



University System of New Hampshire

This GO-NORTH opportunity is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$204,016,550.20 with 100% funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government

The Governor's Office of New Opportunities and Rural Transformational Health (GO-NORTH), was established by Executive Order under Governor Kelly Ayotte, and is funded by the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Federal program. GO-NORTH advances five strategic initiatives to improve the health and sustainability of rural New Hampshire.

Initiative 1: Population Health

Increase prevention, chronic disease management, and improved behavioral and maternal health.

Initiative 2: Access

Ensure sustainable access to care by strengthening rural hospitals, health centers, EMS, and telehealth services

Initiative 3: Workforce

Build and retain a skilled rural health workforce through education, training, and career pathways.

Initiative 4: Technology

Modernize care delivery by expanding technology, interoperability, and data security.

Initiative 5: Financial Sustainability

Promote financial sustainability with innovative payment models and value-based care.

GO-NORTH delivers this work through five Hubs, each supported by a GO-NORTH lead who provides coordination, guidance, and oversight to ensure alignment with statewide priorities. The 5 Hubs represent rural health experience and knowledge that will support our work together. [Program Overview | GO-NORTH](#)



INITIATIVE(S) #	3
USNH Agency Point of Contact	Kenneth La Valley
RFA Released	September 2026
Application Deadline	October 2 nd , 2026, 5:00 PM ET
Review Period	October 2026
Award Notifications	November 2026
Project Start Date	November 1 st 2026

Application Deadline: October 2nd, 2026, at 5:00 PM ET

Funding Available: \$350,000 Total Award Pool

Award Range: \$5,000 to \$50,000

Project Period: November 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027 (unless otherwise approved)

Submission Email: ken.lavalley@unh.edu

Purpose

The University System of New Hampshire GO-NORTH HUB (hereafter referred to as USNH GO-NORTH HUB) invites applications for programs that engage youth and/or young adults in career exploration and workforce development activities related to healthcare, behavioral health, public health, allied health, and community health.

The USNH GO-NORTH HUB seeks to strengthen New Hampshire's rural healthcare workforce pipeline through innovative projects that expose youth and adult learners to healthcare careers, build skills and confidence, create mentorship opportunities, and connect participants to education and employment pathways within the healthcare sector.

Funding supports programs that increase awareness of healthcare careers, expand experiential learning opportunities, foster partnerships among educational institutions and healthcare organizations, and improve access for youth residing in rural communities.

Funding Availability

A total of **\$350,000** is available through this competitive funding opportunity.

- Minimum award: **\$5,000**
- Targeted award amount: **\$50,000**
- Approximately 7 to 20 awards are anticipated
- Applicants may request any amount above the minimum.
- The USNH GO-NORTH HUB reserves the right to partially fund proposals or make no awards

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants include:

- K-12 schools and school districts
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers
- Higher education institutions
- Healthcare providers and healthcare systems
- Community health centers
- Public health organizations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Youth-serving organizations
- Workforce development organizations
- Tribal organizations
- Municipal agencies
- Collaborative partnerships among multiple organizations

Projects must serve youth participants ranging from middle school to young adult populations.

Rural Eligibility Requirement

Projects funded through this RFA must:

1. Be physically located within a rural area of New Hampshire as defined by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP); and/or
2. Primarily recruit and serve youth participants who reside within a FORHP-designated rural area of New Hampshire.

Applicants should reference the current [New Hampshire FORHP Rural Eligibility Map](#):

Applications must clearly describe the rural communities and populations to be served and demonstrate how participants meet rural eligibility requirements.

Priority Areas

The USNH GO-NORTH HUB encourages proposals that address one or more of the following:

Healthcare Career Exploration

- Career fairs
- Site visits
- Job shadowing opportunities
- Health profession awareness activities

Experiential Learning

- Healthcare camps and/or after school programs
- Clinical simulations
- Service-learning projects
- Community-based health projects
- Youth and/or adult internships

Mentorship and Workforce Pathways

- Peer mentoring
- Professional mentoring
- Healthcare workforce navigation
- Postsecondary pathway development
- Rural workforce retention initiatives

Targeted Outreach

- Rural youth
- Economically disadvantaged youth
- First-generation college students
- Underrepresented populations in healthcare careers
- Students with limited access to healthcare career opportunities
- Adult career changers

These activities should focus on career exploration and pathway development. Under CMS guidelines, funding that provides an individual with a direct financial incentive or leads to certification, licensure, a degree, or a specific clinical job may trigger a five-year rural service commitment.

