

Telehealth Technology Pilot Q&A

On March 31, 2015, the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) released an announcement for grant applications (Grant ID MHCC 15-001) entitled *Telehealth Technology Pilot*.¹ The MHCC received the below questions from potential applicants regarding this announcement. In an effort to provide transparency to all potential applicants, MHCC is making available our responses to all questions received below. This document will be updated as we receive and respond to further questions.

1. Question: Our biggest challenge is the deadline to get the matching 2:1 fund commitment. Are we able to submit a proposal while we are attempting to get this commitment?

Answer: Applicants need to have secured the 2:1 financial match by the time they submit the application.

2. Question: We are concerned that the term of the grant and due dates are not congruent with the school schedule. A June 10 implementation date is only a week before the school year ends. The pilot conclusion date of July 31 would not give us any time to implement our program while children are in school. Please consider offering a revised grant term and due dates for agencies proposing school-based programs.

Answer: We anticipate that implementation will take place between 6/10/2015 and 7/31/2015, and the pilot project would continue through March 2016. As noted in the announcement, grant tasks/due dates are tentative and subject to change at the discretion of MHCC, after discussion with the awardee. Additionally, applicants may propose an alternative timeline for MHCC's consideration.

3. Question: Our local health department has two specific needs for telehealth; one is for monitoring TB patients, and the other is for monitoring people who may have been exposed to the Ebola virus. I understand that we may not fall under the five use cases that are defined in the pilot, but I wanted to check just in case. Please let me know if our needs might fit the criteria of this grant.

Answer: Based on the information provided, the project does not appear to fit clearly in the five use cases listed in the grant announcement. However, applicants may submit an application proposing, in more detail, how their project might fit under one of the five use cases, among other things. All grant applications will be reviewed and scored based on the criteria listed in the grant announcement by a review panel.

¹ The announcement is available here:
http://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/procurement/documents/MHCC_Telehealth_Use_Case.pdf

4. Question: We are very interested in developing a project using health apps in our school population. Would a project addressing behavioral health risk behaviors through the use of smartphones and app technology qualify under your RFP?

Answer: Based on the definition of telehealth in the grant announcement and the information provided in the inquiry, the project may qualify under the grant announcement. Please note that the telehealth technology must be used in coordination with a health care practitioner, and the project must meet the requirements outlined in the grant announcement, including identification of at least three clinical goals of the pilot that are evaluated pre-and post-implementation of telehealth technology. Applicants may submit an application proposing, in more detail, how their project would use the telehealth technology. All grant applications will be reviewed and scored based on the criteria listed in the grant announcement by a review panel.

5. Question: For #4 in the listed use cases required for the grant application, must the deployment of telehealth in schools include all the health conditions listed?

Answer: For use case #4 listed in the grant announcement (*deploy telehealth in schools for applications including asthma management, diabetes, childhood obesity, behavioral health, and smoking cessation*), telehealth could be deployed for any of the five health conditions.

6. Question: Does the 2:1 match mean that we have to find \$60k in matching funds or \$15k?

Answer: Applicants are required to secure a 2:1 financial match; a \$30,000 grant award would require a \$60,000 match from the applicant.

7. Question: We are currently piloting and looking at expanding utilization of telemedicine in the ED for a variety of purposes. Our ED is using telemedicine to screen patients and contend with surge issues. We are not using it “during transport of critically ill patients to aid in preparation for receipt of patient” because that’s not an area of need at this time. Are we still eligible to apply?

Answer: Applicants may submit an application for the use of telehealth in hospital emergency departments, proposing, in more detail, how their project would use the telehealth technology in this setting. All grant applications will be reviewed and scored based on the criteria listed in the grant announcement by a review panel.

8. Question: We plan to seek IRB approval for the telehealth pilot project and are not sure if approval will be received in accordance with the timelines stated in the grant announcement. Is there any flexibility on the timelines?

Answer: Grant tasks/due dates are tentative and subject to change at the discretion of MHCC after discussion with the awardee, as stated in the grant announcement. Please note that a review panel will review and score all grant applications based on the criteria listed in the grant announcement.

9. Question: Can equipment that was purchased before a grant is awarded be reimbursed under the grant award amount or used as part of the match?

Answer: Equipment must be purchased after the grant award announcement has been made in order to be reimbursed under grant funds or used as part of the match.

10. Question: The grant states that *Clinical care hours attributed to work on the pilot are excluded from contribution to the match*. Can clinical care hours be applied to the grant award amount?

Answer: The grant award amount is not intended to cover clinical care hours.

11. Question: Are there examples of how to calculate the hourly rate for equipment? The equipment that would be purchased with grant funds will arrive assembled.

Answer: The hourly rate would apply to staff costs related to installing the equipment, which may occur even if the equipment arrives assembled.

12. Question: Do I need to send in two Attachment Bs? One for the award funds and a second one for the matching funds? Or Do I put them both on one form?

Answer: Only one Attachment B needs to be submitted, as there is room to indicate which funds are matching vs grant funds.

13. Question: Is the Unit Cost the same as the hourly rate?

Answer: The unit cost for staff time would be the hourly rate.