Health Issues and Challenges Grant Program

Part I. Overview Information

Issuing Organization: Indiana Department of Health

Legislative References: House Enrolled Act No. 1007

> *The state department, in consultation with the office of the secretary of family and social services, shall study and prepare a plan to prevent or reduce the prevalence of health issues, or improve the health and behavioral health of Indiana residents based on metrics for measuring, and goals to improve, the following: (1) Training concerning mental health; (2) Tobacco or nicotine use and the pulmonary and cardiac effects from the use; (3) Food insecurities; (4) Adverse behavioral and mental health outcomes; (5) Lead exposure; (6) Obesity; (7) Diabetes; (8) Cardiovascular diseases, including hypertension and hyperlipidemia; (9) Hepatitis C; (10) The frequency of cancer screening; (11) Other critical health issues for a specific: (A) region; (B) county; (C) sex; or (D) ethnicity; that ranks in the bottom quintile for that specific health issue metric.*

Part II. Funding Opportunity Announcement

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) is requesting applications from local and statewide service providers and planning organizations for competitive grant funding supported through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to fund entities within the State of Indiana to implement programs focused on addressing health issues and challenges within Indiana. These funds must be used to develop and implement services focused on increasing health outcomes and preventing and/or reducing the prevalence of one or more of the following priority areas: tobacco use prevention, food insecurity/obesity, lead exposure, chronic disease (diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma, and cancer) and public health prevention programs (community paramedicine, community health workers/patient navigators). Applicants may select one or more of the priorities but must submit separate

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers.

applications for each priority area. The applicant must justify the size of the budget for each category of fundable services within the stated funding limits of that priority area. Grants will be effective for a minimum 24-month period with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2023.

Background

This new grant application is open to all projects proposing to address health issues and challenges in Indiana associated with the priority areas listed above. Applicants may select one or more of the priority areas and must submit separate applications for each priority area. The applicant must justify the size of the budget within the stated funding limits of that priority area. **Funds for the Health Issues and Challenges grant program must be encumbered (obligated) by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.** Grant awards cannot be used to supplement funding currently in place for these activities and must be used for its stated purpose.

Reporting Requirements

From 2022-2024, awarded entities will be required to submit the following reporting elements. IDOH will be provide a report template for use.

- Annual report on activities:
  o July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023
  o July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024
  o July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025
  o July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026
- Scheduled monthly metric updates, including health equity impact
- Robust and detailed ARPA reporting requirements
- Scheduled monthly workplan updates

Grant Program Timeline**

Date	Deliverable
October 7, 2022	RFA Release
October 21, 2022 (10 a.m. EDT)	Virtual Orientation for potential applicants (meeting link available on the website)
October 25, 2022	FAQ published
November 18, 2022	Application Due Date
November 21, 2022, to December 30, 2022	Application Review Period
January 20, 2023	Notifications of Award
July 1, 2023	Award Period Begins

**Timeline is subject to change and any updates will be shared at https://www.in.gov/health/grant-opportunities/.

Section II. Award Details

Upon the award determination, IDOH will draft a contract reflective of the awarded total, key deadlines, allowable activities, and any relevant administrative costs to be encumbered by the awardee. The awardee should review the language and their budget outlining the use of funds to IDOH utilizing the template found in the application. IDOH will review the submitted budget proposal and accept the proposal and/or send back revisions. Successful applicants are expected to return a signed contract within 30 days of receipt. Awardees recognize their data and project progress will be shared publicly through a dashboard created and managed by the Indiana Management Performance Hub.

