

# What Happens to Applications Submitted to HRSA?

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Maryland Governor's Grants Conference** 

#### October 21, 2019

Thais J. Macaluso Senior Advisor, Division of Independent Review (DIR) Office of Federal Assistance Management (OFAM)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



# Agenda

- Background Information
  - Who we are & what we do
  - Key stages to the HRSA application process
  - Write your application
- Application Submission & Receipt
- Screening Application
- Objective Review
- Award Determination
- Q&A





Purpose: plan, direct and carry out a fair and objective *independent review process of applications for discretionary grants and cooperative agreements* 





### **DIR Key Functions**

Ensure and maintain the integrity of the objective review process at HRSA

Design and execute a merit review process for competitive applications

Recruit, select, train, and ensure independence of objective reviewers

Avoid conflict of interests (COI) in the objective review process

Prepare accurate summary statements and ROLs for funding decisions

Maintain databases of qualified reviewers, review scheduling, and costs

Document objective reviews





#### **KEY STAGES TO THE HRSA APPLICATION PROCESS**

Submit your application before the deadline.

For most competitive Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs), you will submit your application through Grants.gov.

Early submission may help us alert your organization of potential application or system-related issues.

Application Submission & Receipt Did your application clearly address the NOFO criteria?

Subject matter experts (SMEs) will review your application, rank it based on NOFO criteria, and send their recommendations to program officials responsible for making final award recommendations.

If your application undergoes an objective review, we will provide you a summary of strengths, weaknesses and comments after we make awards.

**Objective Review** 

Visit How to Apply for a Grant for more

information: https://www.hrsa.gov/gra nts/apply/index.html

#### Resources

#### Screening Application

#### Is your application eligible, complete, and responsive?

Your application will undergo a screening review for completeness, eligibility, responsiveness, and timeliness per the NOFO.

If we determine your application is ineligible, incomplete, nonresponsive, or late, it will not undergo an objective review nor will we consider it for funding.

#### Award Determination We make final decisions on or before the program start date.

Using input from the objective review, we determine which applications will receive funding.

For applications recommended for funding, we ensure compliance with HRSA program statute, regulation, and policy requirements, including financial viability. We then make a final decision on funding.









### **Write Your Application**

- Find and read Notice of Funding Opportunity
- Determine submission deadline
- Identify resources needed
- Engage institutional support
- Find collaborators
- Pay attention to criteria reviewers use to evaluate applications

#### Plan

- Start early
- · Follow instructions
- Keep your audience in mind

Write

- Be brief, concise, and clear
- Be organized and logical
- Proof read and edit for accuracy

- Check for completeness
- Submit early
- Address system errors
- Submit changed/corrected applications
- Track and view application







Register your organization EARLY (this process can take up to 30 business days or more)

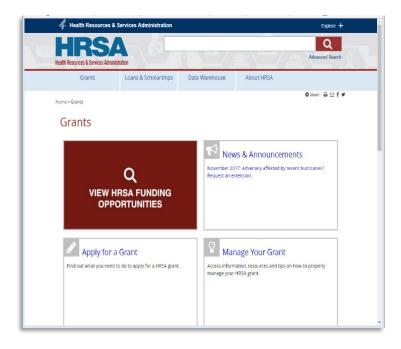
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- System for Award Management you must have a UEI prior to registering for SAM
- Grants.gov, centralized location to find and apply for federal funding opportunities

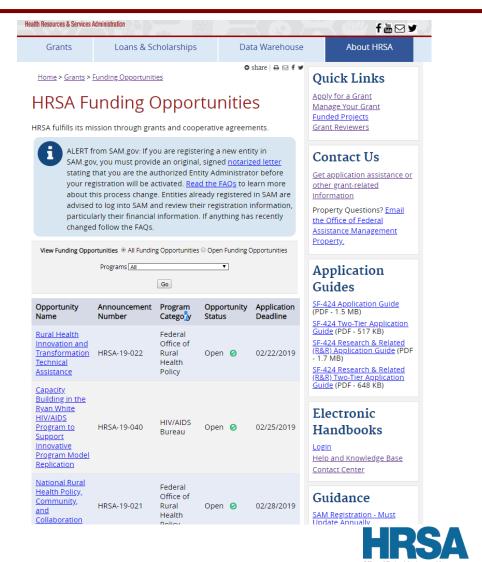




# **Application Submission**

#### Visit www.hrsa.gov/grants







Office of Federal Assistance Management

# **Notice of Funding Opportunity**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



#### HIV/AIDS Bureau

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Integrated HIV/AIDS Planning and Resource Allocation Cooperative Agreement

