

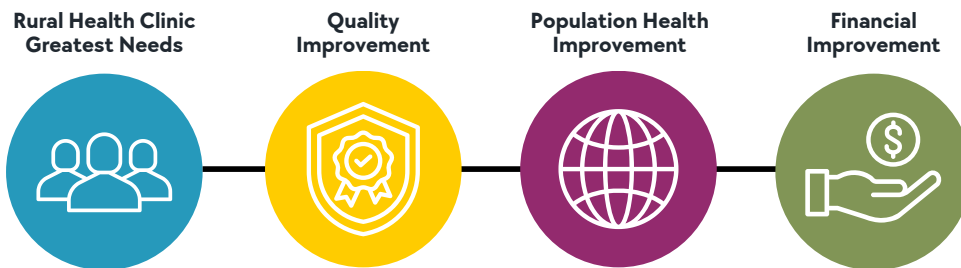
Rural Health Innovation Micro Funding Program

The Rural Health Innovation Micro Funding Program (RHIMFP) supports Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) in strengthening care delivery for rural communities. This cohort-based program combines small-scale funding with peer learning, technical assistance, and practical tools to drive improvements in quality of care, operations, and community health.

Participants use existing data to identify priorities, design targeted improvement projects, and implement measurable changes.

The program's goal is to equip rural providers with the skills and support needed to enhance care and improve the health of the communities they serve.

PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS



Awards range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per awarded proposal.

Eligible rural facilities are welcome to submit multiple proposals to any of the micro funding focus areas.

Application cycles are open annually on **JULY 1ST**

If you are interested in funding outside of this cohort cycle, please reach out to us at the Washington State Office of Rural Health

RuralHealth@doh.wa.gov



FOCUS AREAS

RHC Greatest Needs

Supports RHCs in identifying and addressing their most pressing organizational challenge. Projects may focus on leadership development, quality improvement, workforce shortages, or improving access. Applicants define the priority, develop a solution, and may collaborate with community partners. (CAHs may apply for their provider-based RHCs.)

CAH Quality Improvement

Focuses on using data to drive measurable improvement. Projects must identify performance gaps, define process/output/outcome measures, test changes (e.g., PDSA cycles), and report results—even if outcomes are not successful.

CAH Population Health

Supports projects that improve community health outcomes through data-informed strategies and required collaboration with external partners. Applicants must identify key social drivers of health and work with community organizations to implement solutions.

Financial Improvement

Helps RHCs and CAHs strengthen financial stability. Projects assess key financial metrics, identify improvement opportunities, and implement best practices to improve financial performance.

Eligibility

All Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and designated Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) in Washington State may apply. Applicants may partner with community organizations.

Proposal Expectations

- Define a clear improvement need supported by data
- Implement an intervention to address the need
- Collect and analyze data to evaluate impact
- Determine next steps (adopt, adapt, or test a new approach)

Participation and Reporting Requirements

- Attend peer learning cohort meetings
- Submit a brief mid-project progress update
- Complete a final report and a one-page summary at the conclusion of the project



Sample Program Application

Problem & Background

Describe the issue you aim to improve, supported by available data. Include what data shows the problem's significance and what additional data you plan to collect.

Project Overview

Provide a brief summary of the project, including scope, key activities, and a high-level timeline with milestones.

Goals & Objectives

List clear goals and objectives (SMART if possible). If these will be developed during the project, note that.

Evaluation & Measurement

Explain how you will measure success, including process, output, and outcome measures. If final outcome data won't be available, describe how progress will be assessed.

Required for population health; optional for others:

Social Drivers of Health

Explain the problem and how your project addresses social drivers of health. Describe the expected impact on health outcomes.

Community Participation & Collaboration

Identify current or potential community partners, their roles, and how they will contribute. If partners are not yet confirmed, describe how you will identify and engage them.

Application cycles are open annually on **JULY 1ST**

If you have questions about this program, or are interested in funding outside of this cohort cycle, please reach out to us at the
Washington State Office of Rural Health

RuralHealth@doh.wa.gov

