



## Million Hearts® Advancing Cardiac Rehabilitation Mini Grant Application

**Purpose:** To implement, support, and develop policies, systems, and services that increase access to and utilization of cardiac rehabilitation (CR).

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### Eligibility

Million Hearts® invites **hospitals, healthcare systems, or organizations engaged in training or certifying cardiac rehabilitation (CR) programs and/or professionals** to apply for funding to enhance CR referral, participation, and/or completion. This funding is intended to support the expanded use of policies, systems, and services such as those championed in the [Million Hearts®/American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation \(AACVPR\) Cardiac Rehabilitation Change Package, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition](#) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) [TAKEheart Initiative](#).

Priority will be given to applicants that demonstrate the capacity to implement plans within the project timeline. Applicants should have specific and measurable process goals with the intention of generating lasting impacts (e.g. qualitative or quantitative outcomes).

### Due date

**Application submissions are due March 21, 2025 at 8:00 pm ET.** We intend to fund approximately 10 applicants for up to \$15,000 each. The application process is competitive.

Key dates are outlined below, with a period of performance between April 14, 2025 – July 31, 2025.

Feb 28	Application released, promoted, questions answered / posted (see below for details)
Mar 21	Application closes
Mar 28	Selections announced
Mar 31	Contracts initiated
April 14	Implementation begins
July 25	Reporting and project overviews due
July 31	Project end date

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## Project Overview

The resources provided through this opportunity are intended to support the use of policies, systems, and services that enhance, optimize, or expand CR referral, participation, and/or completion. Successful applicants will demonstrate the ability to replicate or expand collaborative initiatives, advance use of new delivery models that fulfill the core components of CR,<sup>1,2</sup> or otherwise employ creative solutions to increase referrals, participation and/or completion of CR.

Applicants are encouraged to review the change concepts and change ideas from the [Million Hearts®/American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation \(AACVPR\) Cardiac Rehabilitation Change Package, 2nd Edition](#) and [AHRQ's TAKEheart initiative](#) for examples of strategies to be implemented, scaled, or spread via this project.

Awardees will be invited to share lessons learned among participating grantees.

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## Application Form

Required format for proposals:

- Format: PDF
- Size: 12-point font, Arial
- Spacing: Single-spaced
- Margins: 1-inch; include page numbers

## Contact Information (both programmatic and fiscal)

### 1. Applicant Contact Information

- Agency / Organization Name:
  - Address:
  - Primary Program Contact Name:
  - Title:
  - Email Address:
  - Phone Number:

### 2. Fiscal Lead Contact Information

- Primary Fiscal Contact Name:
  - Title:
  - Email Address:
  - Phone Number:

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<sup>1</sup> Brown TM, et al. Core Components of Cardiac Rehabilitation Programs: 2024 Update: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association and the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation. *Circulation*. 2024;150:ee00-e00.

<sup>2</sup> Beatty A, et al. Million Hearts Cardiac Rehabilitation Think Tank: Accelerating New Care Models. *Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes*. 2021;14:e008215.

### **Project Abstract (250-word limit)**

Briefly describe the proposed project. Include overarching goals, high-level approach, engaged staff and partners, the intended accomplishments and impact of your project, and any other agencies or organizations that may be included as collaborators in project implementation.

### **Project Overview (500-word limit)**

This section should answer the following questions: 1) What are you planning to do? 2) Which strategies from the [Million Hearts®/American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation \(AACVPR\) Cardiac Rehabilitation Change Package](#), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) [TAKEheart Initiative](#), and/or other resources will be employed? 3) What is the rationale / unmet need this project fulfills? 4) What populations, if any, are you prioritizing with this project? Why?

### **Organizational Capacity and Experience (300-word limit)**

Describe your organization and core staff responsible for completing your proposed work, and the roles of key partners, if any, who will be involved in implementation. Include: 1) Your organization's past or current CR work, as well as any analogous projects which demonstrate your capacity to execute your proposed project; include hyperlinks where appropriate. 2) History of collaboration with your selected or proposed implementation partners, if any.

### **Evaluation and Performance Plan (250-word limit)**

1) How will you measure this project's success? What indicators of progress will you use? 2) While the project timeline likely precludes utilization of traditional outcome measures, please describe how you intend to gauge the success of your projects via process measures and other metrics which align with the goals of the funding and intent. 3) What elements of the project plan may be sustained beyond the timeline for this funding opportunity?

### **Budget Proposal**

Funding is intended to enhance capacity to implement awardees' projects in a short timeframe. As a result, preference will be given to applicants who devote most funding to implementation costs. Please provide a line item budget as part of your submission.

Budgets should not exceed \$15,000. There is an indirect cap rate of 20%.

NACDD reserves the right to negotiate project budgets within the first 45 days of notification for selected awardees.

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### **Review Process**

The primary review criteria will align with public health best or promising practices for CR utilization, the ability to execute proposed strategy(s), and the likelihood to achieve intended outcomes. Reviewers will be from NACDD, Million Hearts® at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other external experts, as appropriate. The evaluation process will include individual committee member evaluation and rating of each proposal, followed by committee discussion and ranking of proposals. After preliminary rating and ranking of proposals, interviews may be scheduled with finalists and/or professional references may be requested, particularly if two or more proposals are closely rated and/or more information is needed.

### **Submission Instructions & Questions**

NACDD will allow and respond to questions about the RFP via email, posting answers on a [FAQ document](#), which will be updated daily. Please submit questions to Susan Svencer and Laura Warner, NACDD Public Health Consultants, using “Advancing CR Mini Grant Application” as the subject: [SSvencer\\_ic@chronicdisease.org](mailto:SSvencer_ic@chronicdisease.org) and [LWarner\\_ic@chronicdisease.org](mailto:LWarner_ic@chronicdisease.org)

Completed applications should be submitted via [Smartsheet](#), no later than 8 pm ET, March 21, 2025

[www.chronicdisease.org](http://www.chronicdisease.org) – look for the “Latest News” banner for link to Application info.