Funding Opportunity Number: HRSA-19-029 Funding Opportunity Type(s): New and Competing Continuation Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 93.145

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Fiscal Year 2019

#### Application Due Date: January 17, 2019

Ensure your SAM.gov and Grants.gov registrations and passwords are current immediately! HRSA will not approve deadline extensions for lack of registration. Registration in all systems, including SAM.gov and Grants.gov, may take up to 1 month to complete.

#### Issuance Date: October 12, 2018

Rene Sterling, PhD, MHA Deputy Director, Division of State HIV/AIDS Programs Telephone: (301) 443-9017 Fax: (301) 594-5224 Email: RSterling@hrsa.gov

Authority: Sections 2606 and 2654(b) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-87).



#### **SF-424** Application Guide

A guide developed and maintained by HRSA for preparing and submitting applications through Grants.gov to HRSA using the SF-424 Non-Construction Application Kit





# **HRSA Application Guides**

- 1. Policies, assurances, definitions
- 2. Grants.gov Instructions and Due Date *late applications are not considered*!
- 3. General Instructions SF-424/SF-424 R&R Application page limit
- 4. Application processing, review, and award
- 5. Reporting requirements
- 6. Contact information and FAQs





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# **Application Due Date**

#### 4. Submission Dates and Times

#### **Application Due Date**

The due date for applications under this NOFO is *January 17, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time*. HRSA suggests submitting applications to Grants.gov at least **3 days before the deadline** to allow for any unforeseen circumstances.

See Section 8.2.5 – Summary of emails from Grants.gov of HRSA's <u>SF-424 Application</u> <u>Guide</u> for additional information.

# Track status of applications in Grants.gov Track My Application

Validate applications against NOFO requirements





## **Screening Application**

#### III. Eligibility Information

#### 1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible organizations may include national organizations; state, territorial, local, and Indian tribal governments; institutions of higher education; other non-profit organizations (including faith-based, community-based, and tribal organizations); and academic health science centers.





# **Project Narrative**

- Introduction
- Needs Assessment
- Methodology
- Work Plan
- Resolution of Challenges
- Evaluation and Technical Support Capacity
- Organizational Information





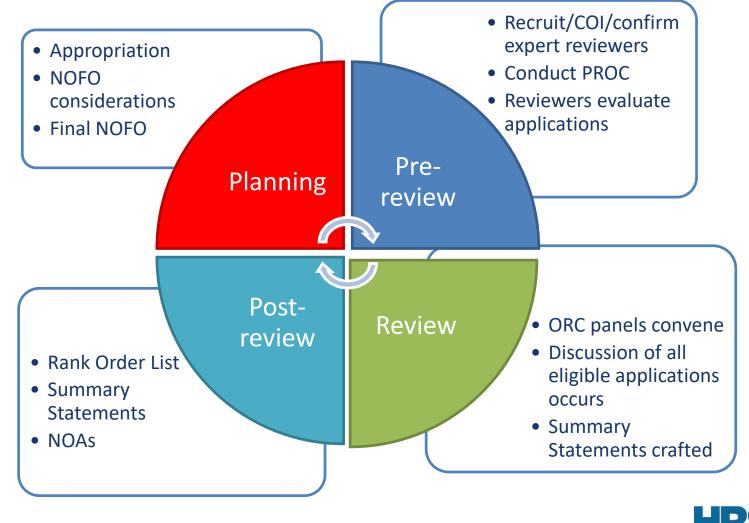


- Submit line-item budget and budget justification
- Submit line-item budget for all years of funding request
- Submit justification for all years of funding request
- May vary according to specific NOFO





### **Objective Review**







## **Review Information**

- HRSA recruits independent subject-matter expert reviewers
- Each application is reviewed by at least three reviewers
- Each application is reviewed according to criteria set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity





