

West Virginia Critical Access Hospital Grant Program

Funding Priorities

In accordance with Federal guidance for Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (MRHFP) Grant Funds, the Office of Rural Health Policy has established the following priorities for Critical Access Hospital (CAH) - related projects.

Cost sharing will be encouraged. (monetary and/or in kind)

I. Development of Interested/Potential CAHs or facilities not yet certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) formerly Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)

- A. Community Needs Assessments (CNA) and Financial Feasibility Studies (FFS) for a facility that may reasonably be considered a potential CAH
 - 1. Completion of a CNA
 - a) See RHFP Application for Designation for requirements of CNA to consider contracting sections of the assessment process (See comments below regarding services of consultants)
 - 2. Completion of FFS
 - a) See RHFP Application for Designation for requirements of FFS to consider contracting FFS in sections
 - b) Costs should be affected by complexity of study i.e. presence of swing beds and distinct part unit(s)
 - 3. Update of CNA and/or FFS for a facility that previously completed such studies
 - a) Thorough justification of need will be expected in this category
- B. Technical Assistance related to CAH certification process as listed below:
 - 1. Legal services
 - 2. Technical assistance related to conversion issues
 - 3. Procedural manual changes
 - 4. Hospital board and staff training in CAH procedures and guidelines
- C. Equipment necessary to support CAH conversion

II. Support of Certified Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs certified by CMS)

- A. Quality Assurance Projects
 - 1. Information Services
 - 2. Quality Improvement
 - 3. Patient Satisfaction
- B. Integration of Emergency Medical Services
 - Planning and implementation activities
 - 1. Financial Feasibility Studies specific to EMS integration
 - 2. Legal fees
 - 3. Staff training costs associated with EMS integration (procedures and guidelines)
 - 4. Equipment necessary to support EMS integration
- C. Other Network Development Initiatives
 - 1. Projects that incorporate new partner(s) into Rural Health Network
 - 2. Projects that expand, enhance, and improve a particular service for the community
 - 3. Financial Feasibility Study related to network development initiatives
 - 4. Equipment related to network development initiatives