the loan by the Committee.

What are the loan amounts, matching investment, and job requirements?

Loan Amounts: Loan amounts may range from \$25,000 - \$100,000 per rural hospital facility. Terms will range between 5-20 years depending on the project type.

Matching Investments: No match is required for this program.

FAQs

Job Requirements: The rural hospital must maintain eighty-five (85%) of its full-time employees on the date of loan approval annually throughout the term of the loan agreement.

What are the interest rates and terms?

Interest Rates: The rate of interest shall be fixed to or equal to one percent (1%) per annum.

Loan Terms: The loan terms shall not exceed twenty (20) years, subject to the life of the collateral for the loan. Loan terms and conditions are determined by MSDH.

Closing Fee: A commitment/closing fee of one percent (1%) with a minimum of \$1,000.00 is due prior to the Committee Approval. The borrower is responsible for expenses of counsel to the Department deemed necessary for the preparation of the loan documents.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

What are the programs reporting requirements?

Financials and status reports will be required annually, and at any other frequency requested by MSDH to monitor the loan and projects for compliance with the program requirements.

VENDOR REGISTRATION

Where are the registration requirements?

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

Who to contact for vendor registration?

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

FAQs

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

CONTACT US

Who should I contact for more information?

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

Phone: (601) 576-7216

Email: RHLP@msdh.ms.gov