



*Health is a fundamental human right.*

Community Partners,

Empire Health Foundation is proud to partner with Premera Blue Cross on the announcement of the **Washington State Rural Facilities Capital Grants Partnership Fund**. The Fund is intended to support the advancement of quality healthcare in under-resourced communities by making grants to hospitals, clinics, health centers, and other healthcare providers in rural areas of Washington State. Grants will support equipment and small capital projects that rural healthcare facilities may have difficulty funding due to capital constraints. Investments in the infrastructure of rural clinics can contribute to increased access to services and improved quality of care for patients by adding new technology or equipment that may have been previously unavailable. Improvements to health facilities also have a proven positive impact on physician retention and recruitment.

The **Rural Facilities Capital Grants Partnership Fund** is designed to address one-time, urgent capital needs in rural Washington State that increase access to services and improve quality of care.

#### **Eligibility**

Eligible Organizations are defined as Critical Access Hospitals, Sole Community Hospitals, Community Health Centers, Tribal Clinics and Hospitals, Rural Health Clinics, Dental Clinics and Skilled Nursing Facilities in Rural Areas.

Rural Areas are defined as areas outside of urbanized areas that meet eligibility standards set by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. An organization can determine its eligibility through the [Am I Rural?](#) tool, which is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Eligible Projects are defined as short-term capital projects, including the purchase or upgrade of medical or dental equipment and technology, building renovations and restorations, furnishings, and appliances.

Grant Awards will be for \$25,000 up to \$100,000.

#### **Applications**

Online applications for the current cycle are available at <https://empirehealthgrants.smapply.org> and on our website. Click [here](#) to visit our grants page for additional information.

Applications will be evaluated on criteria including, but not limited to the readiness of the project, the organization's track record, fiscal management and capacity, active board and experienced staff, the facility's level of financial need, sources of financial support, and the project's benefit to the community that it serves. Preference will be given to projects that articulate an urgent and compelling need with the potential for positive community impact through increased access to services and improved quality of care.

Grants will not be considered for projects associated with core government functions, such as roads, utilities, and public safety; K-10 education; arts programming; general operations, including staffing,

administrative, indirect, or overhead costs; deficits or debt reduction; endowments; scholarships; fund-raising events or sponsorships; or reimbursement for items already purchased.

**Proposer's Support and Technical Assistance**

Empire Health Foundation will provide technical assistance to guide you in the completion of your application. Please email Rocio Caravantes Wofford at [rocio@empirehealthfoundation.org](mailto:rocio@empirehealthfoundation.org) or call 509-919-3046, or Jeri Rathbun at [jeri@empirehealthfoundation.org](mailto:jeri@empirehealthfoundation.org).

Sincerely,

Empire Health Foundation, Premera Blue Cross & Philanthropy in Action\*

*\* Philanthropy in Action (PIA) is a 501c3 nonprofit that is managing the funds for the partnership between Empire Health Foundation (EHF) and Premera. PIA is managing the funds for this project because EHF is a regional organization, whereas PIA serves the entirety of Washington state in health and human services.*