### **Review Criteria**

- Need
- Response
- Evaluation
- Impact
- Resources and Capabilities
- Support Requested
   Your application will be rated and scored on the above criteria





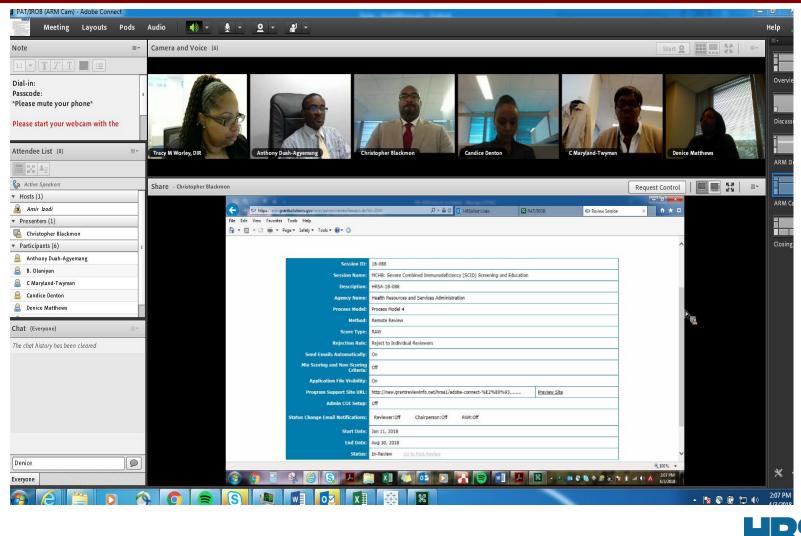
#### Who is involved?







### **ORC New Technology**





SERVICE.

HIRSA Office of Federal Assistance Management

# **Developing Summary Statement**

| Scoring Criteria  | Page                  |
|---|-----------------------|
| 3. EVALUATIVE MEASURES  |                       |
| Strength  |                       |
| The application provides a robust and in-depth discussion of the Continuous Quality Management (CQM) program with multiple officers of the organization directly involved.  | 41-46                 |
| The application describes a clear process for selecting, reporting, and disseminating results on<br>performance measures to stakeholders.   | 43, 44 of application |
| Weakness  |                       |
| The application discusses how People Living With HIV (PLWH) will be involved in planning in the future tense, not in the present tense (1b. Role of Consumers, p.42).   | 42                    |
| 4. IMPACT   |                       |
| Strength  |                       |
| 1.012e  |                       |
| Weakness  |                       |
| PANEL DISCUSSION: The application does not clearly describe the reasonableness of the projected numbers provided in the work plan with respect to the needs assessment section and the needs assessment data provided. For example, the application provides in Attachment 12 a work plan that states in years one, two, and three that five, seven and nine clients in years one, two and three will be enrolled in mental health and substance abuse treatment and the same number of clients will be enrolled after being newly diagnosed with the HIV virus. These numbers are low especially after the extensive discussion by the applicant of the unmet need in the service area. The application does not clearly indicate if the large percentage of clients who will receive core medical services and support services in the proposed work plan will be a combination of existing clients and clients referred from other agencies. The number of clients who will receive core medical services and support services each project year are significantly high compared to the number of clients who will enroll in care within three months. | Z PANEL DISCUSION     |





### **Final Summary Statement**

Health Resources and Services Administration

BHW: Preventive Medicine Residency Program Objective Review Committee Final Summary Statement

#### Criterion 1: PURPOSE AND NEED Strength:

The application demonstrates a history of working in partnership with diverse populations and producing graduates who are addressing workforce needs, and clearly identifies New Mexico demographic data to support high need populations.

The applicant organization, citing multiple and credible statistical data clearly defines the need to increase its public health and general preventive medical workforce to more adequately serve its resident population.

The applicant organization provides a thorough discussion of health disparities and substance abuse rates.

#### Weakness:

None

#### RESPONSE TO PROGRAM PURPOSE

Criterion 2.1: Criterion 2 (a): METHODOLOGY/APPROACH (15 points) Strength:

The application clearly proposes to increase the preventive medicine (PM) workforce by increasing from two to four residents per class with additional experiential learning in partnership with public health agencies, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and Indian Health Service (IHS) agencies and a new longitudinal curriculum in community engagement and leadership and emergency preparedness.





