

Rural Health Community Capacity Academy Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

What is the Rural Health Community Capacity Academy?

The Rural Health Community Capacity Academy is designed to support underserved communities and organizations in rural areas. Through this program, selected organizations receive personalized guidance from a rural health development coach over 12-months. These coaches collaborate with organizations to assess their strengths and develop strategies to overcome challenges. The academy's primary goal is to empower participants to tackle community health issues by enhancing their capacity for community engagement and development.

Who can apply for the Rural Health Community Capacity Academy?

Eligible applicants must be organizations located in a [FORHP-designated](#) rural area and serve rural communities. Rural organizations working to improve access to care in communities facing significant barriers, such as workforce shortages, geographic isolation, limited access to health services, or impacted by persistent poverty are encouraged to apply.

Who is ineligible for the Rural Health Community Capacity Academy?

If your organization meets *any* of the following criteria, you are not eligible to be considered for the Rural Health Community Capacity Academy at this time:

- **Organizations that have received significant federal funding (more than \$100,000 dollars) within the past five years.**
- **State Rural Health Associations/State Offices of Rural Health**
- **Membership organizations**
- **Public Health Departments**
- **Educational institutions (Except Community Colleges located in FORHP-Designated rural areas)**

What are the benefits of participating in the Academy?

Participants will be paired with development coaches who can provide expertise in several capacity-building areas. Assistance may focus on improving operations, such as administrative processes, leadership development, and strengthening collaboration. Organizations may also benefit from guidance on identifying funding opportunities and resources; however, securing funding is not guaranteed. Additionally, participants may receive support in evaluating community health needs assessments to better understand and address local health challenges

Is there a cost to participate in the Academy?

No, participation is fully funded. There are no costs associated with the program.

Application Process

How do I apply for the Rural Health Community Capacity Academy?

Applications will open in **early April**, and can be submitted online through [Formsite](#). Detailed application instructions are listed on the application page.

What is the deadline to submit an application?

The deadline to submit an application is **May 31, 2026**. Late submissions will not be accepted, so please ensure you submit your application on time.

What information is required in the application?

The brief application requires general information about your organization and the population served, the scope of healthcare issues addressed by the organization, and the organization's current capacity-building needs.

Selection Process

How are organizations selected to participate in the Rural Health Community Capacity Academy?

Organizations are chosen based on their readiness and ability to identify and address capacity-building needs, as well as the overall characteristics of the population served.

When will applicants be notified of their selection status?

Applicants will be notified of their selection status in **early July**. Selected communities will receive further instructions on next steps at that time.

What happens if our application is not selected?

Applicants who are not selected for one-on-one coaching at this time will be notified prior to the program state date (August 2026) and may opt to be considered to receive a scholarship for the NOSORH Grant Writing Institute.

Program Participation

What is expected of participants during the Academy?

Communities selected for the Academy will be expected to demonstrate the organizational capacity, leadership commitment and operational readiness necessary to fully participate in and complete all program requirements. This includes identifying a dedicated staff lead for the program, securing leadership support for participation, and ensuring availability to participate in required coaching session, meetings and site-visits over the 12-month program. In addition, regular progress assessments and annual follow-ups will be required.



How long does the Academy program last?

The Academy program runs from August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027, during which time participants will receive ongoing support and guidance

How are coaches and communities matched?

Coaches are matched based on their experience in rural health and their ability to understand the cultural and specific needs of the selected communities.

Will coaches assist with federal grant writing?

Securing grant funding is not the primary purpose of the Academy and is not guaranteed. Coaches can help identify grant funding opportunities as well as other revenue and resources to support the community.

Additional Support

Who can I contact for more information?

For more information, please contact Gabriela Boscan Fauquier (gboscan@ruralhealth.us). Our team is here to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have.