Section III. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants

Applicants may include any individual, employer, employer association, nonprofit organization, for-profit organization, municipality, local health department, school corporation, charter school, accredited non-public school, research institution, health insurance plans, health insurance ministry, or combination herein. **Current grantees may not apply for the priority area in which they are currently funded but may apply in the priority area for which they are not funded.**

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

Application Submission

The application and guidance to complete the application is located at https://www.in.gov/health/grant-opportunities/. Applicants must use this form to submit their application for the HEA 1007 Health Issues and Challenges grant. Applicants may upload supporting documents, such as line-item budgets, organizational charts, and letters of support using the upload file section. Upon submission, applicants will receive a confirmation message that your application was received. **Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on Nov. 18, 2022**. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

1. Overview
    a. Applicants must specify why they are well-suited to administer this award, including how statewide health-related initiatives administered position them for success.

    b.   Applicants should demonstrate that they understand the purpose of the funding and the challenges associated with the priority area to be funded.

2. Applicant Agency Description

**NOTE: Large organizations should write this description for the unit directly responsible for administration of the project. This description of the sponsoring agency should:

    a.   Describe the administrative structure of the organization within which the project will function, including an organizational chart

    b.   Identify project locations and discuss how they will be an asset to the project

    c.   Discuss experience collaborating with statewide organizations and healthcare providers. The discussion should identify what role your organization played relative to other partners, and if they will be engaged in this project. If applicable, you may attach MOUs, MOAs, and letters of support as appropriate.

    d.   Provide contact information for the project point of contact, and the signatory (person legally allowed to sign contracts). If the point of contact is different from the person submitting the application, please specify in the application.

3. Project Proposal

    a.   Please see specific guidance for priority areas for detailed information on what to include in the project proposal.

    b.   Applicants must clearly describe activities to be funded and the <u>measurable and specific improvement</u> in one or more critical health metrics within the described population. The population may be defined by any health, demographic, or geographic criteria, or any combination of these. A cohort defined using demographic criteria may include criteria based on employment in a particular industry or having job duties.

        i.   Indicate an estimated number of people expected to benefit from the proposed activities

       ii.   Indicate what zip codes are expected to benefit from the proposed activities as well as the corresponding social vulnerability index (SVI) scores.

    c.   Applicants must outline the timeframe to achieve the proposed measurable improvement(s) described above. The timeframe in which an initial proposed measurable improvement is achieved may not be more than two years.

4. Metrics: IDOH has identified standardized metrics for each program category. However, applicants are encouraged to list specific metrics that will be used to measure their program progress and success.

5. Health Equity Statement/Goals: applicants must clearly describe the background and impact of proposed activities for racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations (see guidance and considerations below and specific guidance for priority areas)
6. Sustainability Statement: applicants must explain how activities will be maintained/supported once the award period has ended
7. Budget and Justifications
    a. Applicant will include a line-item budget for all proposed expenses associated with project activities—template will be downloadable from the application. Applicant must use provided template in the application.
    b. Applicant will include justification for the requested funding amounts for all activities—**indirect costs are NOT allowed**
    c. Applicants submitting multiple applications, a separate application and budget will be submitted for each priority area.

Content Guidance and Considerations for Evidenced-Based Approaches such as Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health

The Health Issues and Challenges grant program requires that applicants demonstrate the use of evidenced based approaches during program implementation to continue to increase their capacity and insight while serving targeted communities. The prescribed evidenced based approaches include the awareness of health equity and social determinants of Health (SDOH).

Because promoting and implementing services around equity and inclusion can be community specific, the IDOH encourages applicants to use the principles of health equity to guide their program implementation and outreach. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion offers the way health equity can be achieved: "Health equity is achieved when every person can attain their full health potential, and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances. Health inequities are reflected in differences in length of life; quality of life; rates of disease, disability, and death; severity of disease; and access to treatment."

Additionally, CDC describes SDOH as conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health and quality-of life-risks and outcomes. Please leverage the principles of these approaches as you answer the following questions.
Health equity is achieved when every person can "attain his or her full health potential" and no one is "disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances."

Applicants will be asked to create three action steps/goals to achieve health equity within their program.

