

March 2023 Responsive Grants – Call for Idea Proposals: Questions & Answers



GENERAL

What is your funding strategy for this grant opportunity?

This grant opportunity is part of our Responsive Grantmaking investment area. Responsive Grantmaking takes an open and community-driven approach to improve health equity. Responsive Grantmaking means being receptive to proposals and ideas initiated by a nonprofit and the community they seek to serve. This style of grantmaking allows the nonprofit and community to drive the agenda and allows the Health Foundation to remain open to current community health needs and on the cutting edge of solutions. The inclusion of client/community voice and partnership in design, decision-making, and delivery is what we look for as a hallmark of equity across diverse projects and programs submitted.

Who may apply? What if you are a *for-profit* who focuses on inequities and improving community health?

Organizations must be a non-profit located (or providing services) in one of the nine counties in our area of service: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates. If you are a for-profit you may collaborate/partner with a non-profit.

May an organization submit more than one idea?

While there is nothing that excludes an organization from submitting more than one Idea Proposal, we encourage organizations to prioritize their requests. Any organization or group of organizations should submit the Idea Proposal where the issue/need is most pressing, most in need of being addressed, and the one that is most ready to be implemented. (Chances of funding being awarded will not be increased by submitting more than one Idea Proposal).

Is there a certain format required to submit the Idea Proposal? How long do you suggest the proposal be (range or specific page length)?

The proposal format is 12pt font with one-inch margins. The limit is three (3) single-spaced, or six (6) double-spaced pages. We encourage that you maximize the page limits to answer the proposal questions and provide a comprehensive understanding of the idea.

Can you provide more details about the organization demographic information request form?

The [organization and demographic information form](#) provides the Health Foundation with necessary contact information and demographics on staff and board. This information helps show if the organization is representative of the community they seek to serve. If any of the information is not currently known, that is acceptable. Please review the question-and-answer information for additional details.

If an organization has a current grant and a new grant could piggyback on the current one to ensure greater success, should the link between the two be mentioned in the proposal?

Yes, any information that supports or provides beneficial information for your proposed project should be included.

Is the budget included in the page limit, or does that count separately?

The budget and the cover page are not counted in the page limit for your Idea Proposal.

Can/should organizations include letters of support?

Organizations may provide letters of support that are relevant to the project (and upload them as separate documents), but this is not a requirement. If the letters are from a major partner, feel free to include.

Can organizations upload videos as part of the Ideas Proposal submission?

Yes, videos may be uploaded during the submission process; however, we encourage you to do so only in key circumstances. Please limit the videos to less than 15 minutes in length.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you mean by “community voice” and “co-design/creation”?

We believe the foundation for success is the integration of 1) formal research and 2) provider experience, combined with 3) the lived experience of the target population or community that you are looking to serve. This means that all three of these types evidence must come together in the design, implementation, and continuous improvement of any project. Meaningful client feedback and co-creation can be accomplished in numerous ways. This includes, but is not limited to, having your community involved in the process helping to giving them decision-making power, to generate solutions, thus obtaining a more intimate understanding of the population or community being served – and placing the power in the hands of those most impacted. One method of doing so is through human-centered design.

What is human-centered design?

Human-centered design is an approach to problem solving that puts the knowledge and needs of people experiencing a problem at the core. It provides a framework and approach for deeply understanding people’s needs and experiences, generating ideas to meet those needs, and then testing solutions with – and learning from – the people who will use the program or service.

Human-centered design resources:

- Overlap Associates (www.overlapassociates.com)
- IDEO (www.IDEO.org) - human-centered design resources
- Co-Creating Well-Being (www.cocreatingwellbeing.com), a human-centered design project of the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York

FUNDING

Is this funding opportunity open to grassroots, community-based organizations that do NOT have 501c3 or c4 status?

If a grassroots entity does not have its own 501c3, they may identify a partner that will be their fiscal sponsor/fiduciary.

Is this opportunity open to neighborhood organizations/smaller organizations/new non-profits?

Absolutely, but organizations must have non-profit status. In fact, we designed the Call for Ideas funding opportunity to be accessible to a broad range of organizations (type, size).

We are a new agency. What are our chances of being funded?

The Health Foundation is committed to investment across our nine-county region, and across populations, types of organizations, and needs. An organization’s chances of being funded are not based on age of organization, size, type, etc. We consider: issue of inequity, having a clear

understanding of an organization's experience and connection within the community(ies) they seek to support, and the organization's ability to provide the services/work described within the Idea Proposal.

What types of programs will be accepted? Is the Health Foundation more interested in projects that provide direct, clinical services, or in projects that help clients access services?

