

Rural Learning and Coordinating Center CFP FAQ

FAQs below were developed in response to question we have received, and are being shared publicly by way of this document.

1. How does RWJF define rural for the purposes of the Rural Learning and Coordinating Center grant?

We recognize that there are many federal, state and other definitions of “rural” that use different methods of classifying what constitutes a rural area, usually framed around geography or population density, and often don’t capture important cultural or other characteristics of a place in defining whether or not a particular place is “rural” or not.

For the purposes of the Rural Learning and Coordinating Center grant, we are taking a broad view of rural, inclusive of any place that defines itself as rural and/or meets any of the federal definitions of rural.

Most importantly, however, this grant opportunity is not intended to fund individual rural communities directly. This call for proposals is seeking a single grantee with national mission, reach and influence to serve as a national learning and coordinating center across issues and efforts relevant to this broad frame of “rural” places.

2. What types of organizations are eligible for this grant?

Preference will be given to applicants that are either public entities or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are not private foundations or Type III supporting organizations. The Foundation may require additional documentation.

3. Are you open to a collaborative, or does the applicant have to be a single entity?

Awards will be made to an organization, not to an individual. Two or more organizations may partner to serve as the Center, with one organization serving as the lead and engaging the other organization(s) through a subcontract or grant.

4. I am having trouble registering for the informational webinar. Ring Central is asking for a code to register for the webinar.

There is no re-registration required. You will not be able to register or enter the webinar until the webinar is started on the date and time that it has been scheduled for. Please save the date on your calendar, and re-enter at the time the webinar is scheduled for.

5. How much emphasis will be placed on the qualifications of the lead applicant versus on all partners on a single application?

The qualifications of all partners will be considered together, and will be considered (especially in phase 2) in light of the respective roles of each organization, and the way the collaboration is designed. With that said, the qualifications of the lead applicant will take precedence, and that organization should be one that can “hold the whole” of the project, while the various partners would likely bring specific depth in gap areas regarding skills, expertise or relationships.

- a. **For example, does it matter if the lead applicant is practice-focused if other partners are research focused?**

It would be an appropriate option for the lead applicant to be practice-focused, with other partners being research focused. But that's certainly not the only approach.

- b. **Does it matter if the lead applicant is focused on particular types of rural communities or actors if other partners help expand the focus and reach nationally?**

Given that it is unlikely that any single organization deeply engages all types of rural communities and actors, it would be appropriate for partners to help expand the focus and reach nationally. Having said that, it would likely not make sense for the lead applicant to have a deeply defined, narrow type of rural community that it has historically focused on, but rather a framing of rural that is broad and inclusive enough that others could easily see themselves included in a natural expansion of that lead applicants work moving forward.

6. **Will the grantee and/or partners awarded the grant to serve as the Rural Learning and Coordinating Center be eligible to receive the grants for future CFPs that the Center will be involved in shaping?**

No. The grantee and partners leading the Rural Learning and Coordinating Center work will not be eligible to receive the grants that are identified through future CFPs that the Center will be involved in shaping. They will not be disqualified from potentially receiving other grants in the future, as appropriate.

Whether or not affiliates of the grantees and partners leading the Center can apply is an issue that would be assessed on a case by case basis. For example, if the grantee or partner is a school within a university system, it may be possible for a faculty member at another school at that university to apply for grants awarded under CFPs developed by the Center.

7. **Can an organization "bid" on multiple Statements of Qualifications if they are not prime? That is, can we partner on more than one application?**

Yes.