- Fundable application—next steps?
- Not funded application—next steps?





# Tips

- Use funding opportunity as your guide
- Compare your application to the review criteria before submitting
- Check spelling, calculations, and due dates
- Check application to ensure all required information and attachments are included, page number is followed (i.e., do not exceed page limit)
- Do not wait until the last minute





# **More Tips**

- Participate in technical assistance calls and webinars
- Mark your calendar. An estimated date of award is included in the funding opportunity.
   You will hear from HRSA whether or not your proposal is selected for funding
- Be a reviewer to learn the process
- Ask HRSA questions





# **Top 5 Mistakes when Applying**

- Time application rejected for "fixable" errors, but the applicant didn't leave enough time to correct before the deadline
- 2. Need is not addressed
- 3. Activities listed but not tied to the overall application
- 4. Data incomplete, missing, or outdated information
- 5. Attachments missing or incomplete





#### **Become a HRSA Reviewer**

| <page-header></page-header>   | - Health Resources & Services Administration  | Explore +   |
|---|---|---|
| How to Apply       Manage Your Grant       Funded Projects       Grant Reviewer         Hillstature + Statts - Statt Deducts       Image Your Grant       Image Your Grant       Register Now         Hillstature + Statts - Statt Deducts       Image Your Grant       Image Your Grant       Register Now         Hillstature + Statts - Statt Deducts       Image Your Grant       Register Now       Register Now         Hillstature + Statts - Statt Deducts       Image Your Grant       Register Now       Register Now         Announcement (FOA), Reviewers are chosen based are howedge, education, experience and any or of rent applications staining       Hill You Win Rovie are HESA Grant       Reviewer Image Your Grant       Reviewer Image Your Grant       Reviewer Image Your Grant       Reviewer Image Your Grant       Reviewer Grant Your Tamey Weinsco         Hildstate and child health       Organ transplantation       Perimery Carefort underserved people       Reviewer Recruitment Module database (RRM).       Rodie 12 Out How Your Tamey Weinsco       Rodie 12 Out How Your Tamey Weinsco         HirSA uses an on-line grant review process called ARM, available 247 during the evaluation cycle to commodate reviewer floating logenom 2000       Rodie 12 Out How Your Tamey Weinsco         State Eighble application is read by at least 3 reviewers who then discuss their evaluation cycle to reach application review process called ARM, available 247 during the evaluation cycle to Experiment Care State Care Mapplication review process called ARM, available 247 du  | Health Resources and Services Administration  | Vanced Search   |
| ItelsAuteurs         Register Now         Mask uses health professions subject experts as peer reviewers to objectively evaluate a competitive group of grant applications against the published criteria in the HRSA Funding Opportuntly       Register Now       Masker to Bocome a HRSA Grant Break Grant Break Grant In the HRSA Funding Opportuntly         Announcement (FCA), Reviewers are chosen based on their knowledge, education, experience and any criteria in Auduel in FOA that the applicants must respond to.       Masker to Bocome a HRSA Grant Break Grant Break Grant Break Grant Break Grant Break Grant Break  | HRSA Home Grants Loans & Scholarships Data Warehouse About HRSA   |   |
| Cancel Construction   Image: Some Some Some Some Some Some Some Some  | How to Apply Manage Your Grant Funded Projects Grant Reviewers  |   |
| HRSA uses health professions subject experts as peer reviewers to objectively evaluate a competitive group of grant applications against the published criteria in the HRSA Funding Opportunity       Register to Become a HRSA Grant Become a USA Funding Opportunity         Announcement (FOA), Reviewers are chosen based on their knowledge, education, experience and any criteria included in FOA that the applications usits respond to.       Reviewer the public might status?         HRSA has specific interest in the following:       -       Health professions training         • HIV/AIDS       -       Harman and child health       -         • Organ transplantation       -       Primary care for underserved people       -         • Reviewer Taining       -       Reviewer Taining       -         All professionals working in or knowledgeable about Health Care Services are invited to register in or       Coartery Oran Hill Meeting       Coartery Char Training Webines:         HRSA wishes to identify more qualified reviewers who have expertise in social, cultural or health is sues on on-line grant or Native American population review process.       Module 5: Quartery Reviewer Training         HRSA uses an on-line grant review process called ARM, available 24/7 during the evaluation cycle to accommodate reviewer flexibility.       Module 1: Summary 2010       Module 2: Dartery Reviewer Training (September 2016)         Module 1: Reviewer Reviewers no their panel. This process is completed for each application using the interest and telephone. a process thar moust offer have. 2015)       Module 1:   | HRSA Home > Grants > Grant Reviewers  |   |