Proposal Guidelines

Applications shall not exceed six (6) single-spaced pages, excluding budget forms and supporting documentation.

Applicants must address each of the following sections.

1. Organization Overview

Provide:

- Organizational mission and background
- Relevant experience serving youth
- Experience administering federally funded or grant-funded programs
- Key personnel and organizational capacity

2. Project Description

Describe:

- Proposed activities

- Target population
- Number of participants
- Geographic service area
- Healthcare workforce focus areas
- Project timeline
- Partner organizations and their roles

3. Rural Community Impact

Describe:

- Rural communities to be served
- Recruitment strategy for rural youth
- Barriers being addressed
- Expected benefits to rural workforce development

4. Expected Outcomes and Evaluation

Describe:

- Participant goals
- Workforce pipeline outcomes
- Evaluation methods
- Data collection plans
- Sustainability efforts

Applicants should identify measurable outcomes whenever possible.

5. Budget Request and Narrative

Applicants must provide a detailed budget and budget narrative.

Personnel

Include:

- Position title
- Role on project
- Salary or wage rate
- Percent effort
- Fringe benefits (if applicable)

Materials and Supplies

Include:

- Educational materials
- Program supplies
- Equipment under \$5,000
- Printing and outreach materials

Participant Stipends

Participant stipends are allowable when clearly tied to program participation and project goals. Any general participation stipend must be offered equally to all participants. Additional support may vary when based on documented needs or participation-related expenses, such as travel, using objective and consistently applied criteria.

Applicants must describe:

- Number of participants receiving stipends
- Amount per participant
- Purpose of the stipend
- Criteria for any additional support
- Method of distribution

Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs

Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs are allowable; however:

F&A costs may not exceed 10% of total direct costs.

Applicants must clearly identify F&A expenses within the budget narrative.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed using the following rubric.

Evaluation Criterion	Description	Points
<i>Alignment with Rural Workforce Pipeline Goals</i>	Strength of connection to healthcare career pathways that address rural workforce shortages and healthcare workforce needs	25
<i>Program Design and Participant Experience</i>	Quality, innovation, and effectiveness of proposed participant activities and learning experiences	15
<i>Partnerships and Cross-Sector Collaboration</i>	Strength of partnerships among schools, healthcare providers, community organizations, and workforce partners	25
<i>Expected Outcomes and Measurable Impact</i>	Clearly defined outcomes, participant targets, evaluation methods, and workforce development impact	10
<i>Feasibility and Organizational Capacity</i>	Demonstrated ability to successfully implement the project within the proposed timeline and budget	10
<i>Sustainability and Long-Term Workforce Contribution</i>	Potential for continued impact beyond the funding period and contribution to healthcare workforce pathways	15
Total		100

Reporting and Compliance Requirements

Funded organizations must comply with all USNH GO-NORTH HUB requirements.

Youth Protection Requirements

Organizations serving participants under the age of 18 must certify compliance with youth protection standards.

Prior to receiving funds, awardees must:

- Complete required UNH Protection of Minors training for staff and volunteers with direct youth contact
- Conduct and/or provide evidence of appropriate background checks for covered personnel
- Maintain youth safety policies and supervision standards
- Certify compliance with applicable youth protection requirements

Additional information regarding Protection of Minors training is available through the [University of New Hampshire Youth Programs Office](#).

Certificate of Insurance (COI)

Awardees must provide a current Certificate of Insurance demonstrating:

- General Liability Coverage of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence
- Organizational coverage for project activities
- Additional documentation if requested by USNH

Demographic Reporting

Awardees will be required to submit participant demographic information and project outcome data to USNH RHT HUB.

Required reporting may include:

- Number of participants served
- Grade level

- Community of residence
- Gender (optional/self-reported)
- Program participation metrics
- Workforce pathway outcomes

Reporting requirements will be outlined in award agreements.

Submission Instructions

Applications must be submitted electronically in PDF or Microsoft Word format.

Submission Email: ken.lavalley@unh.edu

Submission Deadline: Friday, October 2, 2026, by 5:00 PM ET

Late applications will not be considered.

Funding Acknowledgement

This GO-NORTH funding opportunity is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$204,016,550.20 million with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. Awardees may be required to acknowledge this support in program materials and communications.