



Initiative: Medicaid Rural Health Access and Quality Grants

Overview

Grant funding will be made available to rural hospitals and clinics to strengthen provider operations and service offerings. The grants are intended to ensure continued access to quality care in rural communities. Grants will be awarded through a competitive RFP process, inviting providers to identify unique and innovative proposals that address gaps in care delivery for their local communities.

Key Activities

- **Strategic Partnerships:** Planning and developing regional partnerships or affiliations to expand access to care and improve the quality of care.
- **Service Line Expansion:** Assessing service line offerings and expanding or modifying service line offerings to ensure community needs are met.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Assessing opportunities for operational efficiency to strengthen financial performance.

Partners & Stakeholders

Rural hospitals and clinics as well as collaborating partners located in urban areas.

Amount Requested

- \$125,000,000 over five years

Expected Outcomes

- **Healthcare Access Preservation:** Ensuring essential services remain available locally.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Expanding specialized care access through collaboration and/or investment in new technologies/resources.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Supporting sustainability through streamlined operations.
- **Community Health Impact:** Improving population health to reduce crisis-driven care

Why This Matters

The grants will help strengthen rural provider operations and allow them to better adapt their service offerings to meet regional needs. Grants will empower providers to keep more care local, improve health outcomes for the populations they serve, and develop services lines and partnerships that improve their financial health. This will help ensure long term sustainability of rural health care services in South Dakota. Strong and stable local health care in rural and frontier communities enhances Medicaid's effectiveness in providing comprehensive and cost effective coverage and can indirectly lower future Medicaid costs by reducing the need for more costly acute care.