| HRSA uses health professions subject experts as peer reviewers to Opportunity       Reviewer         group of grant applications agains: the published criteria in the HRSA Funding Opportunity       Need Neg With registration?         MRSA has specific interest in the following:       Need Neg With registration?         HRSA has specific interest in the following:       Need Neg With registration?         HRVAIDS       Health professions training         HI/VAIDS       Neet registration?         With registration?       Reviewer Training         Origan transplantation       Origan transplantation         Primary care for underserved people       Quartery Chair Training Weithran:         Reviewer Recruitment Module database (RRM).       HRSA wishes to identify more qualified reviewers who have expertise in social, cultural or health care issues of rural, migrant or Native American populations. Please register in the RRM if you are interested in lending your expertise in any of these fields to our application review process.         HRSA wishes to identify more qualified reviewers who then discuss their evaluation cycle to accommodate reviewer flexibility.       Module 5. Quarterk Reviewer Training (Reynow 2016)         HRSA uses an on-line grant review process called ARM, available 24/7 during the evaluation cycle to accommodate reviewer flexibility.       Module 5. Quarterk Reviewer Training (Reynow 2016)         Source of the reviewer on their panel. This process is to complete for each application and initial score with other reviewers on their panel. This process is  | Grant Reviewers 📀 Stare 🖨 🖂 🖬 🖢 🖬 🕚   | Register Now  |
| Organ transplantation     Outforty Chair Training Webmass     Outforty Chair Training     (December 2016)     Module 5: Outforth Reviewer Training     (Beamber 2016)     Module 5: Outforth Reviewer Training     (May 2016)     (May 2016)     Module 5: Outforth Reviewer Training     (May 2016)     (Ma | group of grant applications against the published criteria in the HRSA Funding Opportunity<br>Announcement (FOA). Reviewers are chosen based on their knowledge, education, experience and any<br>criteria included in FOA that the applicants must respond to.<br>HRSA has specific interest in the following: | Reviewer Need help with registration? RBMT-chAssistance@htsa.cov You will receive a response within 24 hours (or Monday morrising if you send your message on a weekend). Be sure to include a phone number where you can usually be reached during normal business |
| Primary care for underserved people     Rural health     All professionals working in or knowledgeable about Health Care Services are invited to register in our Reviewer Recruitment Module database (RRM).     HRSA wishes to identify more qualified reviewers who have expertise in social, cultural or health care issues of rural, migrant or Native American populations. Please register in the RRM if you are interested in lending your expertise in any of these fields to our application review process.     HRSA uses an on-line grant review process called ARM, available 24/7 during the evaluation cycle to     accommodate reviewers on their panel. This process is completed for each application using the     internet and telephone, a process that most often takes 3 days or iess.     Each non-federal participant in the entire process receives an honorarium.   |   |   |
| Rural health     All professionals working in or knowledgeable about Health Care Services are invited to register in our Reviewer Recruitment Module database (RRM).     HRSA wishes to identify more qualified reviewers who have expertise in social, cultural or health care issues of rural, migrant or Native American populations. Please register in the RRM if you are interested in lending your expertise in any of these fields to our application review process.     HRSA uses an on-line grant review process called ARM, available 24/7 during the evaluation cycle to accommodate reviewer flexibility.     Each eligible application is read by at least 3 reviewers who then discuss their evaluation and initial scores with other reviewers on their panel. This process is completed for each application using the internet and telephone, a process that most often takes 3 days or less.     Each non-federal participant in the entire process receives an honorarium.   |   | Reviewer Trainings  |
