**Section 42.240 Application Evaluation Process**

Applications will be reviewed to ensure that the applicants meet all eligibility requirements of Section 42.210. Those applications that are determined to be ineligible will be returned to the applicant and will not be reviewed further. Applications meeting all eligibility requirements of Section 42.210 will be forwarded to a review committee for scoring.

a) The review committee will consist of individuals who have worked with uninsured populations or MUA or MUP and, when possible, have prior grant review experience and who represent different geographic areas in the State.

b) The review committee will review the grant applications based upon the following:

1) Documented need for the project.

2) Demonstration that the project will result in increased access to primary healthcare services for the new and existing service area residents.

3) Ability to successfully complete project objectives described in the grant application.

4) Ability to implement and sustain the community health center's new operations upon completion of the capital project.

c) In scoring applications, preference will be given to applicants who:

1) Demonstrate the project will result in increased access to health care for new service area residents.

2) Have never received grant funds under this program.

d) Upon completion of scoring by the review committee, applications will be reviewed by the Board for scoring of the project based on:

1) the appropriateness of budget;

2) the applicant's ability to obtain any necessary balance of funds for projects totaling more than the allowable grant amount, if applicable; and

3) the timeline for the completion of the project, including the readiness of the project to begin once the funds are awarded.

(Source: Amended at 48 Ill. Reg. 3732, effective February 29, 2024)