DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2024 Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) Frequently Asked Questions

12/28/2023

When is the application due?

Applications are due on January 31, 2024 at 11:59pm CT.

Do hospitals need to fill out a new application?

If a hospital has a current 2023-2028 SHIP contract they should not submit a new application, they should only fill out the "Year 2: 2024-2025 Application Report" follow-up that has been assigned to them in the ORHPC grants portal. If a hospital does not currently have a 2023-2028 SHIP contract then a new application is needed.

For the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program grant, do you recommend applying for the grant if you are uncertain if you have any activities that we are aware of at the time?

Yes.

Can you speak to what we should do if our local Coding/Finance leadership has shared that they won't be implementing ICD 11 quite yet?

Hospitals not participating in their own ICD-11 readiness/implementation activity can participate in the State provided activity to meet the ICD-11 funding priority. Other ICD-11 readiness activities can be found here:
https://www.ruralcenter.org/sites/default/files/ICD%2011%20FAQ.pdf

Are membership fees for the Minnesota Hospital Association allowed?

No- the cost associated with memberships in associations, professional societies, or other organizations that are in addition to and not required of a SHIP-qualifying training course is unallowable.

In the hospital application under the hospital information section, what is the "cost reporting period"?

That information is listed in the hospital's most recently filed Medicare Cost Report. This should be used to inform the number of beds (line 14), as well as the cost reporting period for that report.

Are surveys and assessments allowed?

No- Excluding HCAHPS, costs associated with conducting surveys and assessments are not allowable. This includes: Community Health Needs Assessments, Outpatient Surveys, EDCAHPS, Hospital Finance Assessments, and Mock Audits (including RHCs).

Is building software for price transparency allowable?

Training for price transparency is allowed, the cost to build the software is not.

Is billing training an allowable expense?

Some are, revenue cycle management, price transparency, and chargemaster review are examples. FY 2023 SHIP Allowable Investments (ruralcenter.org)

Are Telepharmacy expenses allowable?

Expenses associated with the application and implementation of telepharmacy services are allowed. This includes: telepharmacy software, telepharmacy applications in support of after-hours pharmacy services, telepharmacy machines/hardware, machines that can dispenses pre-packaged medication, and printers used exclusively with telepharmacy operations. The cost of personnel, medications, medication delivery, refilling pre-packaged medication, assistants, or hardware for direct patient care are unallowable.

Can hospitals be eligible for SHIP if they have more than 49 beds on their hospital cost report but actually staff 49 beds or less?

Yes, if a hospital reports a licensed bed count greater than 49, but staffs 49 beds or fewer, eligibility may be certified by submitting a written statement to their SORH that includes: 1) the number of staffed beds at the time of the most recent cost report submission; 2) the cost reporting period of the most recently filed cost report and; 3) the signature of the certifying official of the hospital.

Minnesota Department of Health
Office of Rural Health & Primary Care
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
health.ruralSHIPgrant@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

12/28/2023

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3838