| All professionals working in or knowledgeable about Health Care Services are invited to register in our       Module 5: Quarterk Reviewer Training (September 2016)         HRSA wishes to identify more qualified reviewers who have expertise in social, cultural or health care issues of rural, migrant or Native American populations. Please register in the RRM if you are interested in lending your expertise in any of these fields to our application review process.       Module 5: Quarterk Reviewer Training (September 2016)         HRSA wishes to identify more qualified reviewers who have expertise in social, cultural or health care issues on rural, migrant or Native American populations. Please register in the RRM if you are interested in lending your expertise in any of these fields to our application review process.       Module 5: Quarterk Reviewer Training (May 2016)         HRSA uses an on-line grant review process called ARM, available 24/7 during the evaluation cycle to accommodate reviewer flexibility.       Chair Quarterk Training (September 2015)         Each eligible application is read by at least 3 reviewers who then discuss their evaluation using the internet and telephone, a process that most often takes 3 days or less.       Module 1: The innortance of Independent Evaluation (March 2015)         Each non-federal participant in the entire process receives an honorarium.       Module 1: The innortance of Independent Evaluation (March 2015)   |   | Chairperson Town Hall Meeting   |
| issues of rural, migrant or Native American populations. Please register in the RRM if you are interested       Incluse 1, Counterpretention retrieve maining         in lending your expertise in any of these fields to our application review process.       Module 4: New Policies and Procedures         HRSA uses an on-line grant review process called ARM, available 24/7 during the evaluation cycle to accommodate reviewer flexibility.       Module 4: New Policies and Procedures         Each eligible application is read by at least 3 reviewers who then discuss their evaluation and initial scores with other reviewers on their panel. This process is completed for each application using the internet and telephone, a process that most often takes 3 days or less.       Module 1: The importance of Independent Evaluation (March 2015)         Each non-federal participant in the entire process receives an honorarium.       Module 1: The importance of Independent Evaluation (March 2015)   |   | Module 5: Quarterly Reviewer Training   |
| HRSA uses an on-line grant review process called ARM, available 24/7 during the evaluation cycle to accommodate reviewer flexibility.       Chair Quartery Taining (September 2015)         Each eligible application is read by at least 3 reviewers who then discuss their evaluation and initial scores with other reviewers on their panel. This process is completed for each application using the internet and telephone, a process that most often takes 3 days or less.       Module 2: Panel Participation: What to Exect (June 2015)         Each non-federal participant in the entire process receives an honorarium.       Module 1: The Importance of Independent Evaluation (March 2015)  | issues of rural, migrant or Native American populations. Please register in the RRM if you are interested<br>in lending your expertise in any of these fields to our application review process.  | (May 2016)<br>Module 4: New Policies and Procedures   |
| Each eligible application is read by at least 3 reviewers who then discuss their evaluation and initial scores with other reviewers on their panel. This process is completed for each application using the internet and telephone, a process that most often takes 3 days or less.       Module 2: Panel Participation: What to Expect (June 2015)         Each non-federal participant in the entire process receives an honorarium.       Module 1: The Importance of Independent Evaluation (March 2015)   |   | Chair Quarterly Training (September   |
| Module 1: The importance of<br>Each non-federal participant in the entire process receives an honorarium. Independent Evaluation (March 2015)   | scores with other reviewers on their panel. This process is completed for each application using the  |   |
| Apply Now to be a Grant Reviewer  |   |   |
|   | Apply Now to be a Grant Reviewer  | Copartment of<br>Health and Human Services  |





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# References

HRSA Apply for a Grant <u>https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/apply/index.html</u>

**HRSA Grant Reviewers** 

https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/reviewers/index.html

- Grants.gov <a href="https://www.grants.gov/">https://www.grants.gov/</a>
- System for Award Management <a href="https://www.sam.gov/SAM/">https://www.sam.gov/SAM/</a>
- Electronic Handbooks (EHB)

https://grants.hrsa.gov/2010/WebEPSExternal/Interface/common

/accesscontrol/login.aspx?TgtURL=grants.hrsa.gov/Grantee&RefU

RL=https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/index.html

**HRSA Manage Your Grant** 

https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/manage/index.html





# **Questions?**





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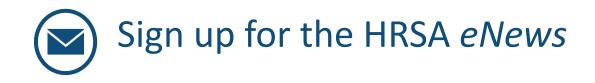






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