1. Outline available health equity data
    a. Baseline data on racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations impacted by the priority area being addressed (e.g., morbidity and mortality rates by race and ethnicity) and data sources
    b. Significant data-supported trends and anecdotal experiences for disparate populations associated with this action and data sources
    c. Additional data that applicant will collect, track, and evaluate to assess the equity impacts of this action moving forward and how that data will inform future efforts and decisions
2. Describe how applicant will engage and integrate perspectives of minority and underserved populations—meaningful effort to gather perspectives of people impacted by the proposed activities and how perspectives represent affected populations
3. Define the short-term and long-term impacts this project will have on racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations
    a. Economic, personal, familial, community, and educational benefits of this action on racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations.
    b. Any risks or unintended consequences of this project, including any actions that may perpetuate inequitable policies or practices
4. Promote equitable connections for disparate populations to resources and services
    a. Information and linkage of populations to available resources or services related to funded activities
    b. Public awareness campaigns that target racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations
5. Explain how these funded activities will protect individuals and/or groups if they respond to issues of inequity and how they can share feedback about the decision without risking harm
6. Develop strategic partnerships with organizations that target racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations and base-line data from these organizations (via survey) regarding the number of minority partners, which includes but not limited to target population(s), number served, evidence-based program(s), and priority area being addressed

Applicants will be required to complete culturally responsive training (i.e., cultural competency training, workplace diversity training, health equity training, diversity, and inclusion training) provided by IDOH to ensure that programs are provided in the most meaningful and impactful manner. This will ensure that programs are responsive to the health beliefs, practices, and needs of racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations.

Reference: Health Equity | CDC

Review Criteria

The following criteria will be used to review all submitted applications:

1. Overview and applicant agency description (10 pts.)
    a. Demonstrable expertise and understanding of grant purpose
    b. Clear description of agency, organizational chart, and collaboration experience
2. Project proposal (30 pts.)
    a. Clear purpose, scope, deliverables, and timeline
    b. Appropriate project scaling to population served
    c. Inclusion and description of partners
    d. Use of evidence-based programming
    e. Measurable, specific improvement on specified population
3. Health Equity Statement (25 pts)
    a. Project clearly addresses health equity based on above guidance
4. Sustainability Statement (15 pts)
5. Budget and Justifications (20 pts)

Review and Selection Process

Eligible and complete applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by IDOH staff in accordance with the review criteria stated above. Submissions that do not comply with the technical requirements set in the RFA are considered nonresponsive and will be rejected. A review panel of IDOH executive team members and programmatic experts will score the applications. Funding awards will be made based upon the quality of the submitted proposal and the ability of the applicant to meet the criteria stated above. To further prioritize health equity, organizations that reside in or serve communities that rank high (.5 and above) on the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index, will be prioritized for funding.

Section VI. Additional Information

Award Notices

All applicants will be notified via email no later than January 20, 2023, regarding award status and amount.

Awardee Responsibilities

The award recipient will have primary responsibility for the following:

1. Participate in a kick-off call with IDOH, Division of Health Innovation Partnerships & Programs (HIPP), and relevant subject matter experts
2. Participate in bi-monthly cohort calls with IDOH HIPP program staff
3. Meet the objectives and deliverables listed in the final contract agreement
4. Provide written progress reports and invoices to IDOH as required in the final contract agreement
5. Submit data/metrics and workplan updates monthly to the IDOH HIPP data team
6. Actively engaging partners and stakeholders
7. Accept technical assistance from IDOH HIPP team throughout the grant period

IDOH Responsibilities

The Indiana Department of Health will have the primary responsibility for the following:

1. Facilitate a kick-off call with the awardees to outline objectives and expectations
2. Identify a point of contact for awardee's based on project subject matter
3. Monitor the terms of the agreement
4. Fund grant according to the terms of the contract agreement
5. Provide technical assistance and guidance

For More Information

Please send general questions regarding this RFA and application process to healthissuesandchallenges@isdh.in.gov. For questions related to specific priority areas, please contact the IDOH program leaders listed in the appendices of this guidance. IDOH reserves the right to amend this guidance to provide additional information or correct errors.