



Million Hearts® Advancing Cardiac Rehabilitation Mini Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) 2026

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

Eligibility

Million Hearts® invites **hospitals, healthcare systems, and other cardiac rehabilitation (CR) programs** 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, 2nd Edition](#), and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) [TAKEheart Initiative](#).

Applicants should have specific and measurable process goals with the intention of generating lasting impacts (e.g., qualitative or quantitative outcomes).

We intend to fund approximately 20 applicants for up to \$15,000 each. The application process is competitive. Please ensure your organization is able to receive funds and to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the timeline outlined in this RFP prior to submitting your application.

Due date

Application submissions are due October 26, 2026, at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

Key dates are outlined below, with a period of performance between November 16, 2026 – July 30, 2027.

By September 25, 2026	RFP released Answers to questions posted on FAQ document (see details below)
October 26, 2026	RFP closes
By November 16, 2026	Selections announced
November 17, 2026	MOU process initiated
December 2, 2026 at 1pm ET –or–	Kick-off call with NACDD team, including information on reporting progress (choose 1 of 2 available dates/times)

December 3, 2026 at 2pm ET	
Bi-monthly	Funded recipient cohort email check-in
Late June, 2027	Virtual cohort sharing session
July 30, 2027	Project end date
August 31, 2027	Summary report due
Ongoing	Follow-ups as needed

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,^{1,2} 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.

Formal research projects cannot be funded. From the HHS Office of Research Integrity, research is defined as “systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge”.

Awardees will be invited to share lessons learned among participating grantees and may be invited to share their lessons learned with other key stakeholders.

Application Form

Required format for proposals:

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

¹ 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.

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

Applicant Contact Information

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

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?

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 that 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 that align with the goals of the funding and intent.

Future Planning (250-word limit)

Describe what policies, systems, and services will be supported and how they are expected to impact CR referral, participation, and/or completion. Include:

1. What elements of the project plan may be sustained beyond the timeline for this funding opportunity?
2. What additional resources, if any, does your organization plan to utilize after the implementation period to maintain the project?
3. What plans, if any, do you have to share the accomplishments of this project with other organizations?

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 rate cap of 20%.

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

Review Process

The primary review criteria will align with public health best or promising practices for CR utilization, the ability to execute proposed strategy(-ies), and the likelihood of achieving intended outcomes. Reviewers may 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 evaluations and ratings of each proposal, followed by committee discussion and ranking of proposals. After preliminary rating and ranking of proposals, interviews may be scheduled with finalists, 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 that will be updated daily. Please submit questions to MHPartners@chronicdisease.org.

Completed applications should be submitted to

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/01a0c44c6186757e80bb9e2bede93183>, no later than 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), October 26.