We are most interested in the project, service, area, or need that is most pressing. It is important for you to make the connection how the issue/need impacts improving health inequities. We know that your research and work with community provides access to a better understanding of what the needs are and in addition, how you might look to address it. The purpose of an open call is not to be prescriptive but to let our community partners and members be the guides. Our focus is on investing in and addressing various health inequities that create avoidable health issues for our most vulnerable community members.

Can the grant be used to extend a current successful program?

Yes, however, the same demonstration of the most pressing need and client engagement must be provided.

Can intersecting issues, such as food insecurity and housing be addressed in the Idea Proposal?

Absolutely! In fact, we know that issues of inequity create intersecting challenges. We encourage ideas that support improved health outcomes from a comprehensive approach.

FUNDING PARAMETERS

Wondering what the Foundation considers "recently" in reference to the following statement from the Call for Ideas guidance document. *"If we have recently funded your organization, it is unlikely that we will be able to fund you during this opportunity."*

We do not have a specific timeframe. We are committed to ensuring our funds are equitably spread across geography, population, area of health, etc. If an organization has a specific question, feel free to reach out.

For larger organizations, if a project has received/is receiving Health Foundation funds, are other separate programs/centers still eligible to receive a Responsive Grant?

We understand that larger institutions have multiple departments. You may submit Idea Proposals from more than one department; however, the equitable distribution of Health Foundation funds will be a consideration in the decision.

What if there are several different programs under your agency and one of the other programs is receiving funding, but not your program, would the organization still be considered as "already receiving funding"?

It depends, each case is unique. Our goal is to ensure equitable distribution of the Health Foundation's investments across counties, types of organizations, populations and areas of health equity, etc. This means current or recent investments will be a part of the decision-making process.

If you are sponsoring an event for an organization - is that considered a grant?

A Community Events sponsorship is not considered a traditional grant.

If an organization is waiting for its 501c3 to come through, but has a MOU with a 501c3 as a fiscal sponsor, does the sponsor have to submit as the lead or can the organization submit and list them as the fiscal sponsor and provide supporting documentation?

Please register in the portal as the lead and identify your fiscal sponsor.

Can funding support general operating costs, or is there a preference for program funding?

Yes, the funding can support general operating costs, as well as projects, programs/services and advocacy. If your only request is to cover operating costs, that would require a conversation with Health Foundation staff. The type/use of the funding requested should be based on the idea the organization is proposing.

Can funding support capital line items? For example, renovation and/or construction/equipment?

The Health Foundation does not fund requests for capital only; however, there are instances where a larger programmatic request has a small amount to support a small construction item. In some circumstances this might be an allowable cost. In terms of equipment, yes, this is fundable, but it should be directly connected to the project. Please feel free to reach out and inquire about your organization's idea.

Please explain how this funding can be used to support community voice in advocacy activities?

While we do fund some types of advocacy activities, we do not fund activities that support specific requests of legislators or lobbying. Please reach out with specific questions.

What is the time period for this funding? If awarded, is it possible for funding to begin in January of 2024?

No, that would not be permitted. This funding is for projects that will begin in 2023. Projects should begin after grant awards are disbursed in August 2023 and should be no more than 18 months in duration.

Can two leads be on a project? Can coalitions apply?

Yes, we encourage meaningful partnership and collaboration, as we know this is instrumental in improving the health within our communities and addressing inequities, however, one organization must be identified as the lead to take on the contractual responsibilities.

If an individual has an idea, and wants or needs an organization with whom to collaborate, can the Health Foundation refer organizations?

Anytime Health Foundation staff identify, or know of complimentary goals, we are focused on bringing those parties together. However, we do not force partnerships. If you are seeking collaboration, please feel free to reach out to us and let us know.

Can Health Foundation-requested funds/resources be used to pay/support community members who are providing their lived expertise and contribution to the design and delivery of the work?

Yes, we feel it is essential that contributions of time, and energy of community members are valued and compensated.

Do you fund research around interventions for specific health outcomes for target populations, e.g., African American, family caregivers of people with dementia?

The Greater Rochester Health Foundation does not fund research.

SUBMISSION/SELECTION PROCESS & TIMELINE

What do I need to do to submit my Idea Proposal?

Please review the *Call for Idea Proposals* [guidance document](#) fully – Read and follow portal registration guidance and Call for Ideas submission process. (Click [here](#) for portal instructions. If you have any questions or need additional support, kverbanic@thegrhf.org).

What is the process for selection?

Idea Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of Health Foundation staff and community partners. The selected proposals will be recommended to the Health Foundation Board of Trustees for final approval.

What is the timeline for the entire process?

March 13, 2023	Call for Idea Proposals opens
March 23, 2023	Question and Answer workshop and toolkit release
April 7, 2023	Call for Ideas closes. Please submit Idea Proposal by 6 p.m.
May 2023	Notifications of decisions
July 2023	Award decisions finalized
August 2023	Grant awards disbursed