

COVID-19 Hospital Expanded Capacity Program Negative Pressure Bed Creation Grant FAQ

Q: What is the Negative Pressure Bed Creation Grant?

A: In Section 1 of Senate Bill 2820, 2022 Regular Legislative Session (the “COVID-19 Hospital Expanded Capacity Program”), the Mississippi Legislature designated the Mississippi State Department of Health (“MSDH”) to establish and administer the Program for the purpose of providing funds to hospitals that increased treatment capacity related to the COVID-19 pandemic through grants to hospitals as a reimbursement for expenses incurred during the period beginning on March 3, 2021 through December 31, 2023. Section 1 (2)(a) of Senate Bill 2820, 2022 Regular Legislative Session authorizes MSDH to promulgate rules and regulations to govern the program, thus authorizing MSDH to develop procedures, and forms to govern the administration of the program.

Q: What is a Negative Pressure Room?

A: A patient-care room used to isolate persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 disease that should provide negative pressure in the room (so that air flows under the door gap into the room); and an air flow rate of 6-12 Air Changes per Hour (ACH) (6 ACH for existing structures, 12 ACH for new construction or renovation); and direct exhaust of air from the room to the outside of the building or recirculation of air through a HEPA filter before returning to circulation.

Q: When can my hospital apply for the reimbursement grant for Negative Pressure Beds?

A: The electronic application is available at www.healthmys.com.

Q: When is the application deadline for the Negative Pressure Bed Creation Grant?

A: First Round Program Negative Pressure Bed Creation Grant Applications must be received by the Department electronically on or before 5:00 p.m., on November 15, 2022, for first round consideration.

Q: Can I submit my application by mail or email?

A: No, all applications must be submitted electronically through the on-line application process.

Q: Who is considered an eligible recipient?

A: Licensed hospitals in the state of Mississippi currently participating or that will attest to the intent to participate in the COVID-19 System of Care Plan, prior to receipt of funds, and created or will create, prior to December 31, 2023, ICU

beds and or negative pressure beds for the care of COVID-19 patients. No other entities will be considered by the Department. Eligible Recipients must have a current hospital license issued by MSDH – Health Facilities Licensure and Certification <https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/ static/30,0,83.html> and COVID-19 Self-Designation Application on file with MSDH Bureau of Acute Care Systems <https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/ static/44,0,397.html>

Q: What is an eligible expense?

A: Costs incurred by a recipient beginning on March 3, 2021, and ending on December 31, 2023, for creation of negative pressure beds at a maximum amount of \$50,000 per bed and allowable under the American Rescue plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, Public Law 117-2, which amends Title VI of the Social Security Act; and its implementing guidelines, guidance, rules, regulations and/or other criteria, as may be amended or supplemented from time to time, by the United States Department of the Treasury, but not to include any funds expended by the “Mississippi ICU Infrastructure Act, “ Sections 41-14-1 through 41-14-11 or professional fees expended in the creation of the beds.

Q: What is the reimbursement amount for each Negative Pressure bed created?

A: A maximum amount of \$50,000 per bed.

Q: Do I have to have staff for new Negative Pressure beds created under this program?

A: Yes, hospitals will need to certify that they can adequately staff negative pressure beds created under this program.

Q: Will my expanded beds require inspection to be approved for reimbursement?

A: Yes, created negative pressure beds must successfully pass a MSDH Health Facilities Licensure and Certification Life Safety Code inspection.

Q: Will my facility need to maintain participation in the COVID-19 System of Care Plan?

A: Yes, eligible recipients participating in this program will be required to maintain participation in the COVID-19 System of Care Plan for the remainder of the COVID-19 Pandemic federal public health emergency issued by the Secretary of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Q: Contact for this program and/or application?

A: Questions can be sent to negativepressuregrant@msdh.ms.gov

Q: Are there any provisions where I might have to return funds?

A: Yes, any funds provided by the Department to a hospital as a beneficiary under sub-grant as an eligible applicant that are found to be fully or partially noncompliant with the requirements of the guidelines, guidance, rules, regulations and/or other criteria, as may be amended from time to time, by the U.S. Department of Treasury regarding the use of monies from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Mississippi COVID-19 Hospital Expanded Capacity Program, or Department regulations must be returned to the state. Further information is provided in the required attestation for the program.

Q: When and how do I send in my receipts for reimbursement?

A: After your hospital has been awarded a grant under this program a sub-grant and program attestation must be completed by the facility and executed by the program. Once the negative pressure bed(s) are created and ready for a Life Safety Code Inspection by the Department, receipts for eligible expenses must be submitted electronically through the "Receipt Submission Form" found on the program website. Remember that maximum reimbursement is \$50,000 per negative pressure bed created under this program.